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Evaluation of the Mediator Role of Burnout in the Relationship between Caring Behaviors and Self-Efficacy Perceptions in Surgical Nurses

Cerrahi Hemşirelerinde Bakım Davranışları İle Öz Yeterlilik Algısı Arasındaki İlişkide Tükenmişliğin Aracı Rolünün Değerlendirilmesi

Ceyda UZUN ŞAHİN¹, Perihan ŞİMŞEK²

ABSTRACT

Aim: This study was conducted to evaluate the mediator role of burnout in the relationship between caring behaviors and self-efficacy in surgical nurses.

Methods: The cross-sectional study was conducted with 205 surgical nurses. The data were collected using the Caring Behaviors Inventory, the Self-Efficacy Scale, and the Maslach Burnout Scale.

Results: A significant positive correlation was found between caring behaviors and self-efficacy scale scores (correlation coefficients ranged between 0.345-0.403; p<0.001). While there was a negative and significant relationship between the emotional exhaustion and depersonalization sub-dimensions of the burnout scale and the scores obtained from the caring behaviors inventory (p<0.05), no significant relationship was found in terms of the lack of personal accomplishments sub-dimension (p>0.05). In the relationship between caring behaviors and selfefficacy, the lack of personal accomplishments, emotional exhaustion, and depersonalization subdimensions of burnout scale were found to have a negative partial mediator role.

Conclusion: Caring behaviors have a positive relationship with self-efficacy and a negative relationship with depersonalization and emotional exhaustion. Lack of personal accomplishments, emotional exhaustion, and depersonalization have a negative partial mediator role in the relationship between caring behaviors and self-efficacy.

Keywords: Burnout, Caring behaviors, Self-efficacy perception, Surgical nurses

ÖΖ

Amaç: Çalışmada, cerrahi hemşirelerinde bakım davranışları ile öz-yeterlilik arasındaki ilişkide tükenmişliğin aracı rolünün değerlendirilmesi amaçlandı.

Metod: Kesitsel nitelikte olan çalışma, 205 cerrahi hemşiresinin katılımıyla gerçekleştirildi. Veriler Bakım Davranışları Ölçeği, Öz-Yeterlilik Ölçeği ve Maslach Tükenmişlik Ölçeği ile toplandı.

Bulgular: Bakım davranışları ile öz yeterlilik ölçek puanları arasında pozitif yönde anlamlı bir ilişki saptandı (correlation coefficients ranged between 0.345-0.403; p<0,001). Tükenmişlik ölçeğinin Duygusal tükenme ve Duyarsızlaşma alt boyutları ile bakım davranışları ölçeğinden elde edilen puanlar arasında negatif yönlü ve anlamlı bir ilişki varken (p<0.05) kişisel başarı eksikliği alt boyutuyla anlamlı bir ilişki saptanmadı (p>0,05). Bakım davranışları ile öz yeterlilik arasındaki ilişkide tükenmişliğin, kişisel başarı eksikliği, duygusal tükenme ve duyarsızlaşma alt boyutlarının negatif yönlü kısmi aracı rolü olduğu görüldü.

Sonuç: Bakım davranışları, öz yeterlilik ile pozitif; tükenmişlik ile negatif yönlü bir ilişkiye sahiptir. Bakım davranışları ile öz yeterlilik arasındaki ilişkide kişisel başarı eksikliği, duygusal tükenme ve duyarsızlaşmanın negatif yönlü kısmi bir aracı rolü bulunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Bakım davranışları, Cerrahi hemşireleri, Öz yeterlilik algısı, Tükenmişlik

Ethical approval was obtained from the Human Research Ethics Committee of Recep Tayyip Erdogan University. (Date: 27.05.2020 No: 40465587-050.01.04-124). The study was conducted in compliance with the ethical standards specified in the Helsinki Declaration.

