A Multivariate Examination of the Child-Abuse Potential of Parents with Children Aged 0-6

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Abstract

Problem Statement: Child abuse, defined by the World Health Organization as “intentional or unintentional behavior by adults, society, or a country with negative consequences for the health and physical development of the child,” is a social problem frequently encountered in all cultures and societies. It is need to this study because of parents in an important role about child abuse.

Purpose of the Study: There are many studies on child abuse, and this article aims to contribute to the efforts of preventing such abuse by focusing on parents’ abusive tendencies and examining the child abuse potential of parents using a number of variables.

Method: Parents with children ages birth to six who reside in the province of Duzce constitute the population of this study. The sample group of the study consists of a total of 158 parents with children ages 0 to 6 and residing in the city center of Duzce, 96 of them mothers and 62 fathers. The child-abuse potential of the parents is the dependent variable of the study, while socio-demographic characteristics of the families and the children are the independent variables. Data collection instruments of the study are the Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form developed by the researchers, and the Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) developed by Milner (1976) and adapted to Turkish by Omer & Sucuoglu (1994) with sufficient levels of reliability and validity.

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Findings and Results: It was found that child abuse potentials of the parents varied significantly by the number of residents in the house, by the place of residence, and by the income of the parents. Another finding was that the child-abuse potential of parents did not vary by gender and age.

Conclusion and Recommendations: This study found that as the number of children increases, so does the child-abuse potential of parents. Therefore, in training and consultation sessions on family planning, the issue should also be discussed from the perspective of child abuse.

Keywords: Children, child abuse, mother, father.

Introduction

Child abuse is a social problem frequently encountered in all cultures and societies. There are many studies on child abuse, and this article aims to contribute to the efforts of preventing such abuse by focusing on their mother and fathers’ abusive tendencies and examining the child abuse potential of parents using a number of variables.

Child abuse is a serious problem with complex causes and tragic consequences, and with medical, legal, developmental, and psycho-social aspects (Powers, Fani, Cross, Ressler, Bradley, 2016; Kairys et al., 2002; Polar, 2002; Ziyalar, 1999). Understanding the factors leading to abuse and its consequences on child development is crucial for scholarship on human development (Yilmaz & Irmak, 2008). Parents, in particular, sometimes intentionally and sometimes without realizing, may engage in behavior such as violence or neglect that would have negative consequences for the development of their children. As a result, efforts to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse and neglect are needed (Bahar, Savas, Bahar, 2009). According to this, it is aimed to explicate to children’s parents about the dangers of abuse in the first place.

Background

A cursory look at the history of societies shows that maltreatment of children is a phenomenon as old as the history of humanity. It is known that in ancient times, many cultures treated children as property and subjected them to various forms of maltreatment. Examples included infanticide, the killing of children soon after they were born usually by their fathers, enslavement of children, sacrificial killing of children, and forced child slavery (Kozcu, 1991). In ancient Athens, the practice of infanticide persisted even in Aristotle’s lifetime. In Rome, the power of the patriarch of the family to leave, desert, sell, punish, whip, and even kill his children was recognized by law (Akyuz, 2013). No other authority could interfere with the practice of this power (Karadeniz, 1974). In countries such as China, India, Mexico, and Peru,
throwing newborns into rivers was a common ritual of sacrifice. A doctor who lived in Ephesus in 2nd century A.D. recommended in his manuscript *Gynecology* that premature babies or babies born with deformities be killed (Kozcu, 1991).

Child abuse is defined in the literature as non-accidental behaviors that result in harm to the physical or mental health of children or prevent their cognitive, affective, social, or moral development (Gurkaynak & Gozutok, 1998; Kozcu, 1991; Lynch, 1991; Oral et al., 2001). Abuse may have religious, moral, technological, social, or cultural aspects, and factors related to the children themselves, their parents, or the socio-economic status of the family may, in isolation or in interaction with one another, facilitate abuse. Because child abuse usually remains hidden, but creates long-term, permanent, and multi-faceted problems for the victim and society, and because it is an insult to human dignity, a multi-disciplinary approach is required for the study of child abuse (Klassen, Chirico, Deborah, O’Leary, Cairney, Wade, 2016; Yalcin, 2011). Thus, over the past 30 years, researchers and practitioners have developed a better understanding of the effects of trauma (Hendricks, Conradi, & Wilson, 2011; Benedini, Fagan, Gibson, 2016). Owing to these complex and difficult to comprehend dimensions, child abuse examinations should proceed with usual methods.

