

## EVALUATION OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTITUDES AND VIEWS TOWARDS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: THE CASE OF HITIT UNIVERSITY SUNGURLU VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

MESLEK YÜKSEKOKULU ÖĞRENCİLERİNİN KADINA YÖNELİK ŞİDDETE KARŞI TUTUM VE GÖRÜŞLERİN DEĞERLENDİRİLMESİ: HİTİT ÜNİVERSİTESİ SUNGURLU MESLEK YÜKSEKOKULU ÖRNEĞİ

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### Abstract

Violence against women, unfortunately, continues to exist as a social problem in our country as well as in the rest of the world. Various legal and administrative regulations have been enacted in our country since the 1990s in order to eliminate violence against women. Awareness-raising activities and efforts have been carried out for the same purpose at different levels of education. In addition to legal sanctions targeting violence against women throughout the country, it is also important for us to see the impact of those awareness-raising activities on young people. The changing and thus developing attitudes and views of young people who grow up with this awareness are a significant factor in determining whether violence against women will continue in the future. Measuring the impact of all these efforts will guide the prevention of this problem.

The subject of this study is to find out and analyse the attitudes and views on violence against women of young people studying at the Associate's Degree level. As a result of the study, it was concluded that the majority of the students from Sungurlu Vocational School of Hitit University have been against violence towards women.

**Keywords:** Public administration, women, attitudes, student

### Özet

Tüm dünyada olduğu gibi ülkemizde de maalesef kadına yönelik şiddet toplumsal bir sorun olarak varlığını devam ettirmektedir. Kadına yönelik şiddetin ortadan kaldırılabilmesi için çeşitli hukuki ve idari düzenlemeler ülkemizde 1990'lar sonrasında yapılmaktadır. Ayrıca eğitimin farklı kademelerinde farkındalık oluşturma etkinlikleri ve bilinç kazandırmaya yönelik çabalar sarf edilmektedir.

Ülke genelinde kadına yönelik şiddete karşı hukuki yaptırımların yanı sıra şiddete karşı bireyleri bilinçlendirme eylemlerinin bu bilinçlendirme dönemini yaşayan gençler üzerindeki etkisini görmemiz açısından önemlidir. Bu farkındalık bilinci ile yetişen gençlerin tutum ve görüşlerinin değişerek gelişmesi, gelecekte kadına yönelik şiddetin devam edip etmemesi anlamında önem arz etmektedir. Yapılan tüm bu çabaların etkisinin ölçülmesi, günümüzde varlığını devam ettiren bu sorunun önlenmesinde rehberlik edebilecektir.

Çalışmanın konusunu ön lisans düzeyinde eğitim gören gençlerin kadına yönelik şiddet konusundaki tutum ve görüşlerinin tespit edilerek, analiz edilmesi oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmanın sonucunda, Hitit Üniversitesi Sungurlu Meslek Yüksekokulu öğrencilerinin büyük çoğunluğunun kadına yönelik şiddete karşı oldukları sonucuna ulaşılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kamu yönetimi, kadın, tutum, öğrenci

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Violence directed against any living creature is not acceptable behaviour. Violence can be perpetrated in many ways including: physical, psychological, economic, and sexual. Especially physical violence against women emerges as a major problem. Men have the physical power, which often causes women to be the victims of violence. Various behavioural patterns that the society considers appropriate are added to the innate gender characteristic after the individual is socialized. These behavioural patterns are accepted by the individual along with legitimacy sources such as patriarchal culture, religion and tradition. These role patterns, which are transferred between generations, often turn into a pressure and control instrument on women. The underlying reasons for violence include cultural elements of the society, conflict within marriage, women's lack of economic independence, and failure to take measures to ensure equality in laws etc (Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2022). Men's efforts to keep women under control, their failure to behave in accordance with gender roles, and women's attitudes and behaviours aimed at stopping oppressive attitudes towards them are expressed as reasons. The lack of trust factor in old age marriages due to business life, individuality coming to the fore, and women who are more successful than their spouses being perceived as a threat are also considered as reasons (Çakır, Harcar, Sürgeyil & Budak, 2008: 60-63). It is not welcomed that women go beyond the social role assigned to them. In our country, 280 women were killed in our country as a result of male violence in 2021 ([www.kadincinayetlerinidurduracagiz.net](http://www.kadincinayetlerinidurduracagiz.net)). Women who are the victims of violence are usually murdered by a man they know.

