

Abstract

Original Article

Mothers' Decision-Making Processes Regarding their Children's Health Care

Behice Erci, PhD

Professor, Inonu University, Malatya Health School, Department of Public Health Nursing, Malatya, Turkey

Sevinc Polat, PhD

Assoc. Professor, Bozok University, School of Health, Department of Paediatric Nursing, Yozgat, Turkey

Nurcan Ozyazicioglu, PhD

Assoc. Professor, Uludag University, School of Health, Department of Paediatric Nursing, Bursa, Turkey

Correspondence: Nurcan Ozyazicioglu, Assoc. Prof., Uludag University, School of Health, Department of Paediatric Nursing, Bursa, Turkey.

e-mails: nurcanozyazicioglu@yahoo.com.tr; nurcanoz@uludag.edu.tr

Abstract

Aim: The aim of this study was to investigate mothers' decision-making processes related to factors of child health care.

Methodology: The participants of this study were selected through convenience sampling from mothers who lived in Erzurum. One hundred and eight mothers voluntarily participated in the study. Data were collected using the Health Self-Determinism Index(HSDI), Health Care Scenarios(HCS) and Demographic Profile.

Results: In this study, the seriousness of the child's condition, the mother's previous experience, and the social support available to the mother were most common reasons impacting on the mother's decision-making regarding their children's health care. There were significant differences in decision-making factors between first-time mothers and mothers with more than one child, and support in decision-making was very important for the mothers in this study.

Conclusions: This study shows how it would also be useful for health care providers to better identify mothers' decision-making factors.

Keywords: Child Health Care, Decision-Making, Mother Experience, Health Self-Determinism Index (HSDI), Health Care Scenarios (HCS).