

THE EXAMINATION ABOUT KNIFE USING BEHAVIORS OF YOUTH WITH REGARD TO VARIOUS VARIABLES DURING A FIGHT (SIVAS EXAMPLE)¹

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ABSTRACT

The major issue to deal with is the violence of youth who is dynamic part of the society, yet this crucial social problem is not put enough emphasis on World Health Organization (WHO) considers that matter as one of the prior and universal issues needed to be solved. Acts of violence committed by young persons with cutleries and firearms make a great effect on the social life with the results of psychological and socio-economic results in addition to life losses and injuries. The youth-borne activities especially in the Western societies that are performed with firearms and cause the mass deaths lead to worries in all communities inasmuch as violence is a learned behavior.

In our country, the studies conducted on the youth violence are hardly sufficient. The scientific researches concentrate on the certain types of violence such as the "violence against women", "domestic violence", and "child battering" but however the studies on the "youth violence" remain short.

The research study in youth violence is conducted in Sivas, which aims to examine the knife using behaviors of youth during a fight with regard to various variables. We choose the province of Sivas on the grounds that the cutlery has a great importance in the city life, the prevalence of the behaviors of carrying a knife and knife using in the swagger culture in its old boroughs such as Yüceyurt (Çavuşbaşı), Kızılırmak (Çayırağzı), Pulur, the official records of stabbing cases of almost every day among the youth according to

¹ It was presented orally at VIII. National Sociology Congress performed by Society of Sociology and Middle East Technical University in the 01-03 December 2016.

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the statistics of the years of 2001 – 2011, an action plan developed for the city, and the convenience for a research.

The quality and form of relationships which youngsters establish among their families, schools and social environment act as a determinative in forming their behaviors towards violence.

In order to solve the problems derived from the youth violence, it is of vital importance that the youth are able to communicate with their parents in a trust-based relationship and share their problems. This is also true in the school environment and social circle where they spend a considerable part of their lives. In addition, some strategies facilitate the problem solving, such as raising awareness on the negativities of the youth violence, making eye-opening additions into the educational programs, extending the counseling services, and developing informative programs through the communication instruments.

Key Words: Youth, Youth Violence, Knife, Violence, cutlery, stabbing

KAVGA ORTAMINDA GENÇLERİN BIÇAK KULLANMA DAVRANIŞLARININ ÇEŞİTLİ DEĞİŞKENLER AÇISINDAN İNCELENMESİ (SİVAS ÖRNEĞİ)

ÖZ

Toplumun dinamik kısmını oluşturan gençlerin şiddet davranışları öncelikli ele alınması gereken konuların başında gelmekle birlikte, yeterince üzerinde durulmayan önemli bir sosyal sorundur. Dünya Sağlık Örgütü (WHO), konuyu, çözüm gerektiren evrensel ve öncelikli sorunlar arasında değerlendirmektedir. Gençler tarafından kesici, delici ateşli silahlarla gerçekleştirilen şiddet eylemleri; can kayıpları, yaralanmalar yanında psikolojik ve sosyo-ekonomik sonuçlarıyla toplumsal yaşamda derin izler bırakmaktadır. Özellikle batı toplumlarında ateşli silahlarla gerçekleştirilen ve toplu ölümlere neden olan “genç” kaynaklı eylemler, şiddetin “öğrenilir” bir olgu olması nedeniyle tüm toplumlarda kaygılara neden olmaktadır.

Ülkemizde gençlik şiddeti konusunda yapılan araştırmaların yeterli olduğunu söylemek güçtür. Bilimsel araştırmalarda şiddet olgusunun “kadına yönelik”, “aile içi”, “çocuğa yönelik şiddet” başlıkları altında yoğunlaştığı, “gençlik şiddeti” konusu alanında yapılan çalışmaların eksik kaldığı görülmektedir.

