

Evaluation of parents' opinions about children's orientation to volleyball

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to evaluate parents' views in directing children to volleyball. Parents of students and athletes from Ankara - Keçiören - Tarhuncu Ahmet Paşa Junior High School volleyball school team, Ankara - Çankaya - Anıttepe Junior High School volleyball school team, Başkentgücü Sports Clup volleyball team, Batıkent Yıldızlar Sports Clup Volleyball school, Ankara DSİ Sports Clup volleyball team, Ankara Gazi İhtisas Sports Clup volleyball team, KGM Sports Clup volleyball team, Gazi University Sport Clup volleyball team, TVF Fine Arts and Sport High School participated in the study (n=206). Data was collected by using an information form related to parents' opinions about children's orientation to volleyball developed by Şimşek (2005). Data was analyzed in SPSS by using Frequency analysis. Results showed that parents directing their children to volleyball had enough information about the contributions of sport to children's development. Some factors effecting children's orientation to volleyball such as knowledge level of parents about volleyball and a sportive branch, responsibilities, future expectations were revealed in this study.

Key Words: Volleyball, Parents' opinion, orientation to sport

1. Introduction

For the individual sports, participation is defined as the number of adults (over than 16 years old) participated in a moderate intense sport activity for at least 30 min in a week (SportEngland, 2009). Humphreys and Ruseski (2009) defined sporting participation as being physically active for the last four weeks. According to Mengütay (2006) functional and anatomic obstacle should not be considered in sport orientation, it should be determined which sport is suitable for the children's anatomic and functional physique.

The importance of playing comes into prominence in sport orientation of children. Hazar (2009) suggested that the reasons educational games attracted attention all the time, in all environments and in all ages are their features such as motivation, free atmosphere, and opportunity to test motoric properties, uncertainty of results, unity and complexity.

Gençay Ö. and Gençay S. (2007) found that parents willing, socialization and physical competence were the most important factors among the reasons of participating summer sport schools.

Physical education provides individual development with its natural environment (Demirci, 2008). Açak (2006) suggested that physical education have positive impacts in terms of physical and anatomical, biological, sociological, psychological, mental, pedagogical and health. Aracı (2001) stated that physical education activities develops skills, enhances strength with muscular movement (Aracı, 2001). Skills that children learned in physical education classes (self-discipline, goal setting, self-esteem and confidence, teamwork) can also be applied in everyday life (Kalish, 1998).

Physical education and sport is a factor that contributes to organic development. Because of such features, physical education helps to achieve development of motor skills (Tamer and Pulur, 2001). Volleyball is an important branch in physical education and sport. Because of its physical social features, volleyball is a proper sporting branch for children in developmental ages. In this period, because family plays an important role, it can be important to examine opinions of families in orientation of children to volleyball. In the light of this information, the aim of this study was to evaluate parents' views in directing children to volleyball.

2. Method

Parents of students and athletes from Ankara - Keçiören - Tarhuncu Ahmet Paşa Junior High School volleyball school team, Ankara - Çankaya - Anıttepe Junior High School volleyball school team, Başkentgücü Sports Clup volleyball team, Batıkent Yıldızlar Sports Clup Volleyball school, Ankara DSİ Sports Clup volleyball team, Ankara Gazi İhtisas Sports Clup volleyball team, KGM Sports Clup volleyball team, Gazi University Sport Clup volleyball team, TVF Fine Arts and Sport High School participated in the study (n=206). Data was collected by using an information form related to parents' opinions about children's orientation to volleyball developed by Şimşek (2005). Data was analyzed in SPSS by using Frequency analysis.

3. Results

Table 1. Demographic Variables

		f	%
Child Gender	Female	176	85,4
	Male	30	14,6
	TOTAL	206	100,0
Child Age	3-4 years old	5	2,4
	5-6 years old	3	1,5
	7-8 years old	16	7,8
	9-10 years old	63	30,6
	11-12 years old	57	27,7
	13-14 years old	37	18,0
	15-16 years old	22	10,7
	17-18 years old	3	1,5
		TOTAL	206

