



Investigation of Self-Esteem Levels of the Candidates Participated in Special Talent Exam

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Abstract

The purpose of study is to investigate the self-esteem levels of the candidates who participated in the special talent exam (STE) through various variables. The study group consists of 129 female and 649 male, 778 participants in total attending STE conducted by Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University School of Physical Education and Sport in 2018. In the research conducted with the relational screening model method, personal information form developed by the researcher and “Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale” developed by Rosenberg (1965) whose Turkish adaptation studies were carried out by Cuhadaroğlu (1986) have been used in order to determinate self-esteem levels of the participants in STE. The scale consists of 10 items in 4 point Likert type. Cronbach Alpha coefficient for reliability is .81. At the end of the study; it was found that there was no significant relationship between the self-esteem levels of the candidates and gender variable, TYT (Basic Proficiency Test) score, geographical region of residence and the high school type of graduation. A positive and low level of relationship was found between the self-esteem levels of the candidates and the sports branch variable.

Keywords: Self-esteem, Special talent exam, Candidate, Physical education, Sport, Self-respect.

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Contribution of this paper to the literature

This study was researched because the number of studies investigating the relationship between the self-esteem levels of the candidates who participated in the special talent exam was insufficient. So, this issue is thought to be better understood and it is estimated to be useful for future studies.

1. Introduction

Self-esteem is the judgement that the individual passes on and the attitude that he/she develops about himself as a result of evaluating himself as an object. This attitude, expressed in terms such as self-respect, self-esteem, self-worth, can be considered as a top concept, which is depicted with or includes concepts such as self-esteem, self-acceptance (Kuzgun, 2000). Self-esteem expresses one's self-confidence and satisfaction with himself; is how one thinks and feels about himself (Aslan, 2006). Although there are different points of view about self-esteem, self-esteem is defined as "an individual's feeling of self-worth, seeing himself as an adequate person, feelings about self-acceptance or self-respect" (Coopersmith, 1967; Crocker & Major, 1989; Rosenberg, 1965). As it has been seen in the definitions of self-esteem, the individual's self-perception, emotion, trust, self-evaluation criteria, and relationships with the environment constitute the self-esteem of the individual. The individual's attitudes that confirm or do not approve of selfness and whether the individual finds himself skilled, important, successful and valuable determine the level of self-esteem. When the individual acts in harmony with his selfness, he feels safe, sufficient and valuable (Ciğdemoğlu, 2006).

It has been stated in the literature that self-esteem is an important factor that affects the psychosocial status and social lives of individuals (Salmivalli, Kaukiainen, Kaistaniemi, & Lagerspetz, 1999). Self-esteem affects social, emotional, cognitive and academic lives of the individuals. Self-esteem which is a prerequisite for a healthy personality plays an important role in making the person an active and participatory member of society. Effective participation in society also brings personal success and happiness (Güloğlu & Aydın, 2001). The individual having high self-esteem evaluates himself positively, avoids aggressive attitudes and feels good. He also discovers his weaknesses and tries to overcome them. An individual having low self-esteem is weak in self-confidence. These people are addicted to other individuals and become embarrassed (Reisoğlu, Gedik, & Göktaş, 2013). In accordance with this information, the aim of this study is to examine self-esteem levels of the candidates participating in the special talent exam through various variables.

2. Material and Method

2.1. Research Method

The study has been conducted through Relational Screening Model. Screening Models are appropriate for researches aiming to describe a situation in the past or at present as so (Karasar, 2005). Relational screening models, on the other hand, are considered appropriate for this research since they are used for research models aiming to determine the presence of co-exchange between two and more variables.

2.2. Research Group

The study group consists of 129 female and 649 male, 778 participants in total participating voluntarily among 1100 candidates attending STE conducted by Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University School of Physical Education and Sport in 2018.

2.3. Data Collection Tool

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale was used to determine the self-esteem levels of the candidates who participated in the special talent exam. The scale was developed by Rosenberg (1965). The Turkish adaptation studies of the scale were carried out by Cuhadaroğlu (1986). The 4-point Likert type consists of 10 items. Total scores obtained from all items range from 0-40. High scores indicate that individuals have a high level of self-esteem (Ko, Yen, Chen, Chen, & Yen, 2005). Cronbach Alpha coefficient for reliability is .81. Cronbach Alpha coefficient in our study is .85.

2.4. Data Analysis

When One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test, which shows the self-esteem levels of the candidates who participated in the special talent exam, was examined, it was found that the data were not suitable for normal distribution. Therefore, Mann-Whitney U test and Kruskal-wallis tests were used in accordance with the analysis obtained from Non-Parametric tests and the level of significance was taken as ($p < 0.05$).

3. Findings

Table-1. The results of the Mann-Whitney U test showing self-esteem levels according to the gender variable of the research group.

