



WCES-2011

Investigation of depression levels of mothers with physically handicapped children

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Abstract

Having a physically handicapped children affect the life of the mothers negatively. This study aimed to investigate the depression levels of the mothers who have physically handicapped children. This study included 51 physically handicapped children and their mothers. Demographic characteristics were determined. Depression levels of the mothers were determined by Beck Depression Inventory, which was developed by Beck et al in 1961 and realibility and validity were studied by Hisli (1988, 1989). Datas were analysed by Independent Sample t test and Pearson correlation test in SPSS 15.0 programme and statistical significance was accepted as $p < 0,05$. Determination of depression levels of the mothers who have physically handicapped children are required in order to provide psychological support to mothers when needed.

Keywords: Special education, health sciences, Beck Depression Inventory, physically handicapped children.

1. Introduction

Having a physically handicapped children affect the life of the mothers negatively. This study aimed to investigate the depression levels of the mothers who have physically handicapped children.

2. Method

This study included 51 physically handicapped children and their mothers. Demographic characteristics were determined. Depression levels of the mothers were determined by Beck Depression Inventory, which was developed by Beck et al in 1961 and realibility and validity were studied by Hisli (1988, 1989). Datas were analysed by Independent Sample t test and Pearson correlation test in SPSS 15.0 programme and statistical significance was accepted as $p < 0,05$.

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3. Results

Sixteen (31,4%) of children were girls and 35 (68,6%) were boys with mean age of all children was $7,07 \pm 2.36$ years (min:4-max:12). Mean age of the mothers was 32.33 ± 4.39 (min:26-max:40) years and all of them were housewives. 37(72.6%) of the mothers were graduated from primary school, 6 (11,8%) from secondary school and ve 8 (15,7%) from high school.

Mean scores of BDI of the mothers were 17.50 ± 10.12 (min:2-maks:44). 15 (28.8%) of the mothers had no depression, 10 (19,2%) had mild, 20 (38.5%) had moderate, 7 (13.5%) had severe depression. Depression levels of the mothers had relation with the education status ($r:-0.404$, $p=0.003$); although was not related by gender of the children ($p>0.005$).

4. Discussion and recommendation

Determination of depression levels of the mothers who have physically handicapped children are required in order to provide psychological support to mothers when needed. This support will affect the mother and the handicapped children by increasing their quality of life.

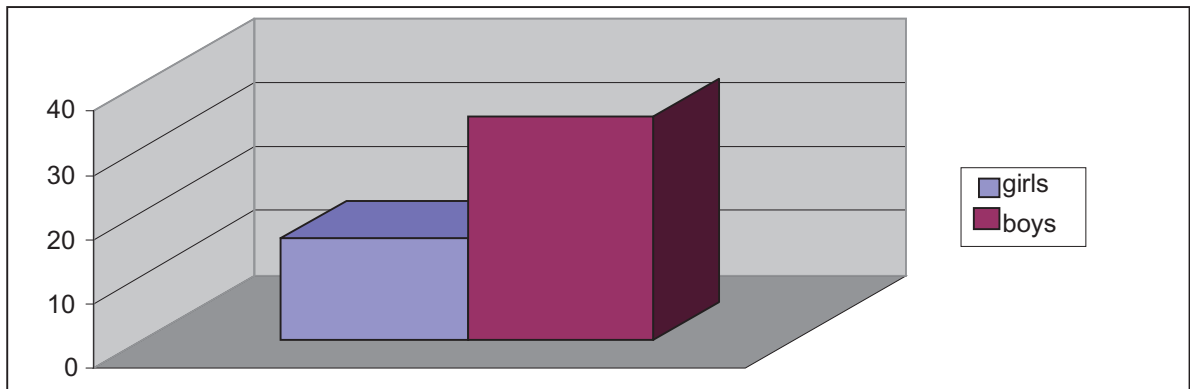


Figure 1: Distribution of Gender of Physically Handicapped Children

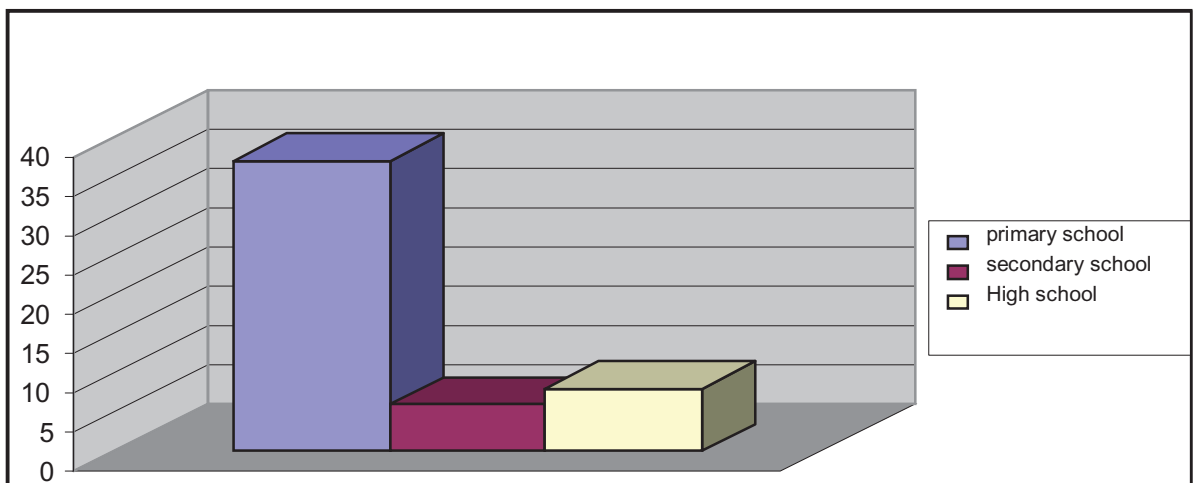


Figure 2: Education Status of the Mothers

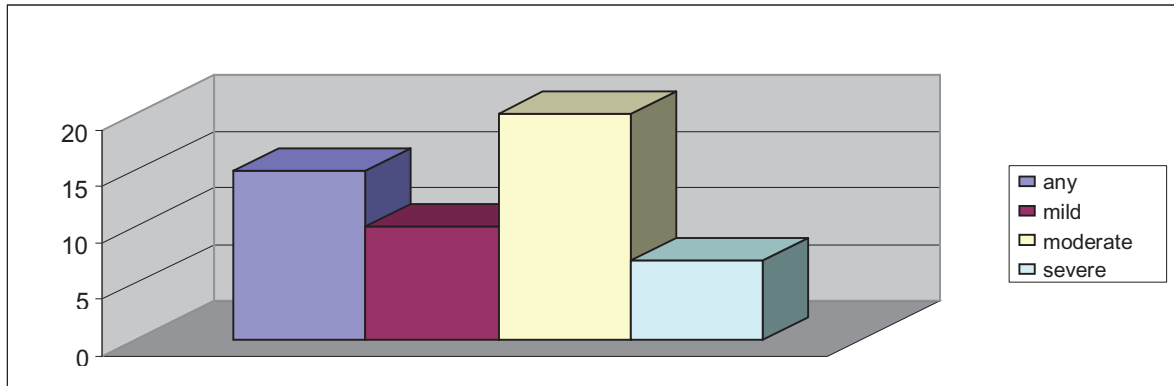


Figure 3. Depression Levels of the Mothers

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