



Review of Academic Research on Sports Management Programs of Vocational Schools in Turkey

ABSTRACT

Researchers who contribute to the development of the sports industry and are expected to expand the knowledge in the relevant field by adding new information to the sports sciences literature should include the sports management programs of vocational schools that train professionals for the sports sector as a sample group according to the purpose, scope and structure of their research, and higher education programs that train professionals for the sports industry should be included in their studies. It is important to include all levels of institutions in relevant research. In this study, academic research in the field of sports sciences, in which sports management programs providing associate degree education at vocational schools were selected as the sample group, aimed at training qualified professional staff to meet the needs in the sector, were examined. In the research, a literature review was conducted and studies on vocational school sports management programs were searched in Google Scholar, Dergipark and YÖK Thesis databases. As a result, it has been concluded that in the research conducted in the field of sports sciences, very little space has been given to sports management programs that train professional personnel for the sector as associate degree programs, and these programs have not been sufficiently included in the research as a sample group. Researchers who contribute to the development of the sports industry and are expected to expand the knowledge in the relevant field by adding new information to the sports sciences literature should include vocational school sports management programs that train professional staff for the sports sector as a sample group in their studies according to the purpose, scope and structure of their research.

Keywords: Sports management program, vocational school, sports sciences.

INTRODUCTION

Sports is one of the cornerstones of human history. It is an activity that strengthens the body and mind, brings people together and strengthens social ties. Sport is more than just a means of exercise, it has many benefits that affect every aspect of our lives.

Perhaps one of the most well-known and important benefits of sports is its contribution to physical health. At the same time, exercise reduces stress, improves mood and generally makes you feel better. Sports play an important role in teaching discipline and character development. Team sports reinforce values such as cooperation, leadership and responsibility. The effort and process required to achieve success while exercising helps a person develop important characteristics such as focus on goals, motivation and determination. Sport is an activity that brings people together. Exercising together means coming together around a common goal. This unites societies, strengthens the sense of solidarity between people and strengthens the bond that comes from sharing a common passion despite differences. Sport provides people with opportunities to learn and develop. Exercising both individually and as a team fosters the need for continuous learning and self-improvement. In order to be successful, it is necessary to develop strategies, learn from mistakes and constantly renew oneself. This increases a person's life skills and problem-solving ability. Sports has a great impact on the quality of life. A higher quality of life is generally observed in individuals who exercise regularly. Sports, which positively affects mental health as well as physical health, supports being more productive and developing a more positive perspective in all areas of life.

As can be seen, the importance of sports in our lives is multifaceted and is not limited only to physical health. It also has many social, emotional and mental benefits. Exercising regularly increases our general well-being and helps us improve ourselves individually. For this reason, it is of great importance to develop sports by conducting research in the field of sports, as well as making sports an integral part of our lives and encouraging sports as a society. Academic research in the field of sports is important to understand the broad effects of sports on human life, to increase performance, improve health and increase the general well-being of society. Research is conducted on various topics such as improving performance and health, injury prevention and rehabilitation, development of performance and strategies, improvement of public health and welfare, development of scientific knowledge and literature, promotion of industrial and technological developments, management and organization of sports. For example, research on performance aims to develop more effective

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training methods by examining the effects of sports and exercise on human performance. It contributes to the development of new strategies to increase the performance of athletes. These strategies can cover a wide range from training methods to tactical strategies. Research conducted to understand the effects of sports on physical and mental health helps determine the role of sports in the prevention and treatment of diseases. Research aimed at understanding, preventing and treating sports injuries allows athletes to perform in a safer and healthier way. At the same time, studies are carried out to improve rehabilitation processes after injuries. Research conducted to understand the effects of sports on society and to encourage people to live a healthier lifestyle helps take preventive measures on important health issues such as obesity, heart diseases and mental health. These studies enable sports to be used more effectively and benefit more people.

Sports research helps spur technological advances in many areas, from sports equipment to performance analytics. This contributes to the emergence of innovative products in the sports industry and improving sports experiences. It contributes to the development of new ideas and methods about the rational management and organization of sports. Research in the field of sports expands knowledge in sports sciences and related fields by adding new information to the scientific literature. This information serves as a resource for educational institutions, coaches, athletes, administrators and healthcare professionals.

Sample groups used in sports research may vary depending on the purpose, scope and structure of the research. However, some common sample groups include professional/amateur athletes, participants in certain sports branches, age groups or demographic differences, control and treatment groups, population representation, groups with special conditions, students studying at sports science faculties of universities or associate degree programs of vocational schools of universities. It consists of various groups such as sports management program students studying in programs. Many sports studies use sample groups that include athletes at different levels of the sport.

