

Aile Bireyleri Arasında Cinsiyete Dayalı Zekâ Düzeyi Algıları

Family Members' Perceptions about Each Other's Intelligence Level

Reyhan Baykal¹

Öz

Bu makalenin temel amacı, cinsiyet faktörünün aile bireylerinin eş cinslerinin ve karşıt cinslerinin zekâ düzeyleri konusundaki algıları üzerindeki olası etkilerini araştırmaktır. Araştırmaya 172 bayan ve 136 erkek olmak üzere toplam 308 kişi katılmıştır. Katılımcıların 172'si kadın ve 136'sı erkektir. Katılımcılardan 76'sı anne, 78'i baba; 121'i erkek çocuk 156'sı kız çocuk; 60'ı hem anne hem kız çocuk, 63'ü hem baba hem erkek çocuk olarak anketi doldürmüşlardır. Araştırmada veri toplama aracı olarak katılımcıların zekâ düzeyi tahminlerini öğrenmeye yönelik anket kullanılmıştır. Araştırmada; bireylerin kendilerinin, eşlerinin, ebeveynlerinin ve kardeşlerinin zekâ düzeylerini tahminlerinde cinsiyete göre bir farklılık gözlenmezken, ebeveynlerin çocuklarının zekâ düzeyleri hakkındaki tahminleri karşılaştırıldığında babaların erkek çocuklarını kız çocuklarından daha zeki gördükleri saptanmıştır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: cinsiyet farklılığı, zekâ düzeyi algısı, aile bireyleri

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate family members' perceptions of each other's intelligence level. The participants of the study included 172 women and 136 men. Of the participants 76 were mother, 78 were father, 121 were son, 156 were daughter, 60 were both mother and daughter, and 63 were both father and son. A survey questionnaire was used to collect data about the participants' perceptions. Data analysis showed no difference between mothers' and fathers' intelligence levels as rated by their children as well as by themselves. The only difference was found between intelligence level of sons and that of daughters as rated by fathers favoring sons. That is, fathers rated their sons more intelligent than their daughters. Findings of this study partly contradict other studies carried out in other countries.

Keywords: gender differences, perception, intelligence level, family members

Summary

Purpose and significance: Research shows that people hold subjective beliefs about their intellectual levels as well as others. The purpose of this study was to investigate people's perceptions of intelligence level by gender.

Method: A survey questionnaire was developed by a panel of expert through the review of related literature to collect data about family members' perceptions of each other's intelligence. Participants included 308 people (female = 172; male = 136) whose ages ranged from 14 to 78 (mean = 32, SD = 15). Of the participants 76 were mother, 78 were father, 121 were son, 156 were daughter, 60 were both mother and daughter, and 63 were both father and son. The questionnaire consisted of eight

items: ratings of their own intelligence level as well as intelligence levels of their spouses, parents and children. A likert-type scale was used for rating from 1 to 5 (extremely below average, below average, average, above average, extremely above average).

Results: In comparing the judgments of individuals regarding their own intelligence levels by gender, it was seen that the difference between the estimates of individuals from different genders about their own intelligence levels was not significant statistically ($t = -1.07$, $p > 0.05$). A comparison between the participants' ratings of their own intelligence levels and those of their spouses' intelligence levels showed no significant difference ($t = 0.09$, $p > 0.05$). Analysis of women's ratings for their own intelligence levels and their husbands' intelligence levels also showed no significant difference ($t = -1.09$, $p > 0.05$). Similarly, analysis of men's ratings for their own intelligence levels and their wives' intelligence levels yielded no significant difference ($t = 1.17$, $p > 0.05$).

The most important finding of this study was that parents rated their male children to be more intelligent than their female children. The difference was significant ($t = -2.98$, $p < 0.05$). However, the effect size of this difference was small ($\eta^2 = .21$). Further analysis showed the difference came from fathers' ratings. That is, fathers rated their sons more intelligent than their daughters ($t = -2.21$, $p < 0.05$). Effect size of the difference was found to be small ($\eta^2 = .26$). Mothers' ratings did not make a difference.

Analysis of children's estimates regarding their parents' intelligence levels yielded no significant difference between their estimates of intelligence levels of their mothers and those of their fathers ($t = -0.64$, $p > 0.05$). Furthermore, female children's ratings of intelligence levels of their mothers and those of their fathers, and male children's ratings were compared. Neither analysis showed a significant difference ($t=0.00$, $p > 0.05$).

The participants' estimates regarding intelligence levels of their siblings were compared generally. The difference between participants' evaluations regarding intelligence levels of their sisters and those of brothers was not statistically significant ($t = -1.47$, $p > 0.05$). Furthermore, although both sisters and brothers assessed their brothers to be more intelligent, the difference was not significant ($t = 0.77$, $p > 0.05$). That is, neither brothers rated their male siblings more intelligent than their female sisters or vice versa nor sisters rated their female siblings more intelligent than male siblings or vice versa.

Discussion and Conclusions: Sons were rated more intelligent than daughters by their fathers in this study. Other studies about family members' ratings of each other's intelligence levels show a different picture. More gender differences were obtained in these studies. Findings usually favor sons and fathers. That is, there might be a gender bias against daughters and mothers. Could this bias affect parent investments in education opportunities that they provide for their children?