As of today, the fact that violence against women is visible, that the masses are easily aware of the violence, and that it remains on the public agenda forces the public administration to take action on this matter. In addition to legal and administrative efforts, awareness-raising activities against violence are continued aimed at young people. As a matter of fact, the way to prevent violence in the future is to change the mindset (Yaşar, 2017: 17; Can, 2013: 214; Alankuş, 2009: 1; Milliyet, 2020). In order to prevent violence, public policies should be planned in accordance with this situation.

### 1.1. Theoretical Framework

The imbalance in power, status, rights and opportunities brought about by gender inequality against women triggers violence as well. Gender determines the expectations, value forms, limitations and gender-appropriate roles for women or men of the society in which they live. The condition for the achievement of gender equality in social life is that all individuals, regardless of their gender, should benefit from equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities (Uluocak, Gökulu & Bilir et al. 2014: 7-8). The biological differences of women and men are regenerated, reinforced and transformed into gender identity throughout the processes of socialization. In this generated identity, men become dominant in social institutions (family, economy, society, politics).

In addition, the man also claims ownership over the female body and soul (Ündücü, 2016, p. 4). According to those, who explain male-female relationships on the basis of biological theory, the hypothalamus, located in the limbic system, which is the centre of many emotions, is larger in men, thus making them more sensitive to sex and violence (Tüzün, 2012). The masculine mind can be aggressive, violent, and destructive. Women, on the other hand, may turn to a more negative femininity so that they could with men in the same environment (Osho 2007: 20). The outcomes of a study conducted with 1800 married women in 56 provinces in 2008 revealed that one-third of women are against physical violence and nine-tenths of women do not consider this situation normal. According to 2014 data, 36% of women exposed to violence in our country were subjected to violence by a man close to them at least once in their lives. Moreover, 12% were subjected to sexual violence by a man close to them (Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2022). TURKSTAT data claim that 35.5% of people in Türkiye were exposed to physical violence in 2014 and 12% to sexual violence at any time in their lives. Among those exposed to violence, 22.8% of those with high school education or higher were victims of physical violence and 7.9% were victims of sexual violence at some point in their lives (TURKSTAT, 2022). The findings of domestic violence studies on women in Türkiye concluded that 35.3% of women over the age of 15 were exposed to physical violence and 12% to sexual violence at some point in their lives in 2014 (Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, 2014: 369). According to 2019 data, Türkiye ranks first among the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and European countries with a rate of 38% in violence against women. (Violence Against Women, OECD, 2019, <https://www.oecd.org/gender/vaw.htm>). It is known that children are also aware of violence against women because this type of violence usually occurs within the family. A research study conducted for undergraduate students in 2012 revealed that women adopted patriarchal gender roles and accepted that the man is the head of the house. The study also demonstrates that young women adopt traditional patriarchal culture more than married women regarding beating and gender roles. At this point, men also adopt the said culture more than women. Being exposed to violence in childhood and witnessing the act of violence give clues that they may both be exposed to and commit violence in the future (Kabasakal & Girli 2012: 116-117). Violence continues to be passed down as a major problem.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In the world, reactions to violence against women came to the agenda in the 1970s, on the other hand, efforts aimed at elimination of violence against women in our country began to accelerate and become visible after the 1980s (Oktay 2015, p. 59). The UN declared the Decade for Women between 1975 and 1985 and started to determine rules and collect data on violence (Directorate General on the Status of Women of the Prime Ministry, 2022, p. 1). The United Nations organized four conferences on women around the globe. These took place in Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. In the last conference, it was decided to conduct a series of five-year reviews. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted by representatives of 189 countries. It was decided to take measures with the aim of correcting the disadvantaged positions of women on the basis of twelve criteria such as education, health, power, management, media, poverty, younger girls, etc. (United Nations, World Conferences on Women 2022). Prevention of violence against women started become a significant issue with legal and administrative regulations around the world.

The UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 (Association for Monitoring Gender Equality, 2022). 3. The World Conference on Women was held in Nairobi in 1985; the declaration published afterwards mentioned the protection of the victim. It was declared that if violence against women could not be prevented, there would be no development and peace and equality could not be achieved (United Nations, World Conferences on Women, 2022).

The first stances against violence against women in Türkiye correspond to the 1980s, when the second wave of feminism occurred in Europe and the leftist ideology was diminished by the revolution. In the 1990s, women were able to form their own non-governmental organizations. In this way, they were able to benefit from state mechanisms and express their discourses in a wider arena in the context of violence against women (Altınay& Arat, 2008: 17-22). CEDAW entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women requested additional information in accordance with the General Recommendation No. 12 of 1989 to the reports periodically submitted by the parties. The Committee summoned the States to combat violence against women through legislation in force, support services and other measures. In the same decision, the Committee also requested statistical information about cases of violence (CEID, 2022). The decision in question taken by the committee pioneered the learning and monitoring of the dimensions of violence against women by means of reporting. In CEDAW's Recommendation dated 1992, it was accepted that the most important cause of violence against women was gender-based discrimination (Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2022). The Committee took a stance against discrimination and violence in the General Recommendation No 19 in 1992 (United Nations, Doc A/48/49, 2022, GA Res 48/104(1994), 2022). According to the relevant recommendation, states were held responsible for preventing violence (Bozkurt Şener, 2011). The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights took place in Vienna played a driving role in the publication of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The "Special Rapporteur was Appointed to Investigate the Causes and Consequences of Violence Against Women" by the Human Rights Commission in 1994 and mechanisms were established to conduct investigations. In the Beijing Declaration and Action Report dated 1995, it was mentioned that violence against women is a human rights violation. Afterwards, the Beijing Platform for Action was examined, evaluated and reviewed every 5 years (United Nations, 2022). Ensuring gender equality and empowering women were identified among the UN's 2030 sustainable development goals (United Nations, Do You Know all 17 SDGs?, 2022).

Similar to the UN, the Council of Europe has been making efforts to prevent violence against women from the past to the present. Equality of men and women was among the goals of the Council when it was established in 1949. The Council of Europe took principal decisions on Domestic Violence Recommendation dated 1985 and Sexual Abuse of Young Women, Encouragement of Children into Prostitution and Pornography dated 1988. The Council has a Recommendation on Social Measures on Domestic Violence dated 1990. In the action plan formulated after the 3rd European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men held in Rome in 1993, principal decisions were taken regarding the sexual abuse of women and the action plan. In 2002, the Committee of Ministers adopted the Recommendation on the Protection of Women against Violence. The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, the draft version of which was adopted in Strasbourg in 2011, was opened for signature in Istanbul. The Convention was put into force by the countries that adopted it. This Convention, also known as the Istanbul Convention, was abolished in 2021 by the Presidential decision numbered 3718, under the shadow of many public debates (20 March 2021, OG: 31429). In 1998, Law No. 4320 came into force with the intention of preventing domestic violence. In order to protect women from violence, Recommendation No. 5 was adopted in 2002, Recommendation No. 17, which contained the conditions and instruments to ensure gender equality, was adopted in 2007, and Recommendation No. 10 on the roles of women and men in preventing and resolving conflict and establishing a peaceful environment was adopted in 2010 (European Union, 2022). Great progress has been made in the European Union member states, especially after 1990, in preventing violence against women and taking women into protection. Also, Member states have started to implement the adopted decisions in their domestic laws. All these positive regulations made to prevent violence had a coverage at the legal level in our own country as well. Table 1: The First Letter of Each Word in the Table Name Must Be Uppercase.