¹ Dr. Öğr. Üyesi, Ceyda UZUN ŞAHİN, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Üniversitesi Sağlık Hizmetleri Meslek Yüksekokulu, Tıbbi Hizmetler ve Teknikler Bölümü, ceydam61@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0002-1392-7409

² Dr. Öğr. Üyesi, Perihan ŞİMŞEK, Acil Afet Yönetimi, Trabzon Üniversitesi, Uygulamalı Bilimler Yüksekokulu, p_simsek19@hotmail.com, ORCID: 0000 0002 0216 3968

İletişim / Corresponding Author:	Ceyda UZUN ŞAHİN	Geliş Tarihi / Received: 02.07.2022
e-posta/e-mail:	ceydam61@gmail.com	Kabul Tarihi/Accepted: 25.09.2022

INTRODUCTION

Nursing is generally considered an art and science, and care shapes the theoretical framework of nursing. the patient.¹ Nursing care entails physical, emotional, mental, and social needs to improve a Nursing and care are based on a relational understanding, and connection between the unity, professional nurse and patient's health and well-being. Care is the center and core of nursing.² Caring behavior and the nurse's perception of effective caring behavior is an action performed by professional nurses who provide safety and attention to the patient. Care-related behavior has a significant role in associating the nursing interaction with the patient.³

Self-efficacy is a multifaceted concept that appears to have a significant impact on cognitive and emotional processes.⁴ Individuals choose various courses of action based on the skills and abilities they believe they have. Self-efficacy is a fundamental concept in nursing care.⁵ Various nursing studies reported a link between self-efficacy and the acquisition of clinical skills.⁶⁻⁷

Burnout, characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and decreased personal accomplishment, is quite common among nurses.⁸ This phenomenon arises from constant and chronic occupational stress, a

Study design

This study is a cross-sectional and descriptive-correlational study.

Setting and Time

The data were collected between 20 May 2021 and 01 June 2021 from surgical nurses working in the surgical units of two state hospitals in Turkey.

Sampling

The population consists of volunteer surgical nurses in the surgical units of two hospitals located in the city center of Rize. The target population comprised of surgical distinct feature of the nursing profession.⁹ More than half of the four million nurses in the United States¹⁰ and one in every ten nurses worldwide experience burnout.¹¹ Various individual factors are associated with burnout, including gender,¹² marital status,¹³ and the tendency of healthcare professionals to prioritize patient care over their own wellbeing.¹⁴ Burnout also occurs due to organizational-level factors arising from work environments such as higher nursepatient ratios, increased electronic documentation, scheduling challenges, and management issues.14-15

Studies have shown that as self-efficacy increases, the sense of achievement becomes stronger and as a result, self-efficacy helps individuals to use their skills in the best way to solve the problems they face.^{6,16} The applications required for surgical patients are extremely complex and vital. Therefore, the surgical nurse should have sufficient knowledge, skills, care behaviors, and selfefficacy perception to be able to identify the needs of the patient and meet these needs.¹⁷ Starting from this point, this study was planned to evaluate the mediating role of burnout in the relationship between caring behaviors and self-efficacy perceptions in surgical nurses.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

nurses employed in different hospitals. Cluster sampling was used to sample the participants in the target population. Inclusion criteria of the study were;

- being 18 years old and above,
- participating in the study voluntarily.
- Measurements

The data were collected using the questionnaire form developed by the researchers.

The Questionnaire Form

The questionnaire form created by the researchers consists of five sections. There are five questions regarding socio-

demographic characteristics in the first section. seven questions about the professional experiences of nurses in the second section, the 30-item Caring Behaviors Inventory in the third section, the 22-item Maslach Burnout Inventory in the fourth section, and 16-item Nursing Profession Self-Efficacy Scale in the last section. It takes about 10 minutes to fill out the questionnaire.

The Caring Behaviors Inventory-30 (CBI-30)

The Caring Behaviors Inventory was developed by Zane Robinson Wolf et al. in 1994 to examine patient care from a philosophical and ethical perspective.¹⁸ The Turkish validity and reliability study was conducted by Gül and Dinc (2020) with patients and nurses.¹⁹ The inventory, designed to evaluate nursing care, consists of 30 items and 3 sub-dimensions (respectful deference to others, being accessible, professional knowledge, and attitudes). It has no cut-off point, and the scores to be taken range between 30 and 180. Evaluation of the scale is made on the total score. A high score refers to a high perception of nursing care, and a low score refers to a low perception of nursing care. There is no reverse-scored item in the inventory, in which a six-point Likert-"never", "rarely", type rating with "sometimes", "usually", "almost always", "always" options are used. The Cronbach's Alpha value for the caring behaviors inventory was determined as 0.989 in the study.