Gençlik şiddeti konusunda, gençler arasında kavga ortamında bıçak kullanma davranışını çeşitli değişkenler açısından test etmeyi amaçlayan araştırma Sivas’ta gerçekleştirilmiştir. Sivas kent yaşamında bıçakçılığın önemli bir yere sahip olması, Yüceyurt (Çavuşbaşı), Kızılırmak (Çayırağzı), Pulur gibi eski mahallelerinde kabadayılık kültüründe bıçak taşıma ve kullanma davranışının yaygınlığı, 2001-2011 yılları arasındaki istatistikler incelendiğinde neredeyse hergün gençler arasında bıçakla yaralama eyleminin resmi kayıtlara geçmesi, kentte bu konuda bir eylem planının ortaya konması ve araştırma kolaylıkları nedeniyle araştırma için Sivas İli seçilmiştir.

Gençlerin aile, okul ve sosyal çevre arasında kurdukları ilişkilerin niteliği ve biçimi, onların şiddete yönelik davranışlarının şekillenmesinde belirleyici rol oynamaktadır.

Gençlik şiddeti konusunda yaşanan sorunların çözülebilmesi için özellikle sosyalleşme sürecinde gençlerle anne-babaları arasında güvene dayalı bir iletişim kurulması ve gencin sorunlarını ailesiyle paylaşabilmesi son derece önemlidir. Bu durum gençlerin gündelik yaşamlarının önemli bir bölümünün geçtiği okul ortamı ve sosyal çevre içinde geçerlidir. Ayrıca gençlik şiddetinin yarattığı olumsuzluklar üzerine farkındalığın geliştirilmesi, öğretim programlarında aydınlatıcı düzenlemeler yapılması, rehberlik hizmetlerinin yaygınlaştırılması, iletişim araçlarıyla aydınlatıcı- bilgilendirici programlar geliştirilmesi gibi uygulamalar sorunların çözümünde kolaylık sağlayacaktır.

Anahtar sözcükler: Gençlik, Gençlik Şiddeti, Bıçak, Şiddet, Kesici Alet, Bıçak Kullanma

1-INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines the world population which is between 15-25 ages as youth population and declares that youth violence is a significant kind of violence (WHO, 2002, p .23). Because the victims of youth violence generally are also the youngsters, it affects a great deal of society such as mother-father, relatives, and peers. The violence occurring among the youngster relationships is interpreted as a “unexpressed and unspeakable epidemic which happens in the glare of publicity” (Dingfelder, 2010, p.32). The educators and adults indicate that “the number of young people having hostile attitudes, miscommunication problems, using violence and being aggressive is increasing day by day” (Schumpf et al, 2007, p.26). The researches generally evaluate the reasons underlying violent events under the titles of “personal character, school environment, family environment and environmental conditions” (Diepold et al, 1997, p.77).

The youth also includes the “puberty” defined as the most problematical term of human life. The young persons who grow fast psychologically, physiologically, and cognitively during that puberty have temper tantrum “generally resulted in regret”(Kulaksızoğlu, 1998, p.207) and the aggressive and threatening behaves will be the first reaction of the young persons living in a struggling environment and the tense environment triggers the behavior of using firearms.

It is regarded as a vital issue that the hunting guns such as pump rifle are easily available also on the internet although it is difficult to get firearms because of legal restrictions in Turkey.³ Besides, some sharp and

³ Articles 4 and 5 of Law No. 6136 about Firearms, Knives and Other Tools, published in the Official Gazette on the 15th of July, 1953, forbidden the manufacturing, sales, purchase, carrying and possessing of some tools which may be used for attack and self-defense. A special permission is needed to use these kinds of tools for performing a job or art and Article 7 explains for which occupational group the authorization will be given.

pointed objects used in daily life, such as jack-knife, knife, and screwdriver can be easily had and used in a fight like anywhere on the earth.

Especially in the respect of Sivas, one of the main reasons making that issue more conspicuous is the fact of “cutlery” does have an important status in urban culture. The cutlery in the town is emphasized in the İbn-i Batuta and Evliya Çelebi’s books of travel, the quality of the handmade knives and jack-knives made in town has a nation-wide acceptance and the swagger culture continuing in some neighborhoods coalesces into carrying a knife and knife usage. When evaluating the stabbing injury affairs between 2001-2011 in Sivas, it is seen that the number of yearly average recorded affairs is 257,4 and 60% of the suspects involved in these incidents and 66% of the victims are young people under 25 years of age. Because the tendency for carrying a knife among the young people is common, an action plan including various educational activities was carried out in the city (2011-2013), and an international workshop was arranged.