**Types of Child Abuse and Neglect**

Abuse, which is a form of brazen and stark exploitation, has four dimensions: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and abuse by neglect. These dimensions are presented below:

1. Physical abuse is the most common type of abuse and the easiest to detect. In a general sense, physical abuse can be defined as “non-accidental injury” in children, or “abuse that results in physical bodily harm such as fractures, burns, or cuts.” The most common form of this abuse is the beating of children, and it also includes forms of punishment ranging from slapping a child in the face to the use of various objects to strike a child. Physical abuse is characterized by non-accidental injuries or bruises on children.

2. Emotional abuse does not involve concrete physical symptoms, as is usually the case in physical and sexual abuse, and may be perpetrated in isolation as well as accompanying other forms of abuse (Polat, 2007; Polat, 2002).

3. Sexual abuse is a complex phenomenon, and different considerations come into play from legal, social, or psychological perspectives. In addition, collecting information on sexual abuse is difficult because sexual advances to children are universally condemned as disgusting, filthy, evil, and forbidden (Gunce, 1991).
4. Child neglect is defined as “the failure of caregivers to carry out their responsibilities toward the child, and neglecting the physical or emotional needs of the child” (cited by Turk, 2010).

In contemporary society, children still lose their lives and are left disabled or malnourished due to lack of nutrition, care, or supervision. Some of them never receive a proper education. Some children are physically and emotionally bruised due to maltreatment by their parents or by the social institutions that are responsible for caring for them. Some children are subjected to sexual attacks by adults; others are forced to work in difficult conditions at a very early age; and some are even bought and sold as property (Gokler, 2006; Hillis, Mercy, Amobi, Kres, 2016). But in general, it is known that child abuse is mostly seen in children’s families.

Weltz, Armelia, Ford and Tennen (2016) stated in a study that 42.3% of the participants reported some level of physical abuse/family violence, 70.7% reported some level of physical and/or emotional neglect, 94% reported some level of emotional abuse, and 7.3% reported sexual abuse in their family. Similarly, many relationships remained significant, independent of the experience of other forms of child maltreatment and a family history of dysfunction (Taillieu, Brownridge, Sareen, Afifi, 2016).

Because child abuse can also take place within the family, this study aims to focus on abuse by parents and to raise societal awareness by shedding light on the issue. The research problem of this study allows the identification of the demographic variables that are associated with higher and lower levels of child-abuse potential among parents. The study, then, provides an assessment of the findings. The study’s sub-problems are determining this identification in terms of socio-demographic qualities.

Method

Research Design

The research design of this study is based on the use of a survey (Karasar, 2005). According to Karasar (2009), surveys are a research method that provides a description of a past or present phenomenon. In surveys, a description of the phenomena under study is provided. This study, which employs different variables, aims to describe the current child-abuse potential of parents.

Research Sample

For the purpose of representing the universe, the population of this study was parents with children ages 0–6 who resided in the city center of the province of Duzce during the spring semester of the 2014-2015 academic year. The sample group consisted of a total of 158 parents, 92 of them mothers and 66 of them fathers.
Research Instrument and Procedure

This study used the Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form developed by the researcher, and the Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI). Detailed information about the data collection instruments used in the study is provided below.

**Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form.** The researcher created the Parents and Children Demographic Characteristics Form in order to collect data on the variables used in the study; it contained items on both parents and children. It asked questions on the age, gender, number of siblings, and place of residence of the children, and the age, gender, level of education, and socioeconomic status of the parents.

**Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI).** The Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) was developed by Joel S. Milner (1976), who described it in “An Inventory for the Identification of Child Abusers,” an article co-authored by Milner and Wimberley (1979). They developed CAPI as an assessment tool to be used by children’s legal protection centers in their investigations and decisions. CAPI was first adapted for use in Turkey by Oner and Sucuoglu (1994). More than 700 articles and books were consulted in the development of CAPI, and it identified common traits shared by child abusers. Because child abuse is such a comprehensive concept and includes such a wide range of behavioral disorders, the inventory was narrowed down to be used only in physical abuse cases (Kutsal, 2004). CAPI consists of 160 questions designed to estimate family risk when there is a suspicion of physical child abuse. Countless validity and reliability studies were conducted on the psychometric qualities of CAPI (Kutsal, 2004; Milner, 1994; Oner & Sucuoglu, 1994; Pruitt & Erickson, 1985; Robertson & Milner, 1985). CAPI was also administered to groups of teachers by Piskin (2003).

**Data Analysis**

Researchers informed participants of the purposes and significance of the study prior to collecting data. The results came from parents who volunteered to fill out the CAPI forms and resided in the province of Duzce. Researchers eliminated those forms that they observed were completed by parents without reading them, forms containing contradictory answers to similar questions, and forms that gave rise to suspicions about the responders’ honesty (by providing nice and proper answers only) The Mann-Whitney U test and the Kruskal-Wallis H test were used for statistical analysis of the data.
Results

The average scores reported in Table 1 show that the differences between the abuse-potential scores of parents from different age groups are not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 0.492$, $p > 0.05$). When the mean ranks of the abuse-potential scores of the parents from different age groups are examined, it can be seen that parents in the 36–45 age group have the highest scores ($X = 100.09$), followed by parents in the group age 45 and older ($X = 97.35$) and parents in the 26–35 group ($X = 96.62$). The lowest score intervals for abuse potential were recorded for parents in the 18–25 age group, which may be related to their status as new parents who are still in the process of adapting to their roles. The observation that the highest abuse-potential scores were received by parents in the 36–45 age group may be associated with the burdens of life and concerns about livelihood that are felt more intensely at this age.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean Rank</th>
<th>sd</th>
<th>$\chi^2$</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18–25</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>97.35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26–35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>96.62</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.492</td>
<td>0.596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36–45</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>100.09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 45</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>95.78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows that parents aged 45 or older received the lowest abuse-potential scores, which can be indicative of the older parents developing a mellower and more tolerant attitude based on their increasing age.

Data reported in Table 2 show that parents’ abuse-potential scores do not vary significantly by gender ($U = 5081.00; p > 0.05$). Although the difference between fathers’ and mothers’ abuse-potential scores is not significant, fathers received slightly higher scores ($X = 98.05$) compared to mothers ($X = 96.87$).

Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean Rank</th>
<th>Sum of Ranks</th>
<th>$U$</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>96.59</td>
<td>9957.50</td>
<td>5081.00</td>
<td>0.485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>98.89</td>
<td>10587.40</td>
<td>5081.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$p > 0.05$
Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H test reported in Table 3 show that parents’ abuse-potential scores vary significantly by the number of residents in the home ($\chi^2=7.112$, $p<0.05$). The multiple comparison test conducted to identify which of the groups differ significantly from one another showed that parents with six or more residents in their houses had significantly higher abuse-potential scores ($X=125.61$) compared to parents with two to three residents in their home ($X=58.94$).

