



AN EXAMINATION OF SPORTS SUCCESS IN SCHOOLS AND AMATEUR SPORTS CLUBS IN AFYONKARAHISAR, TURKEY

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Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to examine the success of the sport in schools and amateur sports clubs in Afyonkarahisar. This study aims to determine the rankings of students' achievements in amateur sports clubs and school sports, considering various variables. A total of 80 amateur sports clubs in Afyonkarahisar city center and 184 school teams participating in sports competitions were examined, and their success statuses were ranked. This research used a descriptive research model that aims to describe existing facts as they are. A descriptive research model is an approach that aims to describe a situation as it currently exists (Karasar, 2012). For the study, statistics from the Ministry of Youth and Sports (GSİM) and the Ministry of National Education (MEM) for the years 2015-2020 were collected. This included data on the number of amateur sports clubs, the number of athletes, sports branches, the number of athletes going to national teams, student numbers from the Ministry of National Education, facility numbers, and success statistics. Descriptive statistics of the data were collected, and a descriptive data analysis was performed. The normality of distribution was checked in data analysis, and a normality test was conducted. Descriptive statistics (frequency distribution) were used in the statistical analysis of the obtained data. At the end of the research, reasons for the lower-than-expected sports success in schools and amateur sports clubs in Afyonkarahisar were identified, and descriptive findings on solutions were provided.

Keywords: Afyonkarahisar, club, amateur sports, school sports

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1. Introduction

The main aim of the study titled "An Examination of Sports Success in Schools and Amateur Sports Clubs in Afyonkarahisar" is to assess the success or failure of sports in our city.

Activities in Physical Education shape students' interests, perspectives, and skill development. Games played at the right time by teachers play a role in the physical development of children, as well as in their social and environmental development (Yapan, 2007). Therefore, lifelong education encompasses and combines educational levels and forms, including preschool, primary, secondary, and higher education, formal, informal, and non-formal education. *"A child is the most valuable asset of a society, and those societies that value their children and take effective measures for them to complete their development healthily secure their own future"* (DPT, 2001).

The formation of a child's personality begins in the family and accelerates with schooling. The child has the opportunity to develop the cultural, moral, and traditional values received from the family in the school environment, influenced by the surrounding environment. The most important task of school education is to make students integrate with society and become useful individuals. In doing so, it aims to make children more enterprising and exhibit desired behaviors in social and environmental relationships (Yapan, 2007).

Sports are the struggles individuals engage in with themselves and usually involve competition with opponents (Ateşoğlu, 1974). Individuals who start sports activities are usually at the lowest level of their physical condition (Erdemli, 2006). Amateur sports, on the other hand, refer to sports performed for enjoyment. The goal of amateur sports clubs is to keep youth away from harmful paths, socialize them, and set an example for the generations to come, thus creating a community of people inclined to sports and teamwork with a sense of cleanliness, enlightenment, health, sharing, and belonging.

The sport is a battle against oneself and often a competition with rivals (Ateşoğlu, 1974). According to Erdemli (2006), individuals starting sports activities are usually at the lowest level of their physical condition, and through training, competitions, matches, and encounters, they reach a new level of consciousness and desire. According to Şahin (2018), sports activities aim to develop individuals' physical and mental abilities in a fun and competitive manner.

Erdemli (2002) defines sports as a productive activity in which the human organism participates physically, socially, and mentally, aiming to improve one's skills and performance, with specific rules and a focus on participation and competition. Sports are a social phenomenon and a culture. Additionally, sports have goals such as maintaining health, improving personal skills, and achieving success in specific competitions. Therefore, it should be considered as a whole. Sports is not just about the body or the mental aspect; it is also a social phenomenon and a specific culture. Sports education is a right for humans. When this right is equally distributed, the concept of Sportsmanship can be applied to any stage of institutions, organizations, and individuals

involved in sports events (Erdemli, 1996). In our society, especially in recent years, increasing health problems related to obesity and inactivity have been observed. It is thought that both the increase in the consumption of unhealthy foods and the decrease in physical activity opportunities are among the causes of this increase.

Public health should ensure individuals can perform their daily lives with maximum efficiency and benefit from their own skills. Today, physical activities called "sports" play an essential role in maintaining public health. Playing sports prevents chronic diseases, improves the individual's physical characteristics, and contributes to an individual's healthy lifestyle (Kelecek, 2004).