While professional athletes are studied for high performance and specialization, amateur athletes can often be selected to represent a broad population. Research can also use sample groups that include people who specialize in certain sports branches or participants who are active in that branch of sports. For example, studies focusing on certain sports such as football, basketball, swimming may prefer these groups. Sports research can often include participants from different age groups. Studies can be conducted on sports activities and their effects among different age groups such as children, teenagers, adults or the elderly. Additionally, characteristics such as ethnicity, gender, or geographic region can also be taken into account in sample selection to examine demographic differences. Some sports studies need control groups to evaluate the effects of a particular sports program. These groups may be individuals who do not do sports or participants who participate in a different sports program. Treatment and control groups can also be used to examine the effects of a particular treatment or rehabilitation method. Researchers generally pay attention to population representativeness in sample selection in order to make generalizations in their studies. Sampling groups try to represent the general characteristics of the society in which the study is conducted or the targeted population. Some sports studies may examine samples that include individuals with certain health conditions (e.g., conditions such as obesity, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders) or special groups (e.g., athletes with disabilities).

Students studying at sports science faculties of universities are groups that are frequently used in sports research, but can vary according to the goals and methods of the research. The nature, scope and purpose of the research are of great importance in sample selection. Sports management program students studying in associate degree programs of vocational schools of universities are also among the sample groups used by researchers from time to time, depending on the objectives and methods of the research.

Vocational School is defined in the 3rd article of the Higher Education Law No. 2547 as "It is a higher education institution that provides four-semester education aiming to train intermediate manpower for certain professions." They train 5th level professional staff depending on the higher education institution. Graduates start working in business life as professionals. Professional staff can be considered as the basic elements of the sector working as practitioners in the production sector. As implementers, they are the personnel who carry out the production or service.

Sports management programs affiliated with vocational schools in Turkey are generally programs that convey basic knowledge and skills to students in different areas of sports. These programs, which are at the associate degree level affiliated with vocational schools, generally last 2 years. Unlike 4-year faculties and colleges, candidates are not subjected to an aptitude test and are accepted through the central university entrance exam. Associate degree sports management programs teach students the basic principles of the sports industry, management of sports organizations, marketing strategies, legal issues and communication skills. These

programs provide students with the opportunity to combine theoretical knowledge with practical experiences, providing them with the necessary equipment to be successful in the industry. It includes training that provides students with basic knowledge and skills about sports management. These programs cover topics such as the sports industry, sports organizations and sports events management. While students learn the administrative, organizational and commercial aspects of sports, they also try to understand the social, cultural and economic impacts of sports. Sports management program curricula generally cover topics such as sports management principles, sports marketing, financial management, sports law and governance, sports business, communication and media management. Sports management is a field that requires expertise to meet the needs of different areas of sports while addressing such complex issues. Sports management graduates, who have knowledge and experience in matters such as strategic planning and social responsibility, contribute to the sustainable and effective management of sports. This allows sports to progress in a more effective and healthy way, both economically and socially. These programs offer students the opportunity to combine theoretical knowledge with practical applications. Internships, projects and field studies are often part of the program and give students real-world experience. Graduates of sports management programs can find job opportunities in various fields such as sports clubs, organizations, sports federations, event management companies, sports facilities and brands. These programs provide graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful in the competitive environment in the sector.

Today, sports is not just a competitive arena but also a large-scale industry. Sports events, organizations, teams and brands have created a large industry that reaches large audiences. At this point, sports management programs play an important role in order to train qualified professional personnel by responding to the needs of this growing sector. In parallel with the growth and development of the sports industry, students graduating from sports management programs are able to respond to the demands in the sector, meet the need for qualified professional personnel and provide students with a wide career path. has an increasing importance in terms of providing opportunities.

Researchers who contribute to the development of the sports industry and are expected to expand the knowledge in the relevant field by adding new information to the sports sciences literature should include the sports management programs of vocational schools that train professionals for the sports sector as a sample group according to the purpose, scope and structure of their research, and higher education programs that train professionals for the sports industry should be included in their studies. It is important to include all levels of institutions in relevant research. Although sports science faculties and physical education and sports schools represent a wider population, it is clear that sports management programs that train professionals who continue their existence in the sports industry are also a research subject and will make a significant contribution to relevant studies. In this study, academic research in the field of sports sciences, in which sports management programs providing associate degree education at vocational schools were selected as the sample group, aimed at training qualified professional staff to meet the needs in the sector, were examined.

