

## The Use of Theories in Doctorate Theses in Turkey

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**Objectives:** Using theories and hypotheses may highly contribute to the qualification and improvement of the nursing practice. At the same time, verification of the relations between the proposals derived from the theory and the concepts of the theory may contribute both to the theory and also to the science of nursing. Using theories in the field of nursing would determine the basic concepts of the nursing discipline and explain the relationship between these concepts, as well. Furthermore, it may contribute to focusing of nurses to the actual role and practices of nursing instead of routine medical applications. The aim of this study was to investigate the use of theories in doctorate theses conducted in the field of nursing.

**Methods:** In this research study, doctoral theses conducted in the field of nursing between the years of 2005-2014 in Turkey, have been examined. All of the theses conducted can be easily reached from the Theses Database of the Council of Higher Education. Authors of the theses can restrict accession to the content for up to three years. A total of 515 theses have been identified in the specified period. However, content of the 259 theses could not be reached due to the restrictions of their authors. Therefore, only 256 thesis were available to be examined.

**Results:** A theory has been detected to be used only in 35 thesis examined in this reseach. 13 of the theses which based on a theory used the Orem's Selfcare Model, Roy's Adaptation Model, Neuman's Systems Theory, Nola Pender's Health Promotion Model, Roper, Logan, Tierney Model of Activities of Daily Living and Mercer's Maternal Attachment Model. In most of the theses, the planned nursing interventions have been used by integrating them into the theory, so the theory has also been tested. The other theories used in the doctorate theses were; Transtheoretical Model, Health Belief Model, Psychoeducational Model, Transactional Analysis, Theory of Planned Behavior, Bandura's Social Cognitive theory, Piaget's Cognitive Development Theory, Cox's Saęlık Davranıřı Etkileřim Modeli, Organisational Model of Accidents, Rogers's Theory of Diffusion of Innovation, Interaction Model of Client Health Behavior and Beck's Cognitive Theory. Most of these theories have been used in the nursing interventions, like educational content. The quasi-experimental method was used in most of the thesis.

**Discussion:** Findings of this study have shown that the level of using a theory in the research studies conducted in our country are not satisfying, even though a slight increase can be seen in the recent years. It is evident that the use of a theory, especially in the studies at doctorate level, may substantially contribute to the nursing models.

**Implications for practice:** It is recommended to encourage doctorate students to use theories in their thesis studies. Thus, contribution should be ensured for nurses to focus on their profession, and also for the nursing profession to be developed.

### Biography

Hatice Bařkale is a assistant professor at pediatric nursing department, Denizli School of Health, Denizli, Trkiye. She finished her Baccalaurate education at 2001, master education at 2005 and PhD education at 2010. She has articles about child nutrition and qualitative research with hemodialysed adolescents.