ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Investigation of Covid-19 Phobias According to Different age Groups in Terms of Variables

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ABSTRACT
Background: This study aims to examine the according to different age groups in terms of variables in terms of psychological endurance, socio-demographic characteristics, and variables related to COVID-19 phobia during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
Aim: This study aims to examine the according to different age groups in terms of variables in terms of psychological endurance, socio-demographic characteristics, and variables related to COVID-19 phobia during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
Methods: Volunteer individuals participated in the research. 215 volunteers residing in Kars province formed the sample of the research with the convenient sampling method. Personal Information Form and COVID-19 phobia scale were used in the study.
Results: It is seen that female participants (x:2.8866) have a higher perception of COVID-19 phobia than male participants (x:2.7471).
Conclusion: As a result of the research, no significant relationship was found between COVID-19 phobia and gender (p. >.050).
Keywords: Covid-19 Phobia, Pandemic Period, Psychological Endurance

INTRODUCTION

Coronaviruses are among the cold-flu diseases, and the type that emerged in December 2019 causing confusion was defined as "COVID-19", it can affect all mammals [1]. Although the disease caused by COVID-19 was defined as pneumonia without a fatal effect when it first appeared, it has a mortality rate of 6.8% (WHO, 2020) today and has affected 185 countries, including Turkey [2]. The unexpectedly rapid spread of the disease has caused psychological problems such as depression, anxiety, and stress on both health workers and the public. In addition, quarantine processes increase the stress level and cause emotional problems [3]. Therefore, it is thought that the discipline of psychology has an important role in understanding how individuals respond to the COVID-19 epidemic, how they cope with the epidemic, and how they adapt to the quarantine process of the epidemic [4]. In countries that are aware of this situation caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic seen previously, procedures for psychological crisis interventions that facilitate coping with the public health effects of the epidemic have been revealed by opening online platforms to provide psychological counseling services to family members and other individuals affected by the epidemic [5].

MATERIAL & METHODS

This study is related to the COVID-19 pandemic period and their comparability according to different age, Socio-Demographical features and COVID-19 Phobia. A relational screening model is research conducted to determine the relationships between two or more variables and to obtain clues about the cause and effect [6].

The study group of the study, who approved that they wanted to participate in the research through the Corona virus-19 Phobia scale, covers age groups (0-17 adolescents, 17-45 young, 45-65 middle-aged, 65-80 elderly) according to the latest data of the World Health Organization "WHO", 80-99 longevity) consists of 215 (95 female, 120 male) participants of different age groups [7].

Personal Information Form and Corona virus-19 Phobia scale were used as data collection tools. In the Personal

Information Form developed by the researcher, there are questions to determine the age, gender, education level, occupation, smoking, and alcohol use of the participants. In the COVID-19 Information Form, there is a 20-question Corona virus-19 Phobia scale developed by the researcher.

SPSS 22.0 package program was used for statistical analysis of the data. Before starting the data analysis, the normal distribution of the data set was examined and it was seen that the Kolmogrov-Smirnov, kurtosis and skewness coefficients and the histogram curve provided normality. During data analysis, t-test and ANOVA were used. The validity and reliability study of the scale was carried out and it was determined as ,925.

RESULTS

Table 1: Reliability Analysis Results for the Scale and Sub-Dimensions

Cronbach's Alpha Percentile	Items
,925	20

In Table 1, as a result of the analysis, the reliability coefficient Alpha of the scale as a whole is 0.925. These values show that the scale is quite reliable [8]. In the reliability analysis, the item-total correlation should not be negative and less than 0.25 [9].

Coronavirus-19 Phobia	Gender	N	Mean (x)	t value	P value
	Female	95	2,8866	1,083	,280
	Male	120	2,7471		

Table 2: T-Test Results for the Relationship Between the Corona Virus-19 Phobia Scale and Gender

In Table 2, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference between the Corona virus-19 Phobia scale and gender (p.>0,05). As a result of the independent double-sample T-test analysis, it was revealed that there is a variable that makes a difference in the perception of participants and gender (p.>0,05). It is seen that female participants (x:2.8866) have higher perceptions of Corona virus-19 Phobia than male participants (x:2.7471).