METHOD

In this study, qualitative research method was adopted and field survey model was used. Research data was obtained by document analysis method. Qualitative research involves qualitative data collection processes using techniques such as observation, interview and document review. This method focuses on describing events and perceptions in detail and realistically in their natural environments. The main purpose of the research is to provide in-depth understanding by addressing the subject from a holistic perspective (Yıldıırım & Şimşek, 2016). In the research, a literature review was conducted and studies related to vocational school sports management programs were searched in Google Scholar, Dergipark and YÖK Thesis databases with the words sports management, vocational school, associate degree sports management, sample sports management. As a result of the scanning, the literature of the study was created by selecting articles and theses that support the subject of the study. This selection process was carried out by carefully determining the sources that are directly related to and will contribute to the subject of the study. These sources were selected from those that would contribute to the discussion and content of the study.

LITERATURE

The study conducted by Sanin (2019) aimed to investigate the attitudes of sports management program students studying at vocational schools of state and foundation universities in Turkey towards leisure activities. In this study, the leisure time and attitude scale was applied to a total of 422 students, 337 males and 85 females. When the relationship between the attitudes towards leisure activities and sociodemographic characteristics of students attending sports management programs at vocational schools in Turkey was examined, it was determined that there were significant differences in cognitive attitudes in terms of marital

status and age variables. Additionally, significant differences were found between students' emotional, behavioral and general attitude scores depending on their working status. The research results revealed that there were significant differences between the cognitive, emotional, behavioral and general attitude scores, associating the effect of the use of free time on academic success, the adequacy of the weekly free time and the positive use of free time.

Yavuz et al. (2018) conducted a study to analyze the academic studies conducted in the field of sports management in Turkey in terms of their subjects, study groups, methods used and researcher profiles. In this study conducted with a qualitative approach, a total of 511 studies, including 138 theses, 91 papers and 282 articles focused especially on sports management, were examined. These studies consist of Turkish Council of Higher Education (YÖK) Theses (until 25.03.2018), articles selected from 8 journals in the field of sports sciences published after 2000, and papers presented at the tenth (2008) and fifteenth (2017) International Sports Sciences Congresses. Each study was subjected to content analysis and examined in terms of subject, methodology, sample, data collection tools and researcher profile. The results show that the most studied subjects (28%) are concentrated in the field of Organizational Behavior, while the least studied subjects are Media and Communication (4%) and Local Governments (2%). Quantitative approach was mostly preferred as the research method and data collection method with surveys was generally used. While it is noteworthy that the use of the qualitative approach is low, it has been determined that the most preferred group among the working groups is public personnel among sector representatives. The gender distribution of the researchers showed that there were 254 women (23%) and 872 men (77%).

In their research, Uluç and Durukan (2021) examined the attitudes of 62 students studying at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Ayvacık Vocational School, Department of Sports Management, towards healthy nutrition. They applied a scale on healthy nutrition to the participants and analyzed the obtained data in the program. In the study, healthy eating attitudes of the students according to their demographic characteristics were compared with parametric tests such as Independent Sample T Test and ANOVA Analysis, and the LSD test was used for multiple comparisons. According to the analysis results, the knowledge level and positive eating habits of female students studying at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Sports Management Department on nutrition were found to be higher than male students. In addition, the positive eating habits of students who have done sports for 6-10 years were found to be significantly higher than those who did sports for 5 years or less (3.90 and 3.07, respectively).

Çutuk et al. (2023), The focus of this research is to examine the relationship between distance education, which has become mandatory during the COVID-19 pandemic process, and the educational platforms used in this context, with students' intrinsic and extrinsic academic motivation. The research was conducted on 225 participants who were studying at the School of Civil Aviation, Vocational School Sports Management program (165 students) and the Faculty of Education, Department of Guidance and Psychological Counseling, and were determined by easily accessible case sampling method. In the study, data were collected with the Attitude Scale on the Use of Distance Education Environments during the Pandemic Process, Academic Motivation Scale and Personal Information Form. The data collection process was carried out in the first semester of the 2021-2022 academic year. Descriptive statistics and Pearson Correlation Coefficient were used in the analyses. In the study, a moderate and positive relationship was detected between the effectiveness of distance education environments during the pandemic period and students' intrinsic and extrinsic academic motivation; However, it was concluded that the competence and motivation, usability and satisfaction dimensions of these environments were not linked to academic motivation. In light of these results, it is evaluated that developing distance education environments and increasing the opportunities they offer may be beneficial in increasing academic motivation.

In their study, Karadeniz and Özkan (2021) focused on the post-graduation expectations of students studying in vocational schools that prepare them for the business world and are most affected by the rapidly changing environment. In order to measure the post-graduation professional expectations of students studying in various programs of Ayvacık Vocational School, a 15-question professional expectation scale developed by Tuncer was applied to 202 students. According to the analysis results, the career expectations of vocational school students after graduation show significant differences according to the students' grade level and the department they study. For example, it has been determined that the career expectations of first-year students are higher than those of second-year students. Likewise, it has been concluded that the career expectations of Sports Management program students are higher than those of Banking and Insurance program students.