The Nursing Profession Self-Efficacy Scale

The scale was developed by Caruso et al. to evaluate the professional selfefficacy of nurses.²⁰ The Turkish validity and reliability study was carried out by Karacaoğlu Vicdan and Taştekin.²¹ The original scale is a 5-point Likert-type scale consisting of two sub-dimensions and 19 items. All the items are positive and scored as "strongly agree 5, agree 4, undecided 3, disagree 2, strongly disagree 1". The first sub-dimension of the scale is Quality of Care (Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 18, and 19), the second subdimension is Occupational Situations (Items 2, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17). As the score on the scale increases, professional self-efficacy increases. In the study, the Cronbach's Alpha value for the Self-efficacy scale was found to be 0.957.

The Maslach Burnout Inventory

It is a five-Likert-type scale and was developed by Maslach and Jackson to determine the level of burnout.²² Turkish reliability and validity study was performed by Capri et al. (2011).²³ Cronbach's Alpha values for emotional exhaustion, lack of personal accomplishments, and depersonalization sub-dimensions in the study were determined as 0.924, 0.789, and 0.754, respectively.

Data analysis

SPSS 24.0 program was used for statistical analysis and descriptive statistical methods, the conformity of quantitative data normal distribution was tested with to kurtosis and skewness values. The Pearson Correlation test was used to examine the relationship between the scales. The PROCESS macro developed by Hayes was utilized to measure the mediating effect. Significance was evaluated at p<0.01 and p<0.05 levels. Kurtosis and skewness values were considered to determine the conformity of the data to the normal distribution. If the cut-off points of the kurtosis and skewness values are not above 3 for skewness and 10 for kurtosis in terms of absolute values, they are considered to conform to a normal distribution.²⁴

Ethical considerations

Ethical consent was granted by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the local university (Date: 27 May 2020 No: 40465587-050.01.04-124). The participants were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any moment without providing any justification, and informed consent was obtained from each of them. The study was performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki (Brazil, 2013).

GÜSBD 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Dergisi	Araştırma Makalesi
GUJHS 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane University Journal of Health Sciences	Original Article

Limitation of the study

There are some limitations in this study. The complete universe was not reached in our study; therefore, the results of the present study cannot be reflected to the general population and the study was carried out in a single center. In addition, this study is a short-term study. Long-term experiences of the research subjects would be a valuable avenue to explore in the future.

Acknowledgements

We thank all the nurses who participated in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The median age of the participants was 30 (min=20, max=46), and 66.3% were female. Of the surgical nurses in the study, 45.9% were married, 76.6% had a bachelors'

degree, and 39.5% had 1-5 years of working experience. The average weekly working time was more than 40 hours for 73.7% of participants (Table 1).

 Table 1. Sociodemographic Characteristics (n=205)

Characteristics	n (%)	CBI* Score (Mean±SD)	Statistical analysis	
Gender				
Female	136 (66,3)	143.8 ± 31.40	t=3.004	
Male	69 (33.7)	129.8±31.47	p= 0.003	
Age	•• (••••)			
≤30	106 (51.7)	146,22±32,98	t=3,375	
>30	99 (48.3)	131,47±29,29	p= 0.001	
Education level	<i>yy</i> (40.5)	151,47±29,29		
Below a bachelor's degree	33 (16.1)	140,21±35,375	t=0,218	
Bachelor's degree	172 (83.9)	138,88±31,465	p=0.828	
Marital status	112 (05.7)	156,00±51,405	p=0.020	
Married	94 (45.9)	137,93±29,506	t=-0,481	
	(),	, ,	p=0.631	
Single	111 (54.1)	140,09±34,137	P 01001	
Working experience (year)**	01 (20 5)	146 14:25 005		
1-5	81 (39.5)	146,14±35,997	F=3,525	
6-10	50 (24.4)	136,76±28,620	0,031	
≥11	74 (36.1)	132,97±28,317	0,001	
Weekly working hours				
≤ 40 hours	54 (26.3)	149,19±28,140	t=2,739	
>40 hours	151 (73.7)	135,49±32,656	0.007	
Did you willingly choose your profession?				
Yes	124 (60.5)	149,10±25,966	t=5,643	
No	81 (39.5)	123,79±34,476	< 0.001	
Is nursing a suitable profession for you?				
Yes	129 (62.9)	145,35±28,892	t=3,589	
No	76 (37.1)	128,49±34,439	<0.001	
If you had a chance, would you choose nurs	ing profession again?			
Yes	96 (46.8)	148,30±25,764	t=4,075	
No	109 (53.2)	130,99±34,833	< 0.001	
Are you satisfied with the working environr				
Yes	67 (32.7)	148,58±30,197	E 10.011	
No	37 (18.0)	119,43±42,861	F=10.914	
Partly	101 (49.3)	140,01±25,031	<0.001	
Are you considering leaving your institution		- / /		
Yes	64 (31.2)	126,30±39,970	t=-3,415	
No	141 (68.8)	144,91±25,843	p=0.001	