Parents living in houses with six or more residents received the highest scores for abuse potential ($X = 125.61$), followed by parents living in houses with four or five residents ($X = 97.85$), followed by parents living in houses with two to three residents ($X = 58.94$), who received the lowest abuse-potential scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Residents</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean Ranks</th>
<th>sd</th>
<th>$\chi^2$</th>
<th>$p$</th>
<th>Significant F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2–3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>58.94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>97.85</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 and more</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>125.61</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.112</td>
<td>.028*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1-3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p <0.05

Data reported in Table 4 show that the differences between the abuse-potential scores of parents with different places of residence are statistically significant ($\chi^2=11.026$, $p<0.05$). Multiple comparison tests conducted to identify which of the groups differ significantly from one another showed that parents who spent most of their lives in small towns and villages had abuse-potential scores ($X =114.03$) that were significantly higher than the abuse-potential scores of parents who spent most of their lives in metropolises ($X = 73.32$), in provinces ($X= 74.56$), and in districts ($X=77.67$). This difference can be explained by the fact that parents living in small towns and villages adopt a more traditional approach to their childrearing.
Table 4.

Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Concerning the Differences in Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by Place of Residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Residence</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean Ranks</th>
<th>sd</th>
<th>$\chi^2$</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Significant F.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolis</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73.32</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>74.56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>77.67</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11.026</td>
<td>.003*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town/Village</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>114.03</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1-4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p <0.05

Table 5 reports the abuse-potential scores of parents by socio-economic status. The data show that the differences between the abuse-potential scores of parents from different income groups are statistically significant (p<0.05). The multiple comparison test showed that the abuse-potential scores of parents from low-income families ($X = 156.51$) are significantly higher compared to the abuse-potential scores of parents from lower-middle income families ($X = 98.46$), parents from upper-middle income families ($X = 94.67$), and parents from high-income families ($X = 88.34$).

Table 5.

Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Concerning the Differences in Abuse-Potential Scores of Parents by Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Income</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>Mean Ranks</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>$\chi^2$</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>Significant F.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Wage or less (Low)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>156.51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000–2500 TL (Lower-Middle)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>98.46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2500–4000 TL (Upper-Middle)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>94.67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.817</td>
<td>.042*</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000 TL or more (High)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>88.34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1-2,3,4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p <0.05

Discussion and Conclusion

Although there are studies in the literature examining the child-abuse potential of parents, this study differs from them by focusing on the question of which demographic variables are associated with higher levels of abuse potential, which is an important factor to consider in preventing abuse.
Corby (2006) indicates that if it is determined which people are under risk, measures can be taken. While the priority is to prevent parents’ child abuse and neglect tendency from occurring, it is equally significant to respond to those children and parents who have experienced child abuse and neglect when they were children.

The major finding of the study is that the child-abuse potential of parents does not vary significantly by age or gender, but varies significantly by the number of residents in the house, income, and place of residence.

Although the difference between the two scores is not statistically significant, it could be argued that the higher scores received by fathers compared to those received by mothers are indicative of the firm, authoritarian, and heavy-handed image associated with the role of father in the patriarchal structure of the Turkish family.

The observation that parents living in homes with six or more residents have higher abuse-potential scores compared to parents living in homes with two to three residents can be explained by the fact that as the number of children and family members increase, the amount of affection, attention, and interest parents can display toward their children decreases. Similarly as the number of family members increase, so do the number of responsibilities at home and burdens of life, which lead to higher levels of stress.

Other studies also find that an increase in the number of children in the family is accompanied by a parallel increase in the frequency of punishment and a decrease in the amount of love displayed, whereas child abuse is seen more frequently in one-child families compared to families with more children (Yalcin, 2011; Bilir et al., 1991; Guneysu, 1982).

Similar to the findings of this study, Ozdemir (1989), Sozduyar (1989), and Tercan (1995) found that parents of low socio-economic status have higher levels of abuse potential, that the child-abuse potential of the parents declines as their socio-economic status improves, that behaviors of child abuse and neglect are more frequent among parents of low socio-economic status, and that the relationship between stress and tension on the one hand and child abuse on the other is stronger than the relationship between child abuse and socio-economic status.

