

Abstract

Original Article

Midwifery Students' Knowledge and Opinions About and Behaviors Towards Biotechnology

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Abstract

Introduction: Biotechnology is quite a new area of science and affects our lives worldwide from health care and food products to environmental issues and energy sources.

Aim: This study was aimed at determining midwifery students' knowledge and views about and behaviors towards genetically modified foods because they are to provide education and counseling about nutrition for people in the community in which they will work after graduation.

Methodology: This descriptive study was conducted with midwifery students attending the Faculty of Health Sciences, Cumhuriyet University. The population of the study comprised 307 students studying at a midwifery department during the 2015/2016 academic year.

No sampling method was implemented; 273 students who agreed to participate in the study were included in the study. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews using a questionnaire developed by the researchers after a literature review. For the analysis of the data obtained, frequency distribution and chi-square analysis were performed by using the SPSS 22.0. P-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Results: Of the participating midwifery students, 68.5% agreed with the statement "Genetic modification of plants and animals can affect biodiversity", 62.3% agreed with the statement "Gene technology can be used in the health field" and 58.2% agreed with the statement "Gene technology can help prevent or cure diseases".

Conclusions: This present study shows that the participating midwifery students' knowledge of biotechnology was insufficient. However, their views on genetically modified foods, biotechnology and consumption status were satisfactory. The participants' insufficient knowledge about the issue makes it difficult to give advice on the safety of biotechnology.

Keywords: Biotechnology; Knowledge, Opinions, Behaviors; Midwifery Students