2-METHOD

The research subject is to measure the behavior and the frequency of cutlery usage of young people in fight in regard to school, family and environmental factors and according to the various variables.

“Knife” has a special place in the cultural structure of Sivas. The sample group of the research includes the young people in the center of Sivas city. According to the data of TURKSTAT Address Based Population Registration System in the year of 2013, totally 66626 young persons who are between 15-24 ages in center of Sivas city and 32870 of them are young male and 33726 of them are young female compose the research population.

However the necessary sample number of the formulation is 245, 1000 young persons who were schooled or not, worked or did not and were in the age group of 15-25 in the period of between March-June 2014 took part in the sample group by random sampling method due to the opportunity of the research and after

the applied questionnaire forms, as considering the eliminated ones, 905 forms were evaluated by chi-square test via SPSS 17 program as having p 0.5 level of the significance.

The sampling was made through the face-to-face interviews and survey forms applied to the youth between the ages of 15 and 25 in the fields of middle school premises, sport courts, cafés, small industry plants, etc. where they very often exist.

In the research, it is observed the relationship between the independent variables of “gender, age, academic achievement, school absenteeism, uneasy family environment, violence from others”, and the dependent variable of “the behavior of knife usage in fight”.

3-FINDINGS

When checked the results of crosstab, it was observed that there is a significant relationship between the variables of “gender, age, academic achievement, school absenteeism, uneasy family environment, violence from others” and “the behavior of knife usage in fight”. However, there found no significant relationships between “economic income, family structure, the model person, birth place, the living neighborhood and the feeling of neglecting” and the behavior of knife usage in fight.

With regard to gender variable, the young female were included in the sample group with rate 37,3% (n=338) as the young male did with rate of 62,7% (n=567). As there were young people of whom are 65% (n=588) in the age range 15-17, 23% (211) in the 18-20 age range, 6.9% (n=62) in the 21-23 age range and 4.9% (n=44) in the 24-26 age range, it was seen that they were members of whom are 68,5% (n=620) is “nuclear family”, 11,4% (n=103) is “extended family”, 9,2% (n=83) is “single-parent family”, 1% (n=9) is “elementary family as custodial parents”. As 89,2% (n=807) of them marks “housewife” option as mother’s job, their markings about the father’s job dispersed as 25,7% (n=233) is worker, 18,6% (n=168) is officials, 18,1% (n=164) is tradesmen, 9,5% (n=86) is retired, 7,2% (n=65) is self-employment, 6,5% (n=59) is unemployed. The major part, 84,3% (n=763) of young persons were born in city and 11,3%

(n=102) was born in town and 75,7% (n=685) had been living in the center of Sivas for more than seven years.

The monthly incomes of the households are expressed in multiples of the minimum wage of 846 Turkish Liras being valid in Turkey at the time of research. When considered the household income the young persons lived in, it was found that 34,6% (n=313) was between 847-1693TL, 27% (n=244) was between 1694-2540TL, 11,3% (n=102) was between 2541-3387TL, 10,5% (n=95) was below the subsistence wage.

According to their educational status, we determine that 81% (n:733) of the youth in the sample are of the middle school students, 8.2% (n:74) of the bachelors, 2.2% (n:20) of the higher education students, 7.4% (n:67) of the middle school graduates, and 1.2% (n:11) of the elementary school graduates.

Table 1. The data about the threat, harassment, and knife attack lived by the youth and sense of security