The focus of the study by Kadirhanoğulları and Köse (2022) is to determine the biophilia levels of students of a vocational school affiliated with a state university. The sample of this research, which used a survey model, consists of a total of 446 students, 275 girls and 171 boys, in the 2021-2022 academic year. "Biophilia Scale"

was used during the data collection process. In line with the findings obtained, the importance of providing nature education to students starting from pre-school periods was emphasized. In order to increase students' biophilia levels, suggestions were made to examine as many species as possible in nature, to visit botanical gardens and zoos to see different species, and to adopt practices that are more in touch with nature in the curriculum. It was determined that there was a statistically significant difference between the scores of the participants (they like listening to sounds in nature, the sound of rain, etc.) and their departments; the department with the highest score was the Social Services Program and the department with the lowest score was the Sports Management Program. The researcher stated that the reason for this situation is that students of the Social Work program are more active towards nature and spend more time outdoors due to their course content, and therefore their biophilic tendencies are higher than students studying in other departments.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Researchers who contribute to the development of the sports industry and are expected to expand the knowledge in the relevant field by adding new information to the sports sciences literature should include the sports management programs of vocational schools that train professionals for the sports sector as a sample group according to the purpose, scope and structure of their research, and higher education programs that train professionals for the sports industry should be included in their studies. It is important to include all levels of institutions in relevant research. Sanin (2019) used a total of 422 students, 337 males and 85 females, as a sample group in his study examining the attitudes of sports management program students studying at vocational schools of state and foundation universities in Turkey towards leisure activities and examined the relationships between their leisure attitudes and their academic success. showed. It can be said that it should be considered as an important study in terms of determining the attitudes of students who are trained as professionals to contribute to the sports industry, towards leisure time.

Although the concept of sports management is used for associate degree programs in Turkey, what the reader perceives conceptually is that it covers four-year sports management departments. Yavuz et al. (2018) stated that in their study, in which they analyzed the subjects, working groups, methods used and researcher profiles of academic studies conducted in the field of sports management in Turkey, they examined a total of 511 studies, including 138 theses, 91 papers and 282 articles, focusing especially on sports management. However, there is no information on whether sports management associate degree programs are included in the study groups of the relevant studies.

Students of sports management departments are accepted to faculties by taking an aptitude test in addition to the central exam, like most four-year undergraduate departments. Since sports management programs are two-year associate degree programs, they only accept students to the program based on the central exam, not the talent exam. For this reason, it is a matter of curiosity that the students accepted to this program are more aware of issues such as their attitudes towards sports and nutritional habits, compared to students studying at four-year faculties. In their research, Uluç and Durukan (2021) contributed to the relevant literature by examining the attitudes of 62 students studying at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Ayvacık Vocational School Sports Management Program towards healthy nutrition.

It is a normal and expected situation for students studying in sports-related departments to stay at home during the pandemic process and be psychologically affected by the situation due to their interest and curiosity in sports. Çutuk et al. (2023) conducted a survey on 225 students from different fields in the sample group of the study, in which they examined the relationship between distance education, which became mandatory during the COVID-19 pandemic process, and the educational platforms used in this context, and the intrinsic and extrinsic academic motivation of students, and 165 of these students were sports management program students. It means that there is a significant difference in the intrinsic and extrinsic academic motivation of students studying in the sports management program.

The fact that students studying in the sports management associate degree department have very limited working areas in the sector as professionals may cause them to have low motivation in terms of career expectations. In their study, Karadeniz and Özkan (2021) focused on the post-graduation expectations of students studying in vocational schools that prepare them for the business world and are most affected by the rapidly changing environment. It has been concluded that the career expectations of Sports Management program students are higher than those of Banking and Insurance program students. It can be said that this is due to the growth of the sports industry as a service sector and people's increasing sports awareness.

As a result, Sports Management programs within Vocational Schools in Turkey are part of a large industry that reaches large audiences with sports events, organizations, teams and brands. According to the results of the literature review, it has been concluded that in the research conducted in the field of sports sciences, sports

management programs that train professional personnel for the sector as associate degree programs are given very little space and that these programs are not sufficiently included in the research as a sample group. Therefore, researchers who contribute to the development of the sports industry and are expected to expand the knowledge in the relevant field by adding new information to the sports sciences literature should include vocational school sports management programs that train professionals for the sports sector as a sample group in their studies according to the purpose, scope and structure of their research. Although universities' faculties of sports sciences and schools of physical education and sports are frequently preferred as sample groups by researchers due to the large population they represent, sports management programs that train professional staff who continue their existence in the sports industry should also be used both as a sample group in research and as the research itself. It is thought that it will make a significant contribution to related studies in the field.

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