

## **Problems experienced by nursing students in clinical training during the COVID-19 pandemic: a descriptive study**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** In this study, the attitudes of nursing students towards Covid-19 disease and the problems they experienced in the clinical learning environment during the pandemic were examined.

**Material and Methods:** The research was a descriptive study. The population of the research is 2nd-3rd-4th-year students (n=264) studying at the nursing school who clinical placement during the pandemic. Data was collected online at the end of the clinical placement period (August 1-30,2021) using the "Student Information Form", "Questionnaire Form for Identifying Problems in Clinical Practice" and "Multidimensional Covid-19 Scale". Number and percentage calculation, t-test and one-way analysis of variance were used in data analysis.

**Results:** It was determined that the students got high scores from the Multidimensional Covid-19 Scale (Mean=79.44±16.87). Mean scores were high for

students who had lost their families due to COVID-19; who were worried about their patients having COVID-19; and who were directed to the care of COVID-infected patients without adequate protective equipment. The difference was statistically significant ( $p<0.05$ ). The most common problems students experienced were related to fear of making mistakes and harming patients (61.7%), fear of being infected with Covid-19 (61.7%), fear that patient has Covid-19 (60.6%), and feelings of inadequacy about entering clinical practice (58.7%).

**Conclusions:** To prepare nursing students for emergencies related to the pandemic and manage similar future situations, nursing schools and hospitals should collaborate to develop strategies and coping mechanisms.

**Keywords:** Clinical placement; Covid-19; Student experience; Nursing students.

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