## 2.1. National Efforts to Prevent Violence Against Women

In our country, equality between women and men was put in the Article 10 in the context of the constitutional amendments in 2004. Article 90 stipulates that the provisions of the international agreement in fundamental rights and freedoms shall be used in conflicts with laws. Egalitarian regulations have been made in the Civil Code, Labour Law and Turkish Penal Code. The Law on Municipalities No. 5393 (Official Gazette: 13.07.2005, Number: 25874), which came into force in 2005, and the Law on Metropolitan Municipalities, enacted in 2012 (Official Gazette: 12.11.2012, Number: 6360), made it mandatory to open guesthouses for women and children. In 1998, the Law on the Protection of the Family No. 4320 was enacted, amendments were made in 2007, and its scope was expanded in 2008 (OG: 17.01.1998, Number: 23233). In 2012, Law No. 6284 on Family Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Women was regulated (Ministry of Family and Social Services, 2022). Law No. 6284 is the first law to involve preventive and protective measures against violence against women and to make detailed arrangements for violence against women. In addition, treatment of the perpetrator of violence is among the purposes of the law. (Öztürk, 2017: p.5). Despite the increase in detailed legal regulations and sanctions, violence against women still continues as a social problem.

The Parliamentary Research Commission established in 2005 in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye prepared a comprehensive report on "Determining the Measures to be Taken by Investigating the Causes of Custom and Honour Killings and Violence Against Women and Children". Subsequently, the Prime Ministry Circular No. 2006/17 was published. Within the scope of the circular, a policy was initiated by defining the duties of all relevant government institutions, non-governmental organizations and media on this matter. The Directorate General on the Status of Women was asked to prepare a National Action Plan. In order to prevent violence in the family, the "2007-2010 National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence Against Women" was initiated within the scope of "Combating Domestic Violence Against Women Project" by providing the financial support of the European Union and the technical support of the United Nations Population Fund. After the implementation of the relevant plan, improvements were expected in six main areas (Ministry of Family and Social Services, Directorate General on the Status of Women of the Prime Ministry, 2022):

- Legal Regulations
- Social awareness and mental transformation,
- Empowering the socio-economic position of women,
- Protective services,
- Treatment and rehabilitation services
- Inter-sectoral cooperation.

In 2009, UNESCO published a Guide to Promoting Gender Equality in Education (UNESCO, Promoting gender equality in education 2009, 2022). The 25th Term Women's Specialized Committee was established in December 2010 with the aim of carrying out studies on Gender Equality within the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO (TNCU). With the decision numbered 464 taken on 28 August 2014, TNCU Board of Directors modified the 25th Term Women's Specialization Committee as Gender Equality Committee (Dinçer Akmeşe, 2015: 19).

The Ninth Development Plan declares that awareness raising will be achieved by providing training and information to eliminate violence against women (Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Ninth Development Plan 2007-2013, 2022). The Tenth Development Plan states that the Parliamentary Commission for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men was established and improvements were made in the field of prevention of violence against women, education and health. However, it is also noted that there is still need for improvement. It is reported that it will be about to change social awareness in formal and non-formal education, including early childhood, in order to eliminate violence and discrimination against women (Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, 2022).

The Tenth Five-Year Development Plan (2014-2018) included evaluations and policies under the heading of "Family and Women" in the section of "Qualified People, Strong Society" on the development of women, the socio-economic empowerment of women and the prevention of violence against women. In this plan, it is regulated that efforts will be made to transform public awareness in formal and non-formal education, including early childhood, in order to eliminate violence and discrimination (Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Republic of Türkiye, Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, 2022).

The Promoting Gender Equality in Education (ETCEP) project, which started in September 2014 and continued for 2 years, was carried out between the EU and Türkiye. The project was carried out in 40 pilot schools in 10 provinces, but the field of activity expanded as a result of the project outcomes (British Council, We Rewrite with the Promoting Gender Equality in Education project, 2022). The Guide to Gender Equality in Teacher Training Policies and Practices (2015), Standards of Primary Institutions and Democracy and Human Rights Education Practices have provided guidance in achieving gender equality. In 2016, the Ministry of National Education put the Guide to School Standards Based on Gender Equality into effect with the intention of improving gender equality, which it included in its 12-year compulsory education starting from kindergarten. The Guide was prepared for teachers and administrators so that children can experience an educational environment that will develop their own potential without stereotypes (MoNE Gender Equality-Sensitive Guide to School Standards 2016, 2022). The Gender Equality Attitude Document of Higher Education Institutions was published in 2015 and lectures, seminars, conferences and information meetings were held in order to raise awareness among university young people about gender equality. The shortest way to make studies that could gain community leaders, public institution managers, public personnel and students an understanding of gender equality is to provide students with this awareness. Promoting such positive regulations will pave the way for creating a safe living environment and preventing all kinds of violence and harassment ([katcam.akdeniz.edu.tr](http://katcam.akdeniz.edu.tr)). In addition, women's research centres and units have become widespread in universities. It should also be kept in mind that the relevant attitude document has been criticized by some social segments.