Variables	N	Mean Rank	Rank Sum	U	P	Cohen's d
Male	129	400,56	51672,50	40433,500	,537*	0,000489
Female	649	387,30	251358,50			

Note: * $p > 0,05$.

Considering Table 1, it has been found that there is no significant difference between the gender variable and self-esteem levels of the research group ($U = 40433,500$ $p = 0,537$). When we look at Cohen's d effect size, it has been concluded that the gender variable of the research group has a low impact on the self-esteem levels of individuals.

Table-2. The results of the Kruskal-wallis tests showing self-esteem levels according to the TYT (Basic Proficiency Test) Score variable of the research group.

Variables	N	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	P	Cohen's d
180-200 Points	375	393,26	4	4,289	0,368*	0,00551
201-220 Points	224	383,65				
221-240 Points	123	385,93				
241-260 Points	27	334,20				
261 Points	29	452,69				

Note: *p >0,05.

According to the Table 2, no significant difference has been found between the TYT score variable and self-esteem levels of the research group ($X^2 = 4.289$ $p = 0.368$). When we look at the effect size of Cohen's d, it has been concluded that the TYT score variable of the research group has a low impact on the self-esteem levels of individuals.

Table-3. The results of the Kruskal-wallis tests showing self-esteem levels according to the place of residence variable of the research group.

Variables	N	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	P	Cohen's d
Village - Town	57	435,81	3	3,024	0,388*	0,00389
District	211	381,52				
City	122	396,50				
Metropolis	388	384,84				

Note: *p >0,05.

In the Table 3, no significant difference has been found between the place of residence variable and self-esteem levels of the research group ($X^2 = 3.024$ $p = 0.388$). When we look at the effect size of Cohen's d, it has been revealed that the place of residence variable of the candidates participating in the special talent exam has a low impact on the self-esteem levels of individuals.

Table-4. The results of the Kruskal-wallis tests showing self-esteem levels according to the High School type of graduation variable of the research group.

Variables	N	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	P	Cohen's d
General High School	43	363,13	5	7,483	0,187*	0,00963
Vocational High School	234	408,72				
Anatolian High School	338	381,21				
Science High School	1	39,00				
Sports High School	59	353,97				
Other High Schools	103	407,79				

Note: *p >0,05.

Considering the Table 4, no significant difference has been found between the High School Type of graduation variable and self-esteem levels of the research group ($X^2 = 7,483$ $p = 0,187$). When we look at the effect size of Cohen's d, it has been revealed that the High School Type of graduation variable of the candidates participating in the special talent exam has a low impact on the self-esteem levels of individuals.

Table-5. The results of the Kruskal-wallis tests showing self-esteem levels according to the branch variable of the research group.

Variables	N	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	P	Significant Difference	Cohen's d
Team Sports	369	370,25	2	13,496	0,001*	1-3 2-3	0,0173
Individual Sports	215	376,80					
No Branch	194	440,19					

Note: *p <0,05.

In the Table 5, a significant difference has been found between self-esteem levels and the branch variable of the research group ($X^2 = 7,483$ $p = 0,001$). Considering the mean ranks, self-esteem levels of the candidates with no branch have been higher than those doing team sports and individual sports.

When we look at the effect size of Cohen's d, it has been revealed that the branch variable of the candidates participating in the special talent exam has a moderate impact on the self-esteem levels of the individuals.

Table-6. The results of correlation analysis tests between self-esteem levels of the research group and Gender, TYT Scores, Place of Residence variable, High School Type of Graduation and Sport Branch.

Variable		Gender	TYT Score	Place of Residence	High School Type of Graduation	Sport Branch
Self-Esteem	r	-,022	-,010	-,027	-,021	,113
	p	,537	,780	,450	,567	,002*
	N	778	778	778	778	778

Note: *p <0,05.

In the Table 6, considering the correlation analysis test results between self-esteem levels of the research group and Gender, TYT Scores, Place of Residence variable, High School Type of Graduation and Sport Branch, it has been found that there is no significant relationship between self-esteem levels and Gender variable, TYT (Basic Proficiency Test) score variable, geographical region of residence variable and high school type of graduation variable. A positive low level significant relationship has been found between self-esteem levels of the candidates and sport branch variable.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

A significant difference has not been found between the gender variable of the research group and their self-esteem levels. In these premises, it can be stated that gender variable of the research group has no impact on self-esteem levels. When similar studies are examined, the results of the study conducted by [Karakaya, Coşkun, and Ağaoğlu \(2006\)](#) and the results of the study conducted by [Reisoğlu et al. \(2013\)](#) show similarity with our findings. On the other hand, some similar studies have revealed different results. The results of the studies conducted by [Ko et al. \(2005\)](#) and [Leung \(2004\)](#) have revealed that self-esteem levels of the female participants are significantly higher than the male participants. On the contrary, [Güçray \(2001\)](#) has determined in his study that self-esteem levels of the male participants are higher than the female participants.