Various studies emphasize that sports have many social, cultural, economic, and psychological benefits. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), regular physical activity is very important to increase public health (WHO, 2010). These positive impacts include:

- Physical benefits: increased bone density and physical strength, reduced risk of obesity, increased endurance, improved muscle strength, and improved coordination.
- Psychological benefits: improved self-esteem, decreased stress, decreased symptoms of anxiety and depression, and improved mood and mental well-being.
- Social benefits: opportunities to develop social connections and teamwork, a sense of belonging to a group, improved communication and cooperation skills, and the opportunity to make friends.

With all these benefits of sports, it is necessary to make an effort to ensure the continuation of sports in the best way possible. To ensure the continuation of sports, sports activities, and events must be supported to ensure that individuals can participate and benefit from sports throughout their lives.

2. Materials and Methods

This research used a descriptive research model that aims to describe existing facts as they are. A descriptive research model is an approach that aims to describe a situation as it currently exists (Karasar, 2012).

For the study, statistics from the Ministry of Youth and Sports (GSİM) and the Ministry of National Education (MEM) for the years 2015-2020 were collected. This included data on the number of amateur sports clubs, the number of athletes, sports branches, the number of athletes going to national teams, student numbers from the Ministry of National Education, facility numbers, and success statistics.

Descriptive statistics of the data were collected, and a descriptive data analysis was performed. The normality of distribution was checked in data analysis, and a normality test was conducted. Descriptive statistics (frequency distribution) were used in the statistical analysis of the obtained data.

3. Results

In Afyonkarahisar, 80 amateur sports clubs were examined, and 184 school teams participating in sports competitions were examined. The results of the analysis of these clubs and school teams are as follows:

Amateur Sports Clubs in Afyonkarahisar:

- Total number of sports branches: 10,
- Number of athletes: 1014,
- Number of facilities: 21,
- Number of athletes going to national teams: 25.

School Teams in Afyonkarahisar:

- Total number of sports branches: 15,
- Number of athletes: 1524,
- Number of facilities: 39,
- Number of athletes going to national teams: 10.

The study aimed to examine the sports success of school teams and amateur sports clubs in Afyonkarahisar based on various variables. In the study, descriptive statistics were used to evaluate the results.

Table 1: School sports participation table

| | | 2015-2020 School Team Athlete Number | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Branches | Small Men | Small Girls | Star Boys | Star Girls | Young Boys | Young Girls | Total |
| 1 | Futsal | 56 | 28 | 35 | 21 | 168 | 56 | 364 |
| 2 | Handball | 60 | 48 | 48 | 36 | 96 | 48 | 336 |
| 3 | Volleyball | 30 | 80 | 78 | 340 | 204 | 384 | 1116 |
| 4 | Basketball | 76 | 92 | 80 | 70 | 130 | 38 | 486 |
| 5 | Football | 432 | 0 | 582 | 40 | 368 | 0 | 1422 |
| | Total | 654 | 248 | 823 | 507 | 966 | 526 | 3724 |
| | | 2015-2020 Individual Athlete Number | | | | | | |
| | Branches | Small Men | Small Girls | Star Boys | Star Girls | Young Boys | Young Girls | Total |
| 1 | Athletics | 30 | 20 | 40 | 26 | 25 | 15 | 156 |
| 2 | Badminton | 22 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 15 | 17 | 92 |
| 3 | Fencing | 15 | 12 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 93 |
| 4 | Wrestle | 0 | 0 | 24 | 9 | 17 | 4 | 54 |
| 5 | Folk Dances | 25 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 20 | 165 |
| 6 | Judo | 0 | 0 | 15 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 55 |
| 7 | Karate | 0 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 18 | 12 | 50 |
| 8 | Crossroad | 0 | 0 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 16 | 81 |
| 9 | Ping Pong | 15 | 12 | 20 | 16 | 24 | 22 | 109 |
| 10 | Chess | 20 | 24 | 30 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 149 |
| 11 | Teakwando | 0 | 0 | 26 | 19 | 28 | 14 | 87 |
| 12 | Tennis | 16 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 15 | 20 | 105 |
| | Total | 143 | 132 | 278 | 234 | 241 | 188 | 1196 |

When Table 1 is examined, the number of school team athletes and individual athletes in Afyonkarahisar is seen. While football attracts the most attention among team sports with 1422 athletes, handball is the least popular branch with 336 athletes. While Folk Games

attract the most attention in terms of the number of individual athletes, with 165, Karate is the least popular individual sports branch with 50 athletes.