In the Eleventh Development Plan (2019-2023), which is a public policy document of the current period, it is indicated that various studies will be carried out to prevent violence against women, early marriage and all kinds of abuse (Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Eleventh Development Plan 2019-2023, 2022).

Educational, national and international regulations have gained momentum to eliminate violence against women by ensuring gender equality since the 1980s and 1990s. It is important to measure the impact on young population born and raised in this period. In this respect, the study demonstrates the impact of awareness and consciousness raising practices against violence on young people across the country. Young students, who grew up in different geographical regions of the country and joined the Hitit University for education constitute a suitable sample group for the research.

### 3. METHOD

#### 3.1. Purpose and Scope of the Research

The learning process of the individual, which starts in the family, continues throughout the society and school life. Therefore, it is natural to come across the cultural traces of those, who are referred in the identity formation of the individual. It is important for young people to spread out the legal legislation and practices regarding violence against women to the social base in order to increase the level of this awareness. When the impact of legal, educational and institutional efforts on individuals is understood, it will be possible to make an evaluation of these efforts. The addressees of these studies in society are young people of the present day, in which these activities are gaining momentum.

This study aims at determining and evaluating the attitudes and thoughts about violence against women, which is a major problem in Türkiye, through students at Hitit University Sungurlu Vocational School. The thoughts of university students about this problem are important because they will be decisive and guiding in the attitudes of future generations towards women. In the future, these young people will become spouses, parents and play a role in shaping society. Therefore, their attitudes, thoughts and behaviours about violence against women are important.

### 3.2. Method and Sample of the Research

While calculating the sample size, 378 people were identified for the total number of 877 students of Sungurlu Vocational School in the population, assuming a 99% confidence level, 1% margin of error and 0.09 sampling error rates (Balci 2005, 95). However, 387 subjects were reached as part of this study. In the study, a pre-structured survey was applied to 387 students studying at Hitit University Sungurlu Vocational School by making use of these values. Among these, 312 (80.6%) were female, while, 75 (19.4%) were male students. According to the simple random sampling method, which is one of the probabilistic sampling methods, a survey was applied to the subjects on a voluntary basis. Data were acquired using the survey prepared in line with the qualitative research method. The answers given to the questions were analysed using IBM SPSS Version 23 (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) Software.

### 3.3. Scale of the Research

Survey questions were prepared for Sungurlu Vocational School students. The survey consists of 19 questions. These surveys are made of three parts. In the first part, there are 6 questions about the socioeconomic characteristics of the students participating in the survey, in the second part, there are 11 questions about their attitudes towards violence against women (yes, no, undecided), and in the last part of the survey, there are two questions to learn the opinions about the causes of violence against women.

## 4. FINDINGS

The findings obtained with the implementation of survey on the demographic characteristics, attitudes and thoughts about violence against women of total 387 students, including 312 females and 75 males, studying at Sungurlu Vocational School are discussed in this section.

**Table 1:** Distribution of subjects by gender

Gender	Number	Percentage (%)
Female	312	80,6
Male	75	19.4
Total	387	100.0

Table 1 shows that 312 (80.6%) of the students participating in the survey were female and 75 (19.4%) were male. Among the 877 students studying at Hitit University Sungurlu Vocational School, selected as a sample, the proportion of females is higher than males. It is understood that some departments are preferred more by female students.

**Table 2:** Distribution of subjects by age group

Age Group	Number	Percentage (%)
Between 18 and 21	313	80.9
Between 22 and 30	66	17.1
31 and above	8	2.1
Total	387	100.0

When we examine the Table 2, which shows the age group distribution of the students participating in the survey, the 18-21 age group is more prevalent with a rate of 80.9%. The number of students aged 31 and above is the least with a rate of 2.1%. From this point of view, it is inferred that the rate of those who mostly continue their university education without interruption after secondary education is high in our country. It is observed that the number of students decreases suddenly after the age of thirty.