	N	%		N	%
Among which you feel secured?			Who did they threat?		
<i>Family, relatives</i>	453	50,1	<i>My schoolmates</i>	46	5,1
<i>Schoolmates</i>	258	28,5	<i>Neighborhood friends</i>	18	2,0
<i>Friends of neighborhood</i>	178	19,7	<i>Group friends</i>	6	,7
<i>Unanswered</i>	16	1,8	<i>From any other group</i>	143	15,8
Which type of caution you take in an unsecure environment?			<i>Others</i>	34	3,8
<i>Carrying a cutlery</i>	65	7,2	<i>Unanswered</i>	658	72,7
<i>Taking a firearm</i>	29	3,2	I trust myself to stay away from trouble?		
<i>Keep away from there</i>	488	53,9	<i>Yes</i>	723	79,9
<i>Have not live in</i>	313	34,6	<i>No</i>	177	19,6
<i>Unanswered</i>	10	1,1	<i>Unanswered</i>	5	,6
Do the young persons around you harass the other ones?			Have you been attacked with knife within the last year?		
<i>Frequently</i>	141	15,6	<i>Frequently</i>	20	2,2
<i>Once a while</i>	321	35,7	<i>Several</i>	124	13,7
<i>They don't</i>	401	44,3	<i>None</i>	737	81,4
<i>Unanswered</i>	40	4,4	<i>Others</i>	19	2,1
In which place do the harassments occur?			<i>Unanswered</i>	5	,6
<i>At school</i>	200	34,2	Have you used a knife in a fight?		
<i>In neighborhood</i>	98	16,8	<i>Frequently</i>	39	4,3
<i>In other neighborhood</i>	234	40,0	<i>Several</i>	129	14,3
<i>Others</i>	53	9,1	<i>Never</i>	721	79,7
Have you been threatened in the last year?			<i>Unanswered</i>	16	1,8
<i>Frequently</i>	29	3,2	Have you been injured by any attack for the last year?		
<i>Once or twice</i>	211	23,3	<i>Yes</i>	90	9,9
<i>Have not</i>	658	72,7	<i>No</i>	803	88,7
<i>Unanswered</i>	7	0,8	<i>Unanswered</i>	12	1,3
TOTAL	905	100		905	100

It is an expected situation that the young people feel as secured most among the family members and relatives (50,1%). The family and house are the best secured and privately sheltered living places. But it is a matter to be considered that the 28,5 percent of young included in sample group and the 19,7 percent stated that they feel more secured respectively among the schoolmates and neighborhood friends. Keeping away from unsecured areas should be a common accepted behaviour, but nevertheless it is remarkable that 10.4% (n:94) of the youth have in mind carrying any pointed or sharp objects or getting and carrying a firearm.

The obtained data showed that the harassment events occurred among the young population has been observed frequently. More than the half of the young ones included in sample group (51,3%) declared that they have been faced with a harassment frequently or once a while. It is seen that the places which harassment affairs happen mostly are the other neighborhoods (40%), schools (34,2%) and the living neighborhood (16,8%).

Additionally, it is seen that threatening is common among the youth. The 26,5 percent of the youth stated they had been countered with a threatening behavior at least once for the last one year. However the threatening persons were young persons from the other groups (15,8), it was observed that they were also schoolmates (5,1%) and neighborhood friends (2%).

15,9 percent of the youth stated they had been attacked with a knife for the last one year, moreover 2,2% of them declared they had been countered with a knife attack frequently. The ratio of the young persons telling knife is used in fight (18,6%) is higher. The 4,3 percent of those young persons on that rate stated that they displayed knife usage behavior frequently. As the 19,6 percent of them declared they did not trust themselves in keeping away from the trouble, the ratio of young persons who stated they had been injured in a fight for the last one year was redounded on sample statistics as 9,9% (n=90).

Table 2. The knife usage behavior of youth in a fight as to various variables

The knife usage behavior in a fight	Frequently		Several Times		Did not		X ²	P
	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Gender							80,89	0,00
<i>Female</i>	0	0	13	3,9	323	96,1		
<i>Male</i>	39	7,1	116	21,0	398	72,0		
Age							20,38	0,02
<i>15-17</i>	19	3,3	72	12,5	485	84,2		
<i>18-20</i>	16	7,7	45	21,6	147	70,7		
<i>21-23</i>	2	3,2	8	12,9	52	83,9		
<i>24-26</i>	2	4,7	4	9,3	37	86,0		
Academic Success							24,91	0,00
<i>Unsuccessful</i>	5	11,6	8	18,6	30	69,8		
<i>Intermediate</i>	16	4,7	68	20,1	254	75,1		
<i>Successful</i>	14	3,0	49	10,4	409	86,7		
School Absenteeism							28,35	0,00
<i>2-3 times a week</i>	11	7,7	31	21,8	100	70,4		
<i>2-3 times a month</i>	9	4,9	33	18,1	140	76,9		
<i>2-3 times each term</i>	8	2,0	42	10,2	360	87,8		
<i>Never</i>	3	4,1	7	9,6	63	86,3		
Domestic violence							35,68	0,00
<i>Everyday</i>	9	16,4	14	25,5	32	58,2		
<i>Several times a month</i>	9	4,7	34	17,9	147	77,4		
<i>Too rare</i>								
<i>Never</i>	14	2,6	69	12,8	456	84,6		
	6	6,9	10	11,5	71	81,6		
Beaten by parents							75,6	0,00
<i>Always</i>	5	35,7	2	14,3	6	42,9		
<i>Sometimes</i>	10	10,9	20	21,7	61	66,3		
<i>Never</i>	7	1,9	47	12,6	314	84,4		
<i>Just in childhood</i>	16	4,2	59	51,3	332	45,5		
Beaten by others							15,71	0,00
<i>Yes</i>	6	7,1	23	27,4	55	65,5		
<i>No</i>	30	3,8	104	13,1	660	83,1		