*Caring Behavior Inventory, ** According to the Tamhane test, significant differences were found between those who worked for 1-5 years and those who worked for 11 years or more (p=0.036), and those who were "dissatisfied" and "partially satisfied" (p=0.025) and those who were "satisfied" (p=0.002).

The CBI scores of the participants were evaluated according to their demographic characteristics. The CBI score was significantly higher in women (p=0.003), those younger than 30 years old (p=0.001), those who worked less than 40 hours a week (p=0.007), those who willingly chose the nursing profession (p<0.001), those who

considered nursing as a suitable profession for them (p<0.001), and those who did not consider leaving their institution (p=0.001)

There was a negative and significant correlation between the scores obtained from the sub-dimensions of respectful deference to others, professional knowledge and attitudes, being accessible and the total score of the caring behaviors inventory and the emotional exhaustion (correlation coefficient: -0.259, --0.2810.233. -0.262;p<0.05) and depersonalization sub-dimensions of the burnout scale (correlation coefficient: -0.350. -0.317. respectively. -0.321, -0.336; p<0.001). No significant relationship was seen between the caring behaviors inventory total score and sub-dimensions scores and the lack of personal accomplishments subdimension of the burnout scale (p>0.05). A positive and significant correlation was found between the score obtained from the subdimensions of respectful deference to others, professional knowledge and attitudes, being accessible of the caring behaviors inventory, and the subdimensions of occupational

situations (correlation coefficient: 0.345. 0.350, 0.339, 0.352; p<0.001) and the quality of care (correlation coefficient: 0.359, 0.403, 0.377, 0.387, respectively; p<0,001) in the self-efficacy scale, the total score of the scale (correlation coefficient: 0.370, 0.395, 0.376, 0.388. respectively; p<0.001). The relationship between the self-efficacy scale and the sub-dimensions of the burnout scale scores revealed a negative and significant relationship between the total score of the scale and the self-efficacy scores of occupational situations and quality of care sub-dimensions of the scale and the lack of accomplishments personal sub-dimension (correlation coefficient: -0.242, -0.249, -0.212, respectively; p<0.05). There was a negative and significant relationship between sub-dimensions of the occupational situations and emotional exhaustion (r=-0.143)p=0.041). However, no statistically significant relationship was detected between self-efficacy and other sub-dimensions of the burnout scale (p>0.05) (Table 2).

Table 2. Correlations between ca	ring behaviors, self-efficacy	, and burnout (n=205)
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			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Respectful deference to other	r	1									
		р										
	Professional knowledge and attitudes	r	,952	1								
		р	,000									
	Being accessible	r	,925	,950	1							
		р	,000	,000								
	Total score	r	,978	,986	,977	1						
		р	,000	,000	,000,							
	Emotional exhaustion	r	-,259	-,233	-,281	-,262	1					
		р	,000	,001	,000	,000						
	Lack of personal accomplishments	r	-,071	-,079	-,078	-,077	-,456	1				
	-	р	0,309	0,261	0,267	0,269	0,000					
	Depersonalization	r	-,350	-,321	-,317	-,336	,779	-,461	1			
		р	,000	,000	,000	,000	,000	,000				
	Occupational Situations	r	,345	,350	,339	,352	-,143	-,212	-,080	1		
		р	,000	,000	,000,	,000,	,041	,002	,255			
	Quality of care	r	,359	,403	,377	,387	-,088	-,249	-,090	,813	1	
•		р	,000	,000	,000	,000	,211	,000	,201	,000		
	Total score	r	,370	,395	,376	,388	-,121	-,242	-,089	,952	,952	1
		р	,000	,000	,000	,000	,083	,000	,204	,000,	,000	

R: Pearson's correlation coefficients

GÜSBD 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Dergisi	Araştırma Makalesi
GUJHS 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane University Journal of Health Sciences	Original Article

The Sobel test was used to determine whether burnout has a mediating effect on the relationship between caring behaviors and self-efficacy perceptions in surgical nurses (Figure 1).