**Table 3:** Distribution of the subjects according to the geographical region where they live with their families

Geographical Region	Number	Percentage (%)
Black sea	155	40.1
Central Anatolia	122	31.5
Marmara	32	8.3
Eastern Anatolia	15	3.9
Aegean	11	2.8
Mediterranean	38	9.8
South-eastern Anatolia	14	3.6
Total	387	100.0

When we look at the Table 3 which shows the distribution of the subjects according to the geographical region where they live with their families, the Black Sea region is more prevalent with a rate of 40.1%. The provinces where the most students come are located in the Central Black Sea Region, which comprises Çorum province as well. The Central Anatolia Region ranks second with a rate of 31.5%. The total number of students from these two regions constitutes two-thirds of the students with a rate of 71.6%. The number of students coming from Eastern Anatolia, South-eastern Anatolia and the Aegean region is very low.

**Table 4:** Distribution of the subjects according to the settlements where they spend their lives

Settlement	Number	Percentage (%)
Metropolitan/city centre	192	49.6
District	136	35.1
Village/Town	59	15.2
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 4, the settlements where the students spent their lives before coming to Sungurlu district of Çorum for studying the Vocational School are located in the metropolitan/city centre with a rate of 49.6%. The administrative division applied in Türkiye recognizes the villages affiliated to metropolitan municipalities as the neighbourhoods of the city centre. Among the students, the rate of those who spend their lives in the district settlement is 35.1% and 15.2% from the village/town.



**Table 5.** Distribution of subjects by the level of family income

Level of Income	Number	Percentage (%)
Low Income	43	11.1
Middle-income	330	85.3
High Income	14	3.6
Total	387	100.0

In Table 5, among the answers given by the students studying at Vocational School about the income level of their families, those in the high-income group had the lowest option with a rate of 3.6%. The proportion of students whose families were in the middle-income group was the most preferred option with a rate of 85.3%. The rate of students who state that their family is in the low-income group is 11.1%.

**Table 6:** Distribution of subjects by department of study

Name of Department	Female	Male	Total Number	Percentage (%)
Computer Technologies	14	34	48	12.4
Medical Services	1	1	2	0.5
Management and Organization	36	17	53	13.7
Social Services and Consulting	40	4	44	11.4
Child Care and Youth Services	152	7	159	41.1
Therapy and Rehabilitation	69	12	81	20.9
Total	312	75	387	100.0

According to Table 6, the most preferred department among students studying at a vocational school and participating in the study is Child Care and Youth Services with a rate of 41.1%. A majority (152) of those studying in the relevant department are female students. The number of men in the department is only 7. The rate of participants in the study from the Therapy and Rehabilitation Department is 20.9%.

#### 4.1.1. General Opinions of Students on Violence Against Women

The questions asked in this section helped to acquire findings about the attitudes and opinions of the students towards violence against women.

**Table 7:** Attitudes of subjects towards physical and psychological violence

I oppose all violence	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	370	95.6
No	8	2.1
Undecided	9	2,3
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 7, 95.6% of the students declared that they were against all forms of violence such as physical, psychological, economic, etc. The rate of those who stated that they were not against violence was the least preferred option with 2.1%. Here, their attitudes towards violence in general, regardless of gender, were asked.

However, it is observed that the problem of violence is generally perceived to be aimed at women. Considering the answers given, the majority of university students in our country are against violence, which is a pleasing situation for the society.

**Table 8:** Subjects' views on whether it is easy to commit violence against women

It's easy to commit violence against women	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	159	41.1
No	147	38.0
Undecided	81	20.9
Total	387	100.0

When we analyse the Table 8, regarding the students' views on whether it is easy to commit violence against women, 41.1% believe that it is easy to commit violence against women, while, 38% think that it is not easy to commit violence against women in the context of gender. At this point, the rate of undecided participants is 20.9%. The proportions of those who think that violence is easy by gender and those who do not is close to each other. Also, the answers given as to whether women were seen as physically weak or not were close to each other.