Table 1. Continued

	Father	Mother	Father%	Mother%	
Age of Parents	20–24 years old	-	4	-	1,9
	25–29 years old	6	11	2,9	5,3
	30–34 years old	18	33	8,7	16,0
	35–39 years old	30	57	14,6	27,7
	40–44 years old	61	59	29,6	28,6
	45 and over	91	42	44,2	20,4
	TOTAL	206	206	100,0	100,0
Vocation of Parents		Father	Mother	Father%	Mother%
	Laborer	28	14	13,6	6,8
	Civil servant	96	88	46,6	42,7
	Self-Employed	63	31	30,6	15,0
	Retired	17	12	8,3	5,8
	Unemployed	2	61	1,0	29,6
	TOTAL	206	206	100,0	100,0
Education status of parents		Father	Mother	Father%	Mother%
	Primary school	9	15	4,4	7,3
	Secondary School	41	57	19,9	27,7
	Graduate	128	109	62,1	52,9
	Mater Degree	19	15	9,2	7,3
	Doctoral Degree	9	9	4,4	4,4
	Illiterate	-	1	-	0,5
TOTAL	206	206	100,0	100,0	
Number of Child		f	%		
	One	55	26,7		
	Two	110	53,4		
	Three	30	2,9		
	Four	6	2,9		
	Five and more	5	2,4		
TOTAL	206	100,0			
Mountly Income		f	%		
	Under 300□	3	1,5		
	300–700□	2	1,0		
	800–1.200□	8	3,9		
	1.300–1.700□	18	8,7		
	1.800–2.200□	35	17,0		
	2.300□ and more	140	68,0		
TOTAL	206	100,0			
Sporting History		f	%		
	Yes	122	59,2		
	No	84	40,8		
TOTAL	206	100,0			
Relatives who have sporting history	Father	55	26,7		
	Mother	16	7,8		
	Siblings	9	4,4		
	Father – Mother	27	13,1		
	Father - Mother	11	5,3		
	Mother – Sibling	4	1,9		
TOTAL	206	100,0			

85,4% of children was female, 14,6% was male. The families participated in the study have children aged between 3–4, 5–6, 7–8, 9–10, 11–12, 13–14, 15–16, 17–18; and their percentages were 2.4%, 1.5%, 7.8%, 30.6%, 27.7%, 18.0%, 10.7%, 1.5%, respectively. A sharp decrease was seen in the number of participant after age of 16. The reason of this decrease can be the families demand of university education from their children, so they lead their children to study for university exam. 46,6% of fathers and 42,7% of mothers were civil servants.

4.4% of fathers participated in the study graduated from primary school, 19,9% of them graduated from secondary school, 62,1% of fathers graduated from university, 9,2% of fathers had master degree, 4,4% of them had doctorate degree. 7.3% of mothers participated in the study graduated from primary school, 27.7% of them graduated from secondary school, 52.9% of them graduated from university, 7.3% of mothers has master degree, and 4.4% of them has doctorate degree. 26.7% of families had one child, 53.4% of them has two children. It was found that 40.8% of parents did not have sporting history.

Orientation to sport activities

Table 2. In your opinion, which property of your child is developed in participating in volleyball activities?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a-Develops affective, cognitive and physical properties	166	80,6	38	18,4	1	0,5	-	-	1	0,5	206	100,0
b-Rebounds habit of recreation.	142	68,9	55	26,7	6	2,9	3	1,5	-	-	206	100,0
c-Allow for ease of intra-group participation in activities.	151	73,3	47	22,8	7	3,4	1	0,5	-	-	206	100,0
d-Provides the emergence of ability	139	67,5	53	25,7	12	5,8	1	0,5	1	0,5	206	100,0
e-Enables development of personality.	138	67	57	27,7	7	3,4	3	1,5	1	0,5	206	100,0

1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Do not agree, 5=Absolutely not agree

80,6% of parents answered that volleyball develops affective, cognitive and physical properties of children. It was seen that the percentages of the other choices were close to each other. It can be said that parents participated in this study had knowledge about developmental features of volleyball.

Table 3. Which of the followings can be basic reasons in orientation of children to volleyball?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a- Children love the activity in which they participate	144	69,9	52	25,2	6	2,9	2	1,0	2	1,0	206	100,0
b- Being economic	60	29,1	63	30,6	30	14,6	47	22,8	6	2,9	206	100,0
c- The reason that sport activity in which they participate is popular	85	41,3	80	38,8	22	10,7	17	8,3	2	1,0	206	100,0
d- The reason that sport activity provide a profession opportunity for future	60	29,1	56	27,2	52	25,2	30	14,6	8	3,9	206	100,0
e- Effects of popular athletes in media	61	29,6	74	35,9	27	13,1	34	16,5	10	4,9	206	100,0

1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Do not agree, 5=Absolutely not agree

69,9% of parents answered that the reason which children oriented to volleyball is that they love the sport activity they participated in. It can be said that it is important for parents participated in the study to orientate their children to sport activities they love.