Table 3: One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results for the Relationship Between the Corona virus-19 Phobia Scale and the Ages of the Participants.

Age	N	X	S_S	Source of Variance	KT	Sd	KO	F	P
0-17	10	2,835	,705	Between Groups	2,644	4	,661		
18-65	177	2,766	,907	Within Groups	168,130	211	,836		
66-79	17	3,161	1,077	Total	170,774	215		,790	,533
80-99	11	2,900							
Total	215	2,805	,912						

In Table 3, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference between the participants' perceptions of the Corona virus-19 Phobia Scale according to the age variable (p.>0,05).

Table 4: One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results for the Relationship Between the Corona Virus-19 Phobia Scale and the Educational Status of the Participants

School Type	N	X	S_S	Source of Variance	KT	Sd	KO	F	P
Uneducated	6	2,575	1,063	Between Groups	23,251	7	3,322	4,458	,001
Literate	10	3,545	,740	Within Groups	147,523	208	745		
Primary School	13	3,035	,587	Total	170,774	215			
Middle School	16	3,159	,833						
High School	39	3,153	,828						
Associate	15	2,506	,860						
Undergraduate	111	2,672	,906						
Graduate	5	1,570	,100						
Total	215	2,805	,912						

In Table 4, it was determined that there was a statistically significant difference between the participants' perceptions of the Corona virus-19 Phobia Scale in terms of the educational status variable (p.>0,05).

When we look at this difference, there is a significant difference between the uneducated participants and literate participants. However, this difference includes a significant difference in the opposite direction. Literate participants are more worried about coronavirus-19 phobia than uneducated participants. The literate participants' fear of corona virus-19 phobia is more than uneducated, associate degree, undergraduate and graduate participants' fear. The primary school participants' fear of corona virus-19 phobia is more than graduate participants. The middle school participants' fear of corona virus-19 phobia is more than associate, undergraduate and graduate participants' fear. The high school participants' fear of corona virus-19 phobia is more than associate, undergraduate and graduate participants' fear. There is a significant difference between associate degree participants and literate, middle and high school participants. However, this difference has an opposite meaning. Literate, middle and high school participants are more concerned about coronavirus-19 phobia than associate degree participants. The anxiety of corona virus-19 phobia of associate degree participants is more than graduate participants. There is a significant difference between undergraduate participants and literate, middle and high school participants. However, this difference has an opposite meaning. The fear of corona virus-19 phobia of literate, middle school and high school participants is more than undergraduate participants. The anxiety of corona virus-19 phobia of undergraduate participants is more than graduate participants. There is a significant difference between graduate participants and literate, primary, middle and high school, associate and undergraduate participants. This difference contains an opposite meaning difference. The literate, primary, middle and high school, associate and undergraduate participants' fear of coronavirus-19 phobia is higher than graduate participants.

Table 5: One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results of the Relationship Between the Corona Virus-19 Phobia Scale and the Occupation of the Participants

Occupation	N	X	S_S	Source of Variance	KT	Sd	KO	F	P
Officer	53	2,549	1,071	Between Groups	13,065	5	2,613		
Worker	34	3,135	,750	Within Groups	157,709	210	,789		
Shopkeeper	6	3,241	,894	Total	170,774	215			
Retired	14	3,235	,849					3,314	,007
Housewife	27	3,032	1,004						
Student	81	2,683	,780						
Total	215	2,805	,912						

In Table 5, it was determined that there was a statistically significant difference in the perceptions of the participants on the Corona virus-19 Phobia Scale in terms of the occupation variable (p.>0,05).