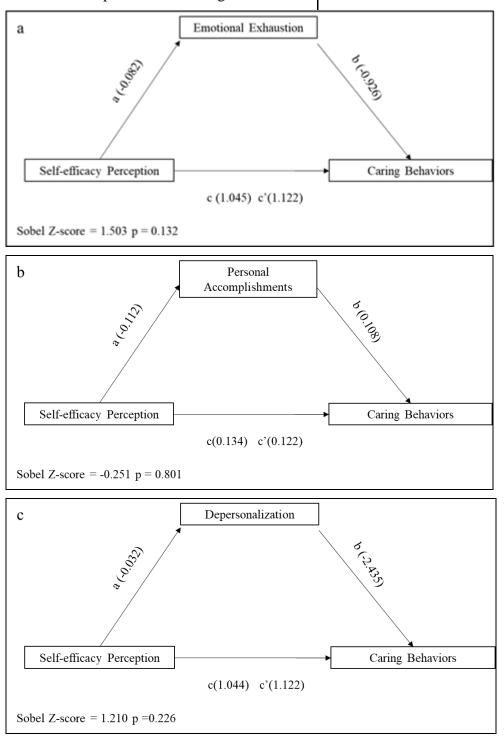


Figure 1. The mediating effect of a) emotional exhaustion b) lack of personal accomplishments, and c) depersonalization on the relationship between caring behaviors and self-efficacy perceptions in surgical nurses

The Z score determined for this model was calculated as 1.503 for emotional exhaustion, -0.251 for the lack of personal accomplishments, and 1.210 for depersonalization sub-dimensions of the Burnout scale. Since the Z scores were bigger than 0.05 and were not statistically significant, it was concluded that three subdimensions of burnout (*emotional exhaustion*, *lack* of *personal accomplishments*, *and depersonalization*) had a mediating effect on the relationship

GÜSBD 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Dergisi	Araştırma Makalesi
GUJHS 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane University Journal of Health Sciences	Original Article

between caring behaviors and self-efficacy perceptions in surgical nurses. Table 3 presents the total effect, direct effect, and indirect effect values according to the subdimensions of the Burnout scale.

The difference between the total effect and the direct effect indicates the magnitude

Table 3. Total, Direct and Indirect Effect Values (n=205)

of the indirect effect. As can be seen from Table 3, the indirect effect is positive for emotional exhaustion and depersonalization sub-dimensions and negative for lack of personal accomplishments sub-dimensions (Table 3).

	Total effect	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Bootstrap Confidence interval BoLLCI- BoULCI	Mediating effect type
Emotional exhaustion					
	1.122	1.045	0.076	-0.040 - 0.271	Partial
Lack of personal accomplis	hments				
	1.122	1.134	-0.0123	-0.092-0.103	Partial
Depersonalization					
	1.122	1.044	0.078	-0.066-0.292	Partial

In this study, the mediating role of burnout in the relationship between caring behavior and self-efficacy perception in surgical nurses was explored. The data showed that the three sub-dimensions of burnout had a negative partial mediator role in the relationship between nursing care behavior and self-efficacy perception, and there was a positive and significant relationship between the caring behaviors inventory and the self-efficacy scale scores. Besides, while a negative and significant correlation was seen between the scores obtained from the caring behaviors inventory and the emotional exhaustion and depersonalization sub-dimensions of the burnout scale, no significant correlation was observed for the lack of personal accomplishments sub-dimension.

Consistent with some reports in the literature,²⁵ in this study, self-efficacy had a direct effect on caring behaviors, and there was a positive and significant relationship between the total score of the self-efficacy scale and its sub-dimension scores and the caring behaviors inventory scores. However, Dharmanegara et al. (2015) found that selfefficacy has no significant effect on caring behaviors.²⁶

Self-efficacy is among the most significant predictors of change in behavior,²⁶ and it predicts and influences performance.²⁷ In this respect, self-efficacy perception has a critical role in revealing behaviors,²⁸ and the significant correlation between nursing caring behaviors and selfefficacy in the study is thought to be related to this role. However, further comprehensive studies with larger samples are required to reveal the effect of self-efficacy on the development of care behaviors, the central concept and fundamental component for nursing.