The multiple comparison test showed that parents with six or more residents in their houses had significantly higher abuse-potential scores compared to parents with two to three residents in their home and that the abuse-potential scores of parents from low-income families are significantly higher compared to the abuse-potential scores of parents from lower-middle income families, parents from upper-middle income families, and parents from high-income families. Additionally, parents who spent most of their lives in small towns and villages had abuse-potential scores that were significantly higher than the abuse-potential scores of parents who
spent most of their lives in metropolises, provinces, and districts. All of these findings were also found in similar studies (Lang, Gartstein, Rodges & Lebeck, 2010; Machado et.al., 2007; Herrenkohl & Herrenkohl, 2007; Gratz & Chapman, 2007; UNICEF, 2006; Sicher, Lewis, Sargent, et al. 2000).

Socialist and Marxist approaches maintain that such social problems are the product of a capitalist economic system (Inci, 2010). Moreover, Icli (1992) indicates in his studies that not only the fact of abuse, but also all crimes increase as socio-economic state worsens and the more rural the area. Studies conducted in the world and in our country, economic conditions and factors are denied that led to criminal acts occurs by a lot of people among the other factors (Inci, 2010).

The following recommendations are made on the basis of all these findings:

It is imperative that a multidisciplinary approach be adopted for the identification and prevention of child abuse. In addition to measures taken and treatment efforts made in the post-abuse stage, attention needs to be paid to the factors leading to child abuse in the first place. These factors include: families with a large number of children, families of low socio-economic status, and families residing in small towns and villages. They should be the focus of educational efforts, and these families should be periodically monitored.

Felitti & Anda (2009) and Messman-Morre, Walsh, & DiLillo (2010) found some remarkable findings showing that victims of child sexual abuse also are at a higher risk for rape in adulthood, and the rate of risk increases according to the severity of the child sexual abuse experiences. It should be noted in this regard that child abuse causes more levels of child abuse to occur again.

The place where children are at most risk is at home with their families. Efforts to prevent child abuse should concentrate on families of low socio-economic status. Laskey & Hatton (2009) reported in their study that hard discipline methods lead to child abuse. Therefore, families should be educated on child psychology and behavior and should be trained in alternative disciplinary methods to avoid physical punishment. Since 61% of all deaths about children due to child abuse are preventable, families should be given legal briefings, and home visits should be expanded.

One study showed that children who experienced neglect were at an increased risk for diabetes and poorer lung functioning, while physical abuse was shown to increase the risk for diabetes and malnutrition (Widom, Czaja, Bentley, & Johnson, 2012). Similarly a longitudinal study found that children who experienced neglect had body mass indices that grew at significantly faster rates compared to children who had not experienced neglect (Shin & Miller, 2012). Thus, the authorities should absolutely follow children such as weakness.
This study found that as the number of children in a family increases, so does the child-abuse potential of the parents. Therefore, in training and consultation sessions on family planning, the issue should also be discussed from the perspective of child abuse. Parents should be taught that every child needs special care and attention, and it is the right of a child that these needs are met.

References


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0-6 Yaş Çocuklara Sahip Ebeveynlerin Çocuk Istismarı Potansiyellerinin Çeşitli Değişkenler Açısından İncelenmesi

Atıf:

Özet


Araştırmanın Amacı: Çocuk istismarı, her kültürde ve toplumda sık karşılaşılan bir sosyal problemdir. Uygulanmış birçok çocuk istismarına yönelik birçoğuk çalışmaların yapılmamasından sonra bu araştırma, çocuk istismarına yönelik dikkat çekme durumunu ele alarak ebeveynlerin bu yönde eğitime ortaya çıkarmalarını öngören istismar potansiyeli ölçümünün çeşitli değişkenler açısından incelenmesi amacıyla yapılmıştır. Bu araştırma, çocuk istismarına aile içerisinde de olabilmek için sebebiyetle çocuğa her açıdan zarar verici ebeveyn tarafından uygulanan istismar olguğunun belirlenmesi konuyuyla ilgili toplumun aydınlatılması ve bilinçlendirilmesi amacıyla araştırma ebeveynlerinin özellikle hangi demografik değişkenlere bağlı olarak istisnay uygulama potansiyellerinin arttuğunun ve ya azaldığının tespit edilmiş ve bu durumlar çocuk istismarını açısından değerlendirilmiştir.