**Table 9:** Subjects' views on violence against women

Violence against women is bad.	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	380	98.2
No	3	0.8
Undecided	4	1.0
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 9, the majority of students oppose the violence against women in general with a rate of 98.2%. This shows us that young people are aware of the fact that violence is bad thanks to the studies conducted.

**Table 10:** Subjects' views on violent behaviour against women

It is not appropriate behaviour to commit violence against women.	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	379	97.9
No	8	2.1
Total	387	100.0

Looking at Table 10, the majority of young students, with a rate of 97.9%, are aware that violence against women is not a correct behaviour. Table 9 and Table 10 contain findings that confirm each other. We can state that young people are opposed to violence against women. 97.2% of the students do not accept the idea that violence against women is sometimes necessary as the case may be. The majority of the students accept that there will be no justification for violence against women.

**Table 11:** Subjects' views on the question "Is it necessary for the state and third parties to intervene in domestic violence?"

Is it necessary to intervene in violence?	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	349	90.2
No	3	5.2
Undecided	4	4.7
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 11, 90.2% of the students, who were asked about the intervention of the state or third parties outside the family in domestic violence against women, expressed the opinion that the authorities should intervene in the act of violence. A small proportion, 5.2%, expressed their opinion that domestic violence should not be intervened from outside. Since domestic violence is accepted as a major problem, the vast majority expressed their opinions to intervene.

**Table 12:** Subjects' views on intervening in violence against women

I intervene in violence	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	332	85.8
No	13	3.4
Undecided	42	10.9
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 12, 85.8% of the participants who were asked the question "Would you intervene when you witness violence against women?" stated that they would intervene in. 3.4% stated that they would not intervene in the act of violence, and 10.9% of the students stated that they were undecided about this issue. At this point, it should be stated that the "Kadir Şeker Case", which involved the intervention in the incident of violence against women and resulted in the death of a man committing the violence, remained popular on the public agenda for a long time. 96.4% of young people stated that they would inform the police or gendarmerie law enforcement officers if they witnessed violence against women. 1.0% stated that they would not inform the authorities about such an act of violence.

**Table 13:** Subjects' views about being disturbed by the media coverage of violence against women

I would be disturbed	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	113	29.2
No	215	55.6
Undecided	59	15.2
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 13, 55.6% of young people are not disturbed by the news of violence against women being covered in the media. This means that young people want violence against women should be known by the entire society. The rate of those who want the news of violence not to be covered by the media is 29.2%. The rate of those who stated "news of violence against women should be banned from society" in connection with this question is very low with 5.4%. The majority of the participants, 86.3%, believe that this type of news should not be hidden from the public. The rate of undecided young people on this matter is 8.3%.

**Table 14:** Subjects’ views about their conscience when they see the news of violence against women

I feel sad when I see the news	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	380	98.2
No	2	0.5
Undecided	5	1.3
Total	387	100.0

A large majority of the subjects in Table 14 (98.2%) stated that they were conscientiously disturbed and upset when they saw the news of violence against women.

**Table 15:** Subjects' views about whether official authorities adequately combat violence against women

Official authorities are adequately combating violence against women	Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	27	7.0
No	325	84.0
Undecided	35	9.0
Total	387	100.0

According to Table 15, among young people, the proportion of those who believe that the authorities are not combating enough to prevent violence against women is the highest option with 84%. It is observed that there is an acceptance that the legal regulations and practices to protect women against violence are inadequate in preventing violence. The proportion of those who believe that official authorities have adequately combated violence is 7%. The rate of undecided participants in this regard is 9%. Accordingly, it can be concluded that young people believe that the authorities do not fight enough against violence and preventing violence.

#### 4.1.2. Distribution of Data on Violence Against Women According to the Socioeconomic Characteristics of Students

In this section, students' views about violence against women will be evaluated according to their gender, their family's income level, and the geographical region where they previously lived with their family.