The current study results revealed a negative correlation between emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and caring behaviors, consistent with several recent studies. Sunryo et al. (2017) reported a negative effect of job burnout on caring behavior.²⁹ Moreover, Shen et al. found that CBI scores were negatively correlated with depersonalization, emotional exhaustion, and personal accomplishment.³⁰ diminished Similarly, Mudallal et al. found a significant negative correlation between the quality of

Araștırma Makalesi Original Article

nursing care and emotional exhaustion and depersonalization.³¹ Sarafis et al. noted that more stressful factors are related to worse behavior of the nurses towards their patients.³² It has been known for many years that burnout has detrimental effects on nurses in terms of both physical health and psychological processes and reduces work performance.³³ The present study contributes to our understanding of the negative relationship of burnout with fulfilling caring behaviors. No significant relationship was between the lack of personal seen accomplishments sub-dimension and care behaviors in the study. Further studies on large samples are needed to better understand this relationship.

In the study, a negative and significant correlation was found between the occupational situations sub-dimension of the self-efficacy scale and emotional exhaustion, and there was no significant relationship between the other sub-dimensions that make up the scales. This may be because, unlike mental disorders that have a widespread effect on all life activities, burnout is primarily conceptualized based on the thoughts and feelings of those working in the service sector.³⁴ However, very little was found in the literature on the relationship between self-efficacy and burnout for nurses. For example, Alidosti et al. found an inverse relationship between nurses' self-efficacy and each of the three dimensions of burnout.³⁵ A possible explanation for the negative correlation between self-efficacy and burnout might be that work-related burnout reduces self-efficacy by leading to negative emotions such as depression, irritability, helplessness, and anxiety.¹⁰

It was determined in our study that emotional burnout played a negative mediating role in the relationship between

There is a positive and significant relationship between caring behaviors and self-efficacy perceptions. Burnout, on the other hand, has a partial mediator role in this relationship. Care behaviors are among the

caring behaviors and self-efficacy and had a partial and limited indirect effect. Selfefficacy is one of the fundamental variables in the formation of a sense of competence and achievement in people. As self-efficacy increases, the sense of achievement becomes stronger, which helps individuals use their skills in the best way to solve the problems they face.¹⁶ In this study, the lack of personal accomplishments sub-dimension played a negative mediating role in the relationship between self-efficacy and caring behaviors and had a partial and limited indirect effect. Self-efficacy also strengthens the belief that one can fulfill his/her duties under various and challenging conditions. Thus, selfefficacy improves one's ability to perform skills in the best way for effective performance.³⁶ In this respect, self-efficacy is a significant predictor of nurses' caring behaviors.³⁷ Emotional exhaustion, on the other hand, has an effect that reduces selfefficacy.³⁸ It is thought that the negative mediator role identified in the study stems from this effect of burnout.

It was determined that depersonalization had a negative mediator role in the relationship between self-efficacy and care behaviors. In a study with teachers, a negative emotional relationship was revealed between exhaustion and self-efficacy.³⁹ In studies with nurses, a negative correlation was found between depersonalization and self-efficacy by Alidosti et al.³⁵ and between depersonalization and caring behaviors by Shen et al.³⁰ On the other hand, emotion and moral sensitivity are high predictors for caring behaviors.⁴⁰ The results of this present study will contribute to the existing data in the literature by suggesting that depersonalization plays a negative mediator role in the positive relationship between nurses' caring behaviors and self-efficacy.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION

basic components of the nursing profession and are accepted as an indicator of professionalism in nursing care. Surgical nursing is a nursing field that requires special care before, during, and after surgery, and it

GÜSBD 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane Üniversitesi Sağlık Bilimleri Dergisi	Araştırma Makalesi
GUJHS 2022; 11(3): 1076 - 1085	Gümüşhane University Journal of Health Sciences	Original Article

is of great importance to identify the elements related to the care behaviors of nurses working in this field in terms of professional development and patient care. Increasing the perception of self-efficacy and reducing burnout as much as possible will contribute significantly to the improvement and development of nursing care behaviors.

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