Table 4. In your opinion, what should volleyball trainers do for children beginners of sport?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a- Checkup	133	64,6	57	27,7	8	3,9	7	3,4	1	0,5	206	100,0
b- Talent selection	107	51,9	83	40,3	10	4,9	4	1,9	2	1,0	206	100,0
c- To determine the child's interest in sports	120	58,3	76	36,9	6	2,9	3	1,5	1	0,5	206	100,0
d- Determination of anthropometric characteristics of the family.	61	29,6	77	37,4	43	20,9	20	9,7	5	2,4	206	100,0

1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Do not agree, 5=Absolutely not agree

64.6% of parents answered that volleyball trainers should make checkup for the children. It can also be said that talent selection, determination of child's interest in sport were important for the children because of their close percentage.

Table 5. Which of the followings is the property volleyball coaches should have?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a- Being diligent in developing children's skills.	166	80,6	34	16,5	4	1,9	1	0,5	1	0,5	206	100,0
b- Being taken specialist education.	162	78,6	37	18,0	5	2,4	1	0,5	1	0,5	206	100,0
c- Being diligent in updating knowledge of coaching.	165	80,1	30	14,6	7	3,4	4	1,9	-	-	206	100,0
d- To love children.	167	81,1	28	13,6	7	3,4	1	0,5	3	1,5	206	100,0
e- Giving importance of relationship between parent, school and family.	152	73,8	46	22,3	4	1,9	3	1,5	1	0,5	206	100,0

1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Do not agree, 5=Absolutely not agree

81.1% of parents preferred that volleyball coaches should first love children. Parents participated in the study gave more importance to children being loved than developing skills, being taken specialist education, updating knowledge.

Table 6. Which of the followings can be the duty of family to guide their children to volleyball activities?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a- To appreciate and commend the efforts and development of child.	156	75,7	41	19,9	6	2,9	2	1,0	1	0,5	206	100,0
b- To support child in the failure and mistake	149	72,3	44	21,8	11	5,3	2	1,0	-	-	206	100,0
c- To support child to do sport by following rules all the time.	144	79,9	45	21,4	9	4,4	6	2,9	2	1,0	206	100,0
d- To persuade child to do sport when he/she is reluctant.	63	30,6	69	33,5	29	14,1	39	18,9	6	2,9	206	100,0
e- To provide child opportunity to be educated by a specialized coach (graduated from university).	122	59,2	62	30,1	14	6,8	4	1,9	4	1,9	206	100,0

1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Do not agree, 5=Absolutely not agree

Although the duties that parents should have attracted great attention, %79.9 of parents answered that appreciation and commendation of child effort was the most important duty of families to guide their children to volleyball.

Table 7. Which of the followings is the most important duty teachers in educational institution should fulfill in guiding your child to participate in volleyball activities?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a- Supporting development of basic skills in school age.	148	71,8	52	25,2	3	1,5	2	1,0	1	0,5	206	100,0
b- Providing children opportunities to explain sport activities they participate and show the new movements they learn.	86	41,7	78	37,9	27	13,1	14	6,8	1	0,5	206	100,0
c- Explaining children that failure exists in sport by informing them about their developmental level.	102	49,5	76	36,9	17	8,3	10	4,9	1	0,5	206	100,0
d- Emphasizing that sport is an important recreation activity.	106	51,5	77	37,4	9	4,4	12	5,8	2	1,0	206	100,0
e- Listening problems can occur between child, family and coach and finding solution for these problem.	106	51,5	59	28,6	22	10,7	12	5,8	7	3,4	206	100,0

1=Strongly Agree, 2=Agree, 3=Not sure, 4=Do not agree, 5=Absolutely not agree

71.8% of parents answered that the most important duty of teachers is supporting development of basic skills in school age. It can be said that parents are aware of developmental duties of educational institute and expect them to implement sport activities that develops children's skills.

Table 8. Which one should be the content of volleyball activity program for children?

	1		2		3		4		5		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
a- Organizing activities in game format	78	37,9	82	39,8	26	12,6	15	7,3	5	2,4	206	100,0
b- Limiting activities with one sport branch.	49	23,8	50	24,3	46	22,3	54	26,2	7	3,4	206	100,0
c- Organizing activities in a recreation program.	51	24,8	70	34,0	43	20,9	35	17,0	7	3,4	206	100,0
d- Organizing activities to introduce multiple sport branches.	57	27,7	76	36,9	42	20,4	28	13,6	3	1,5	206	100,0
e- Organizing activities for education of creative dance and rhythm.	44	21,4	63	30,6	59	28,6	34	16,5	6	2,9	206	100,0

Most of the parents answered that volleyball activity content should include activities in game format. This analysis shows that sport activities in game format are important for parents.