When we look at this difference, there is a significant difference between officer participants and worker and retired participants. This difference has an opposite meaning difference. In other words, worker and retired participants are more concerned about corona virus-19 phobia than the officer participants. The worker participants' fear of corona virus-19 phobia is higher than the officer and student participants. The retired participants' fear of corona virus-19 phobia is higher than the officer and student participants. There is a significant difference between student participants and worker and retired participants. This difference has an opposite meaning difference. In other words, worker and retired participants are more concerned about corona virus-19 phobia than student participants.

Table 6: One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results of the Relationship Between the Corona Virus-19 Phobia Scale and the Participants' Smoking

Smoking status	N	X	S_S	Source of Variance	KT	Sd	KO	F	P
Smoking	98	2,749	,782	Between Groups	,553	2	,276	,330	,720
Used to smoke	26	2,892	1,032	Within Groups	170,221	213	,839		
Never smoked	91	2,833	,995	Total	170,774	215			
Total	215	2,805	,912						

In Table 6, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference in the perceptions of the participants on the Corona virus-19 Phobia Scale in terms of the variable of Smoking (p.>0,05).

Table 7: One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results for the Relationship Between the Corona Virus-19 Phobia Scale and the Participants' Alcohol Use

Alcohol Status	N	X	S_S	Source of Variance	KT	Sd	KO	F	P
Drinking	37	2,525	,885	Between Groups	2,443	2	1,221	1,473	,232
Used to drink	34	2,867	,903	Within Groups	168,331	213	,829		
Never drunk	144	2,842	,916	Total	170,774	215			
Total	215	2,805	,912						

In Table 7, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference in the perceptions of the participants on the Corona virus-19 Phobia Scale in terms of the alcohol use variable (p.>0,05).

DISCUSSION

In this study, participants between the ages of 6 and 99 were examined during the COVID-19 pandemic period in terms of the COVID-19 Phobia scale and the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. It was determined that there was no statistically significant difference between the COVID-19 Phobia scale and gender. It is seen that female participants have a higher perception of COVID-19 Phobia than male participants. Looking at the studies conducted during the COVID-19 period, Bakioğlu et al. (2020) also found that women are more afraid of COVID-19 than men [10]. However, in the study conducted by Çifçi and Demir (2020) [11], it was seen that there was no significant difference between the anxiety levels of female and male teachers during the COVID-19 period. In a different study conducted by Wang and Pan (2020) [12], it was found that there was a significant correlation between being female during the COVID-19 pandemic and levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. The inability to reach a definitive conclusion has shown that corona phobia is a multifactorial structure.

As a result of the literature review between the age variable and the Corona virus-19 Phobia scale, Kargın et al. (2021) found a significant difference in terms of the age variable, and this is not similar to the result of the current study [13].

Considering the examinations between the Corona virus-19 Phobia scale and the variable of educational status, while no significant difference was found in terms of the variable of educational status in the study by Kargın et al. (2021), a statistically significant difference was found in the current study [13].

In terms of the smoking variable, Kargın et al. (2021) found a significant difference in their study between smoking and the COVID-19 phobia scale, and this finding contradicts the result of our study [13].

Research results reveal that participants aged 0-99 years' experience phobias caused by COVID-19. In the study, it was seen that COVID-19 caused more phobia in female participants.

In this study, the attitudes of the participants aged 0-99 years towards COVID-19 phobias were prioritized. However, the limited number of the sample group and the fact that only 206 individuals from the people of Kars province limit the research. Therefore, it is thought that the implementation of future research on larger sample groups will be beneficial in terms of revealing the psychological problems that may be experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic period and finding solutions to these problems.

CONCLUSION

In this study, the attitudes of the participants aged 0-99 years towards COVID-19 phobias were prioritized. However, the limited number of the sample group and the fact that only 206 individuals from the people of Kars province limit the research. Therefore, it is thought that the implementation of future research on larger sample groups will be beneficial in terms of revealing the psychological problems that may be experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic period and finding solutions to these problems.

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