When the knife usage behavior of the youth in a fight for the last one year is evaluated regard to gender, it is observed there appeared great differences between young females and males. However it is not observed frequently, 3,9 percent of young females declared they had displayed the knife usage behavior few times as a persuader. The ratio of males using knife is 28,1% (n=155) and 7,1% of that total rate stated they had

handled the knife frequently in a fight. The relationship between “Gender” and “Knife usage” variables is significant for the linkage $p=0,00 < 0,05$.

When the age variable is considered, the age range between 18-20 is striking. When the youth between these ages were in fight, 7,7 percent of them stated they showed knife usage behavior frequently, the 21,6 percent said they displayed that behavior at least few times.

As the academic failure of the young increased, it is also observed that the frequently knife usage behavior increased too. 30,2 percent of unsuccessful young ones and 24,8 percent of young having an intermediate success stated they used knife in a fight. That ratio among the successful young persons was observed as 13,4%.

It is possible to say the same for the young ones having school absenteeism. The knife usage behavior among the young ones being absent from school several times a week is observed as 29,5% and that behavior among the young ones being absent from school for several times a month is observed as 23% and among the young persons never being absence it is just 13,7%.

Uneasy family environment affect the young people’s social life in a multidimensional way. It was observed that the young people living uneasiness in their family had also a frequency for knife usage behavior in a fight. 41.9 percent of young ones having a discussion in their family daily stated they certainly used knife for the last one year. 16,4 percent of those young ones repeated the frequently knife usage behavior. The percent of knife usage behavior in a fight falls down to 15,4% for the young ones who live the uneasiness in their families rarely. The findings of the research suggest that there is a meaningful relationship between uneasy family environment and the frequency of youngsters' knife usage behavior.

The findings of the research suggest that there is a meaningful relationship between youngster beaten by family elders and the knife usage behavior in a fight. While the knife usage behavior ratio was observed as

50% among the youngsters beaten by family elders all the time, the knife usage behavior ratio among the youngsters not being exposed to violence was reduced to 14,5%.

There observed a significant relationship between the young people beaten by others for the last one year and knife usage behavior in a fight by chi-square analysis. While the 34,5 percent of the young people beaten by others for the last one year had pulled out a knife at least few times in a fight, that ratio among the young ones not beaten by others was observed as 16,9%.

On the other hand, there did not observe a positive relationship between household monthly income ($X^2=14,2$, $P= 0,71$), family structure ($X^2= 23,2$, $P= 0,10$), birth place ($X^2= 11,6$, $P= 0,23$), the living place ($X^2=14,2$, $P= 0,71$), the feeling of neglect ($X^2=6,97$, $P= 0,31$), model person ($X^2= 5,26$, $P= 0,72$) and the knife usage behavior in a fight.

4-DISCUSSION

In this research, the 15,9 percent of the youth said that they had been attacked with knife for the last one year, 9,9 percent of them said they had been injured by those attacks and 18,6 percent of the youth stated they had used knife in a fight.