Araştırmanın Yöntemi: Araştırma kapsamında modelile uygulanmıştır. Araştırma evrenini, 2014-2015 öğretim yılında, Düzce ili merkezinde ikamet eden ebeveynler ile bu ebeveynlerin 0-6 yaş çocukları oluşturmaktadır. Düzce ili merkezinde ikamet eden 92 anne ve 66 baba olmak üzere toplam 158 ebeveyn çalışmanın...


Çalışmada, ebeveynlerin evde yaşayan birey sayısına göre istismar ölçümleri arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark (χ²=11.22, p <0.05) olduğu görülmektedir. Bu farkın hangi grup ya da gruplar arasında bulunduğu belirlemek üzere yapılan çoklu karşılaştırma testi sonucuna göre ise evelerinde 6 ve üzerinde birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin (X=125,61) 2-3 birey ile yaşayan (X=58.94) ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. 6 ve üzerinde birey ile yaşanan ebeveynlerin istismar puanlarının 2-3 birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlere oranla yüksek olması sebebi olarak; çocuk sayısının ve aile üyelerinin arttığı, anne ve babanın çocuklarına vereceği sevkat, hoşgörü ve ilginin azaldığı ve aile üyelerinin arttığını evdeki sorumlulukların ve yaşam görevlerinin artarak daha fazla strestle bulunanları düşündülmektedir. Veriler incelemişte, ebeveynlerin sosyoekonomik düzeylerine göre istismar potansiyeli ölçümleri arasında istatistiksel....
olarak anlamlı bir fark ve ebeveynlerin ikamet ettikleri yerleşim birimlerine göre istismar potansiyeli ölçümler arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir fark olduğu görülmektedir. Bu farkın hangi gruplar arasında olduğunu belirlemek amacıyla yapılan çoklu karşılaştırma testi sonucuna göre ise yaşamının çoğunu kasaba/köyde geçirmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümü nin yaşamının çoğunu büyük şehirde, şehirde, ilçede geçmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. Bu durumun kasaba/köy yerleşim alanlarında ikamet eden ebeveynlerin daha geleneksel bir yaklaşmalar çocuk yetiştirme olarak alakalı olduğu söylenebilir.

_Araştırmının Sonuç ve Önerileri:_ Çalışma sonucunda ebeveynlerin yaş ve cinsiyet değişkenlerine ilişkin çocuk istismarı potansiyellerine yönelik anlamlı bir fark bulunmazken evde yaşayan birey sayısı, gelir durumu ve ikamet ettikleri yerleşim birimlerine göre çocuk istismarı potansiyelleri arasında anlamlı bir fark bulunduğu tespit edilmiştir. Evlerinde 6 ve üzeri birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin 2-3 birey ile yaşayan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu ve ailesi alt sosyo-ekonomik düzeye sahip olan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin ailesi orta sosyo-ekonomik düzeye sahip olan ebeveynlerin istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. Ayrıca yaşamının çoğunu kasaba/köyde geçmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar ölçümlerinin yaşamının çoğunu büyük şehirde, şehirde, ilçede geçmiş olan ebeveynlerin istismar potansiyeli ölçümlerinden istatistiksel olarak anlamlı düzeyde yüksek olduğu görülmektedir. Elde edilen bu sonuçlara göre; çocuk istismarının tespit, tedavisinde multidisipliner yaklaşım esaslıdır. Bu sebeple çocuk istismarı yaşandıktan sonra önlemler ve sağalties yapılırmasından ziyade öncelikle istismarın engellenmesi amacıyla bu ihtimali güçlendiren nedenler üzerinde durulmalı, çocuk veya üye sayısı fazla olan aileler, sosyo-ekonomik düzeyi düşük olan aileler, köy/kasaba gibi yerleşim yerlerinde ikamet eden aileler üzerinde bilgilendirmeler ve eğitimler yoğunlaştırılmalı, bu aileler belli periyotlara izleme alınmalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çocuk, kötüye kullanma, anne, baba.