Evaluating sport game activities

Table 9. Which level do you prefer for your child to participate in sport activities?

	f	%
School team	12	5,8
Club Team	70	34,0
Individual sport	12	5,8
Recreation	15	7,3
Professional	97	47,1
TOTAL	206	100,0

47.1% of parents answered that they preferred for their children to do professional sports. This result shows that parents expect their child to participate sport activities and also to be a professional in a sport. It can be said that success is also important factor for parents participated in the study. This attitude can be pressure element for the children.

Table 10. How many days do you want your child to participate in sport activities in a week?

	f	%
1 day	5	2,4
2 days	57	27,7
3 days	68	33,0
4 days and more	76	36,9
TOTAL	206	100,0

It was found that parents want their children to participate sport activities for 4 days and more in a week. This result shows that parents participated in the study expect their child to engage in sport activities, and this can mean that they also want them to keep away from the other activities that have no good for children.

Table 11. How much can you afford for child's participation to sport activities?

	f	%
10–20 □	2	1,0
20–30 □	23	11,2
30–40 □	59	28,6
40 □ and more	122	59,2
TOTAL	206	100,0

Most of the parents answered that they could afford 40□ and more for the participation of their children to sport activities.

Table 12. Do you watch sport activities of your child?

	f	%
Always	95	46,1
Usually	71	34,5
Sometimes	31	15,0
Never	9	4,4
TOTAL	206	100,0

Most of the parents (46.1%) answered that they always watch sport activities of their children. Some parents answered usually, sometimes, and never, the percentages of these answers are 34.5, 15.0, 4.4, respectively.

Table 13. Do you talk to your child about sport at home?

	f	%
Always	63	30,6
Usually	81	39,3
Sometimes	57	27,7
Never	5	2,4
TOTAL	206	100,0

39.3% of parents answered that they usually talk to their children about sport at home. This shows that parents give importance to communication with their children about sport.

Table 14. How often does you child watch sporting program on TV?

	f	%
Always	32	15,5
Usually	66	32,0
Sometimes	100	48,5
Never	8	3,9
TOTAL	206	100,0

48.5% of parents answered that they sometimes allowed their child to watch sporting program on TV. This result confirms that parents want to keep their children away from activities that no good for their child, as stated after table 10.

Table 15. Which of the followings is the sport field that your children can use in your living environment?

	f	%
Playground	52	25,2
Outdoor sports court	50	24,3
Sports Complexes	50	24,3
No sports field	54	26,2
TOTAL	206	100,0

In table 15, it was asked that which sport fields were able for usage in living environment. Parents answered that there were playground, outdoor sports court, sports complexes, the percentages of the answers were 25.2, 24.3, 24.3, respectively. Although the fields can be seen enough, 26.2% of parents answered that there is no sport filed in the living area.

Table 16. Which of the followings is the most important in sport activities in which your child participate?

	f	%
Providing qualified and appropriate playing equipment	10	4,9
Well-educated trainers	137	66,5
Hygiene of the facility	15	7,3
The other child in the group	8	3,9
Security of the facility	36	17,5
TOTAL	206	100,0

Most of the parents answered that well-educated trainers are the most important when they chose the sport activities that their children participated in. This result shows that parents are aware of the importance of well-educated trainers in sport participation.

Table 17. How often gender discrimination should be done in pre-school age in sport activities?

	f	%
Always	17	8,3
Usually	20	9,7
Sometimes	35	17,0
Never	134	65,0
TOTAL	206	100,0

65% of parents answered that gender discrimination should never be done in pre-school age.

4. Conclusion

The aim of this study was to evaluate parents' views in directing children to volleyball. Results showed that parents had effective role in orientation of children to volleyball. It was found that parents had enough knowledge about developmental features of volleyball. Parents participated in the study showed that they also have knowledge about basic reasons to orientate their children to sport with volleyball.

Implementations such as checkup, talent selection, determination of the child's interest in sports and anthropometric characteristics of the family were found to be important for the parents. It was found that parents expected coaches to be diligent in developing children's skills, taken specialist education, diligent in updating knowledge of coaching, to love children, giving importance of relationship between parent, school and family. It was found that parents had enough knowledge about duties of both parents and teachers, or trainer.

Consequently, it can be said that parents orientating their children to volleyball are aware of developmental features of volleyball, and they also have knowledge that volleyball develops self-discipline, goal setting, self-esteem, self-confidence, team spirit and social interaction.

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