As to the findings of a research conducted in Elazığ (Aygen, 2009), 9,0 percent of students declared they carried cutlery (jack-knife, knife etc.) and 3,2 percent of them said they carried with firearm. Lowry and Powell (1998, p.122) determined that the ratio of carrying a gun of the adolescents who are 12-21 years old is 15 %, and Valois and Mckeown (1995) found the ratios of carrying a gun is 38% for male students and 11% for female students in a study about high school students. When United States crime statistics 2014 was examined, it is seen that 1567 of 11961 murders were conducted with a cutlery like a knife (www.incanews.net). 1951 persons lost their lives in 2175 armed affairs occurred in Turkey, 2016 and firearm was used in the 71 percent of these affairs and cutlery was used in the 21 percent of them.

It seems that the gender is an effective variable on the knife usage behavior in a fight. That behavior observed at just 3,9% among females, when considering the males, jumps up at 28,1%. Various studies conducted in our country also support the findings of that study relevant to gender (Prime Ministry, 1998; Balkıs, Duru, Buluş, 2005; Özcebe, Çetik, Üner, 2006; Baş, Öz, Kabasakal, 2012; Avcı, 2010).

The youth (15-25 ages) is a tempestuous period including also the puberty struggling. For that period, it is stated that the tendency of violence is higher in the students (Özgür et al, 2011) who are attending to the ninth and tenth grades where the tendency of violence is also intense (Haskan and Yıldırım, 2012).

It was observed that the rate of carrying a gun or cutlery also increases in parallel with increasing age of the youth (Koç, 2011, p.239). In the study conducted in Sivas, especially the age range of 18-20 was remarkable with the rate of 29,3% in knife usage behavior.

The lives of the young people who are in the 15-25 age range defined as “youth” by World Health Organization are formed between home and school. House life and family relations symbolize peace and safety for most of us. The power of the communication in family and sincere connections between family members has a key role for solutions to many social problems. But in any contrary case, it causes problems to be hardly solved. The uneasiness lived in family resources domestic violence and the young persons are also to be effected by that situation just like the other family members. A study about secondary school students reveals that 54 % of youth are beaten by mothers and 46% was beaten by their fathers (Ayan, 2007, p.359), and another study showed that 53% of them were exposed to psycho-social violence, 42,4% were exposed to physical violence, 3,8% were abused and additionally 45,8% of them observed violent events such as fighting, beatings, insults in their houses (TEPA, 2013, p.132). It is a remarkable determination that the youth exposed to violence in their families show problematical personal characteristics in their outside lives (Kitzman, Gaylord, 2003). United Nations Population Fund emphasizes “the children growing in

violence occurring environments will have violent behaviors more in their adult lives.” (UNFPA, 2013, s.11).

A huge part of the youngsters’ daily lives are spent in school environment. Thus school environment and their education lives make a great effect on forming their emotions, thoughts and behaviors. Council of Europe’s final declaration on local partnership conference for preventing and combating violence at school (11/12/2002) emphasize that all events occurred at school, even if it is positive or not, impress the characters of the youth and the violence affairs among the youth do increase day by day. Circular 1324 which was published by Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Special Education Guidance and Counseling Services in 2006 pays attention to the similar matter and indicates that the violence, bullying and aggression at schools in our country increases; many performed studies also support that situation (Gökdaş, 2007; Aras et al, 2007; Baş, Kabasakal, 2012).

A study conducted in Istanbul reveals that 42 percent of high school students got involved in fight at least once for the last one year. The findings of Turkey Adolescent Profile Study state that 23,5% of males and 23,5% of females are exposed to oral violence and 8% of them are exposed to physical violence at schools (2013, p. 136-138).

5-CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

When the individual and physiological characteristics are left aside, it is seen that the sources of social problems the youth live are formed by the family, school and social environment relationships.

In that sense, improving the communication abilities in family and the sensitive approaches in relationships between mother-father-youth will act a key role in solving many problems.

When young people struggling with puberty problems cannot improve their ability to deal with the problems they face in family or at school environment they may face with overlapped problems. Within the scope of the research, the sentence belonged to a drug-addicted youngster interviewed face to face, saying that “My mother and father did not ask me anytime whether I have a problem or not”, is very remarkable to reveal the importance of domestic communication in the family. However the performed studies showed the subject of youth violence increased to a remarkable level, the knife usage behavior in violence (fight) environment especially frequently acted by young males should be carefully considered due to its irrevocable results. Therefore educational activities about domestic relationships in family come forward as the first step of the main suggestions. It is important that government bodies, local authorities, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies work together as getting organized about that matter.

