

Attitudes of Preschool Education Students towards Children's Rights and their Training Needs

Maria KYPRIOTAKI^a

^aUniversity of Crete, Greece, mkypriotaki@uoc.gr

The importance of educating young children about children's rights has been consistently highlighted by researchers with the role of educators recognized as a crucial determinant (e.g. Clair et al., 2012; Hareket & Gülhan, 2017). International literature has emphasized the need for further research on children's rights (e.g. Correia et al., 2019), particularly among students (Karaman-Kepenekci, 2006). However, in Greece, the attitudes of students in Pedagogical Departments towards children's rights have not been sufficiently explored to scientifically and educationally inform and sensitize them, thereby equipping them to promote and defend children's rights. The aim of this study was to identify the attitudes of students in the Department of Preschool Education regarding children's rights and to examine factors that may influence these attitudes. Furthermore, the study explored students' intention to inform others and raise awareness about the protection of children's rights, as well as the perceived necessity for training seminars and educational programs. The research sample consisted of 154 students, and data collection was carried out through a questionnaire comprising three sections: the first section gathered demographic and research-related information; the second incorporated the *Scale for Measuring Students' Attitudes towards Children's Rights* (Karaman-Kepenekci, 2006); and the third included the *Scale for Recording Training Needs for Children's Rights* (Kypriotaki, 2025). The results indicated that students generally held positive attitudes towards children's rights. Nevertheless, the findings underscored the need to support and empower students on issues related to child rights advocacy, as well as the necessity for practices that promote children's rights both within the academic community and later in the classroom.

References

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Short CV

Dr. Maria Kypriotaki is an Associate Professor at the Department of Preschool Education, University of Crete. Her teaching experience from 2002 until today, her research interests and publications in Journals and chapters in books confirm her interest and knowledge in Special Education and themes regarding inclusion, family of children with disabilities and dimensions such as school climate, self-efficacy, wellbeing and training needs of special education teachers, competencies and interests of children in childcare, child rights e.tc. She has also participated in 24 research projects and got research grants.