

The effect of intensive care physicians and nurses' inclination to ethical values on the moral sensitivity*

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study was conducted to determine the effect of intensive care physicians and nurses' inclination to ethical values on the moral sensitivity.

Materials and Methods: The study was conducted between April and June 2018. This descriptive and correlational study was conducted with 237 health professionals who had been working in intensive care units of four hospitals in Turkey for at least three months. The research data were collected with personal information form, "Inclination to Ethical Values Scale," and the "Moral Sensitivity Questionnaire." For the data analysis, SPSS 23 package software was used, and the number, percentage, minimum, maximum and median, and multiple regression-enter model tests were used.

Results: Participants' mean age is 28.98±5.80 years, and their professional experience averages 6.68±4.54

years. It was found that the mean scores of moral sensitivity of intensive care professionals were 90.31±17.15 (min 50 - max 148), and the mean score of inclination to ethical values was 71.48±10.02 (min 17 - max 80). It was found that a inclination to ethical values affects moral sensitivity ($p<0.05$).

Conclusions: Intensive care health professionals have a high inclination to ethical values, and their moral sensitivity is moderate level. As the inclination to ethical values increases, moral sensitivity increases. It is recommended to determine different variables affecting the inclination to ethical values by conducting studies in larger groups and to increase awareness of ethical problems frequently encountered in intensive care units.

Keywords: Intensive care, health professionals, ethical values, moral sensitivity