Table 2: Number of federations of Afyonkarahisar amateur sports clubs and the number of licensed athletes

| No | Sport branch | Ladies | Men | Total |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Shooting and Hunting | 0 | 27 | 27 |
| 2 | Athletics | 412 | 982 | 1.394 |
| 3 | Badminton | 287 | 287 | 574 |
| 4 | Basketball | 810 | 2490 | 3.300 |
| 5 | Physical Eng. | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | Baseball and Softball | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 7 | Billiards | 3 | 167 | 170 |
| 8 | Riding | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 9 | Bicycle | 44 | 317 | 361 |
| 10 | Bocce, Bowling and Dart | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| 11 | Boxing | 19 | 254 | 273 |
| 12 | Bridge | 2 | 75 | 77 |
| 13 | Gymnastics | 310 | 174 | 484 |
| 14 | Mountaineering | 30 | 118 | 148 |
| 15 | Dance | 24 | 25 | 49 |
| 16 | Fencing | 211 | 278 | 489 |
| 17 | Traditional | 0 | 43 | 43 |
| 18 | Wrestle | 77 | 552 | 629 |
| 19 | Folk Dances | 1267 | 620 | 1.887 |
| 20 | Visually Impaired | 3 | 19 | 22 |
| 21 | Handball | 275 | 1051 | 1326 |
| 22 | Sports for Everyone | 1266 | 1910 | 3176 |
| 23 | Hearing Impaired People | 2 | 60 | 62 |
| 24 | Scouting | 273 | 468 | 741 |
| 25 | Judo and Kurash | 230 | 278 | 508 |
| 26 | Karate | 505 | 1233 | 1.738 |
| 27 | Skı | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 28 | Kick Box | 63 | 348 | 411 |
| 29 | Ping Pong | 527 | 1074 | 1601 |
| 30 | Muay-Thai | 87 | 578 | 665 |
| 31 | Archery | 48 | 100 | 148 |
| 32 | Automobile Sports | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| 33 | Special Athletes | 28 | 58 | 86 |
| 34 | Chess | 2079 | 4356 | 6.422 |
| 35 | Taekwon-Do | 598 | 1398 | 1.996 |
| 36 | Tennis | 83 | 79 | 162 |
| 37 | Volleyball | 1918 | 2482 | 4.400 |
| 38 | Body Come, Fitness | 26 | 228 | 254 |
| 39 | Wushu | 45 | 246 | 291 |
| 40 | Swimming | 79 | 108 | 187 |
| 41 | Orienting Federation | 1 | 12 | 13 |
| 42 | Emerging Sports | 0 | 72 | 72 |
| 43 | Rugby | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Total | 43 Branches | 11636 | 22595 | 34231 |

When Table 2 is examined, the highest concentration of athletes is in the CHESS branch, with 2079 female athletes and 4356 male athletes for a total of 6,422 athletes. The minimum participation is 1 male athlete in Equestrian sport, and 1 female and 4 male athletes in Physically Disabled Sports. In our city, 11636 female athletes and 22595 male athletes, a total of 34231 athletes, are active in 43 sports branches.

4. Discussion

In Afyonkarahisar, amateur sports clubs and school teams actively engage in sports activities. There is a notable interest in sports branches such as football, folk dancing, athletics, and wrestling. Moreover, athletes are being produced in various branches to represent national teams.

The findings of the research emphasize that sports contribute to the physical, mental, and social development of young people in schools and amateur sports clubs. Furthermore, it is stressed that sports should be taught based on ethical values and the principle of fair play.

At the end of the study, it was determined that sports success in schools and amateur sports clubs in Afyonkarahisar was below some expectations. Therefore, it is recommended that sports should be further promoted, and young people should be encouraged to engage in sports. Collaboration between educational institutions and sports clubs is essential for increasing sports success.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the research examined the success of the sport in schools and amateur sports clubs in Afyonkarahisar. The study highlighted the positive effects of sports on the physical, mental, and social development of young people. However, it also identified the need to enhance sports participation and collaboration between educational institutions and sports clubs to improve sports success.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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