In the studies carried out on self-esteem level, it has been seen that study results differ in terms of gender variable. As a reason for these differences it can be said that it is caused by many factors such as diversity of measurement tools, characteristics of research groups, cultural differences and scope of research.

As a result of the research, it can be thought that the reason that no difference has been seen between male and female participants is due to some reasons such as the fact that both women and men benefit from equal opportunities in all areas, gender is not at the forefront in gaining status and dignity in society. As a matter of fact, [\(Twenge & Campbell, 2002\)](#) have stated that the woman started to be active in every field of life especially after having entered the business life, operates in the same lines of business as men, nevertheless, the male's status has not changed and even has lost his role; as a result, self-esteem of women has improved.

No significant difference was found between the TYT score variable and self-esteem levels of the research group. According to this result, it can be said that there is no relationship between the academic achievement of the candidates who take the talent exam and their self-esteem levels. The results of some similar studies do not coincide with our findings. It is seen in general that the candidates with high academic success have also high self-esteem levels. According to [O'Malley and Bachman \(1983\)](#) have observed that a positive relationship between the child's self-esteem and academic ability and school success continues until the end of high school and then there is also a positive relationship between self-esteem and professional position. As a result of the study conducted by [\(Arseven, 1986\)](#) a high level of positive correlation was found in the research on the relationship between students' academic achievement and self-confidence. [Yenidünya. \(2005\); Inanç \(1997\)](#) have reached similar conclusions in the study results and reached the conclusion that academic success has a direct relationship with self-esteem. In other words, if the student's self-confidence is insufficient, his academic success is also insufficient [\(Soner, 1995\)](#).

The reason why our research result differs from similar studies in the literature is that as special talent exams are a system aiming to feature personal skills and abilities prior to academic success, it can be said that academic success keeps in the background or has less effect in special talent exams considering that the candidates participating in these exams have high self-esteem levels and are self-confident individuals.

No significant difference was found between the place of residence variable of the research group and the levels of self-esteem. According to this result, it can be said that the settlement of the participants do not have an impact on self-esteem levels. When the results of similar studies are analyzed, our study differs with the findings of the study conducted by [Yılmaz \(2000\)](#) while it shows similarity with the findings of the study conducted by [Cengil \(2009\); Altunbaş \(2006\); Baybek and Yavuz \(2005\)](#). In these findings, individuals living in metropolitan cities were found to have higher self-esteem than those living in villages and towns.

In our study results, it is thought that the concepts such as the place of residence variable's having no impact on the participants' self-esteem levels, psychological and socio-economic factors in developing self-esteem, human relations, and the status of the community can be more important. Moreover, the diversity of transportation facilities today and the fact that people are constantly on the move for reasons such as work, education and travel can bring about this result.

No significant relationship was found between the self-esteem levels of the research group and the high school type of graduation variable. According to this result, it can be said that the high school type that the participants graduated does not have an effect on their self-esteem levels. When similar studies are examined, the results of the research conducted by [Demir, Gürsoy, and Ada \(2011\); Görden, Deniz, and Kiriş \(2011\)](#) and [Karaca., Akyol, L., and Can \(2016\)](#) support our findings.

The fact that the high school type of the students appeals to their goals and expectations, the schools contribute positively to the personal development of the participants, and also the candidates participating in special talent exam are aware of their talents can be said to be the reason why the participants' self-esteem levels did not differ according to the type of school.

According to the relationship between self-esteem levels and sport branch variable, it has been observed that self-esteem levels of the candidates with no branch are higher than those doing team sports and individual sports. According to this result, it can be said that doing sports has no effect on the level of self-esteem and even candidates who do not do sports have higher self-esteem. In the literature review, no studies similar to our findings were found when studies similar to our research were examined. However, [Bingöl and Alpkaya \(2016\); Tozoğlu, Bayraktar, Aka., and Tatlısu \(2014\); Gacar and Yanlıç \(2012\); Karakaya et al. \(2006\); Salokun \(1990\)](#) concluded in their research findings that self-esteem levels of individuals who do sports have higher scores than those who do not do sports. [Uçan and Çağlayan \(2012\); Mekolichick \(2001\)](#) on the other hand, did not find any significant difference between the self-esteem of individuals who do and do not do sports.

Accordingly, self-esteem levels can be expected to be higher than those who do not do sports considering the fact that sports enable individuals to get to know themselves and to realize their potential and their self-esteem increases as they achieve success. It can be thought that the reason for the opposite result with our finding with this result is due to the characteristic of the sample group.

In conclusion, it has been found that there is no significant relationship between self-esteem levels of the candidates participated in special talent exam and gender variable, TYT (Basic Proficiency Test) score variable, geographical region of residence variable and high school type of graduation variable. However, a positive low level significant relationship has been found between self-esteem levels of the candidates and sport branch variable.

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