However it is surely very hard to control social environment, the curriculum and academic programs in family and school environment are important for solving the youth violence. It is necessary for parents and school staff to focus on the problems of young people sensitively and contribute to create a positive personality by creating the feeling of being understood by unconditional acceptance, effective listening, empathic approaches and genocide understanding. In addition, as shown in the findings, the attendance to the school should be emphasized and in the leisure time the young people should be directed to various activities and kept away from places which may guide them to violence and crime.

There are many research findings showing that males are more prone to violence and crime than females and that they are more proactive in knife carrying and knife usage behaviors. Men's violent behavior can be considered as a tour de force, and knife usage behavior can be considered as an element supporting that tour de force.

There is a need for broader sampled studies to understand the causes of violence and to prevent violence in our country. In this research, young people have been studied extensively about the tendency to carry and use knives and an important contribution has been made to the literature. Future studies should examine this socially very sensitive and important subject in different cities and with different samples more frequently and test the findings of this research.

6-ÖZET

Gençlik, ergenlik döneminde içinde barındıran, insan yaşamının hem dinamik, hem sorunlu bir evresidir. Ülkemizde gençlik şiddeti konusunda yapılan bilimsel çalışmaların yeterli olduğunu söylemek güçtür. 15-25 yaş arası dönemi kapsayan gençlik yaşantılarında şiddet içerikli davranışlar önemli bir yer tutmakta ve uluslararası örgütler bu konunun dünyanın öncelikli sorunları arasında yer aldığını belirtmektedirler. Şiddetin öğrenilebilir bir olgu olması, günümüz dünyasının sağladığı iletişim olanakları kapsamında değerlendirildiğinde dikkat çekici olmaktadır. Son yıllarda özellikle batılı toplumlarda ateşli silahlarla gerçekleştirilen, genç kaynaklı ve genel olarak mağdurlarında gençler olan toplu ölümlerle sonuçlanan eylemler konunun önemini arttırmaktadır.

Ülkemizde gençler arasında çakı-bıçak gibi kesici, delici alet taşıma davranışının yaygın olduğu düşünülmektedir. Sivas ise gerek bıçakçılık kültürünün yüzyıllar öncesine dayanması gerekse yakın zamana kadar yaşattığı kabadayılık kültürü içinde bıçak taşıma ve kullanma davranışının özel bir yere sahip olması nedeniyle dikkat çekici bir kent konumundadır. Gençler arasında kavga ortamında bıçak kullanma davranışındaki artışı son on yıldaki istatistiki ortalamalar da ortaya koymaktadır. Bu nedenle valilik ve Emniyet Müdürlüğü ekipleri hem açıklayıcı, hem bilgilendirici, hem önleyici uygulamaları hayata geçirme çabasıdadır. 2001-2011 yılları arasında resmi rakamlara yansıyan 2754 bıçakla yaralama eylemi gerçekleşmiş (yıllık ortalama 250.36) bu eylemlerin %67'sinin ilk bahar ve yaz aylarında gerçekleştiği, %97'sinde erkekler tarafından bıçak kullanıldığı, şüphelilerin %60'ının, mağdurların %66'sının 25 yaş altındaki gençler olduğu belirlenmiştir.

Sivas kent merkezinde akademik amaçlı olarak gerçekleştirilen bu ilk araştırma çeşitli değişkenler açısından gençler arasında bıçak kullanma davranışını ölçmeyi amaçlamıştır. Elde edilen verilere bakıldığında gençlerin "cinsiyet, yaş, akademik başarı, okul devamsızlığı, huzursuz aile ortamı, başkalarından şiddet görme" değişkenleri ile "kavga ortamında bıçak kullanma davranışı" arasında anlamlı

ilişki gözlenmiştir. Bununla birlikte "ekonomik gelir, aile yapısı, model alınan kişi, doğum yeri, yaşanılan yer ve ihmal edilme duygusu" ile kavga ortamında bıçak kullanma davranışı arasında anlamlı ilişki saptanmamıştır.

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