#### 4.1.3. Students' Views on Violence Against Women by Gender

Among those who claim violence against women is bad, 98.7% of female students and 96% of males think that committing violence against women is bad. While the rate of those who say that it is not bad to commit violence against women is 0.6% among female students, this rate is 1.3% among males. Although the proportion of women is slightly higher than that of men, there is no significant difference between them by gender (0.244).

While 97.4% of those who said that violence against women is not an appropriate form of behaviour were female students, 100% of male students expressed their opinion in this direction. There is no difference between genders, which can be interpreted as a positive development (0.161).

#### **4.1.4. Students' Views on Violence Against Women by Age Group**

When we look at the distribution of those who say violence against women is bad by age group, 98.7% of the students in the 18-21 age group, 97% of the 22-30 age group and 87.5% of the 31 and over age group believe that committing violence against women is bad. Although there is a slight difference between the age groups, younger people mostly think that violence against women is bad.

When we examine the age distribution of students who say that violence against women is not an appropriate behaviour, 99% of the students in the 18-21 age group, 93.9% of the 22-30 age group and 87.5% of the 31 and over age group think in this direction. Based on two mutually supporting findings, we can argue that younger students are more opposed to violence against women. Young people, who study at the university, especially young people aged 18-21, are more opposed to violence against women compared to other age groups.

#### **4.1.5. Students' Views on Violence Against Women by the Geographical Region in which They Spend Their Lives**

In the distribution of those who state that it is bad to commit violence against women according to the geographical region they live in, 100% of the students coming from the Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean and South-eastern Anatolia regions accept that this type of violence is bad. On the other hand, 98.4% of those coming from the Central Anatolia region, 98.1% of those coming from the Black Sea Region and 86.7% of those coming from the Eastern Anatolia region believe that violence against women is bad. Among these seven regions, Eastern Anatolia is different from others. While 6.7% of the students from the Eastern Anatolia region believed that violence against women was not bad, 6.7% stated that they were undecided on the issue.

The distribution of those who think that violence against women is not an appropriate behaviour by regions is as follows; Aegean Region 100%, Black Sea 99.4%, Marmara 96.9%, Central Anatolia 97.5%, Mediterranean 97.4%, Eastern Anatolia 93.3% and South-eastern Anatolia Region 92.9%. Although there is no significant difference between the regions, this rate is lower in the Eastern Anatolian and South-eastern Anatolian regions compared to other regions.

#### **4.1.6. Students' Views on Violence Against Women by the Income Level of Their Families**

When we analyse the distribution of those who say violence against women is bad by their family's income level, we understand that the middle-income level is 98.5%, the low-income level is 97.7% and the high-income level is 92.9%. There is no significant difference between the income level of the family and being opposed to violence against women (0.035).

The distribution of students who think that violence against women is not appropriate behaviour according to the income level of their families is as follows: 98.2% in the middle-income level, 97.7% in the low-income level and 92.9% in the high-income level (0.387). There is no correlation between their families' income level and their attitudes towards violence.

### **5. DISCUSSION AND/OR CONCLUSION**

In this study, attempts were made to determine the attitudes and opinions of Hitit University Sungurlu Vocational School Students towards women, and a total of nineteen questions were asked for this purpose. When the students were classified according to their age groups, it was found out that the younger ones were more opposed to violence against women. It was determined that there were differences in the attitudes and views of the students towards violence against women according to the geographical region where they lived before coming to study university. It was observed that young people from the Eastern Anatolia Region gave answers that they accepted violence against women.

No difference was found in the attitudes and views of the students towards violence against women, considering their gender and the income levels of their families. Although violence is an act against all living things, we can claim that violence in society is directed towards women and that young people are already aware of this situation.

The positive attitudes and opinions of students from every geographical region of Türkiye about violence against women build up hopes for future generations. It is possible to conclude that the awareness of young people, with the contribution of post-1990 studies, has an impact on the young population's opposition to all forms of violence. It was found that the students of the Vocational School were consciously opposed to violence against women. It is seen that Türkiye's efforts to raise public awareness in order to fulfil its requirements by accepting international agreements after 1990 have an impact in this regard. Based on the outcomes obtained, there is an opinion that violence will decrease and end in social life for the future periods. Young people's opposition to violence against women is an important step towards achieving a healthier society.

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