# Turkish Journal of Sport and Exercise /Türk Spor ve Egzersiz Dergisi

http://dergipark.gov.tr/tsed Year: 2020 - Volume: 22 - Issue: 3 - Pages: 444-451 DOI: 10.15314/tsed.701292



# Evaluation of The Factors Affecting Voluntary Participation in Sports Events in Turkey: Case of Vodafone 39th Istanbul Marathon

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(Received): 18/03/2020 / (Accepted):31.12.2020

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#### Abstract

The purpose of this article is to determine the factors that influence the motivations of the 39th Istanbul Marathon volunteers towards this event. This study was conducted on a total of 196 volunteers, 95 male and 101 female. Information about the participants was provided by Sport Events Volunteer Motivation Scale (SEVMS). For the statistical evaluation of the study, first factor analysis was conducted in order to determine whether the SEVMS provided a basic pattern of the scale and reliability analysis was conducted to determine whether it was measuring a holistic structure. Since Bartlett's test for sphericity Chi-square value was 2582.64 (p < 0.05) and Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value was 0.849 as a result of the reliability and factor analyses, it was concluded with factor analysis that the items could create patterns at high levels. According to the results of the study, it was found that in terms of the students' departments, there were statistically significant differences in purposive, solidary and external traditions sub-dimensions and volunteer motivation total scores in favour of sport students and graduates. Therefore, it should be ensured that the success of the organization is increased by providing the individuals who have received or who are receiving education in the field of sports to participate in sports events. In addition to this, efforts should be made so that the students who are studying in the field of sport can experience the subjects they study in school. Another important result of the study is that external traditions sub-dimension scores of volunteers who have low English level are higher when compared with volunteers who have moderate and high levels of English. This is because international sport events provide volunteers a chance to improve foreign language skills. In this regard, volunteers who have low foreign language levels should be appointed with foreign language-knowing volunteers and their expectations should be met and they should be given opportunities to become global citizens in the globalizing world.

Keywords: Volunteer, sports event, motivation

# INTRODUCTION

Today, it can be said that one of the most effective ways of physical, emotional and social development of people, facilitating group work, providing mutual solidarity and gaining membership of the society is the phenomenon of sports (9). Due to this feature, sport's reaching

masses necessitates an accord between the existing structure in the sport and social environment and this accord seems to be a natural way for the ability and preparation needed so that every person can adopt sports-related structures (22).

As it is understood, new and chancing values or today's lifestyle and practices affect sports-related

phenomena closely. Particularly, some elements such as personal development and independence have increased the orientation to individualization in sports. The change in the family structure, the increasing participation of women in the labor force, and the increase in urbanization and industrialization are significant factors that motivate participation in sports-related activities. Besides, other factors affecting participation in sports-related activities may be cultural values and results of political decisions (21).

Fundamentally, all factors affecting orientation to sports bring along an impact which serves sports' being understood and perceived as a social responsibility. Sport is a factor for a person to reach other people in a society. Also, people begin to aim at same goals and experience feeling of acting together through sport. Sport is also beneficial for

physical, mental and social development (20). Accordingly, within the concept of volunteerism, most people show efforts to support an attempt by using their knowledge, time, abilities, experiences and all sources they have without having financial expectations in order to increase the life quality of their immediate surroundings or people other than their family or to be of use to society in general (10, 26). Thus, a big part of human resources in big sport events consist of volunteers who receive short-term training (16). As can be seen in Table 1, the employment of volunteers are of great important in the sense of Olympic Games and the numbers of volunteers who work in Summer Olympic Games approximate hundreds of thousand people in particular.

Table 1: The number of Volunteers in Olympic Games by years (1,11,12,13,14,15,17,19,24).							
Summer Olympic Games	Number of Volunteers	Winter Olympic Games	Number of Volunteers				
Los Angeles 1984	28,742	Lake Placid 1980	6,703				
Seoul 1988	27,221	Sarajevo 1984	10,450				
Barcelona 1992	34,548	Calgary 1988	9,498				
Atlanta 1996	47,466	Albertville 1992	8,647				
Sydney 2000	46,967	Lillehammer 1994	9,054				
Athens 2004	45,000	Nagano 1998	32,000				
Beijing 2008	100,000 (30.000 Paralympics)	Salt Lake City 2002	22,000				
London 2012	70,000	Turin 2006	18,000				
Rio 2016	50.000	Vancouver 2010	22,773 (6,500 Paralympics)				
		Sochi 2014	25,000				
_		Pyeongchang 2018	22,400				

Today, sports events are one of important events which are growing up day by day with the impact they create on societies, markets and economics. Recent developments on communication and technology due to the impact sports events create on these fields enlarge sport events and provide creating new departments in itself. Because of these, volunteers are now accepted as an important part of sports services and sports management and they also support sport managers in many areas of events such as transportation, communication, promotion and food services etc. and they can take important tasks like professional in big events. Fulfilling personnel responsibilities no doubt requires volunteers to get regular and systematic training. Volunteers try to show their capacities and abilities by spending their time and energy for sports events to be free of

problems. Therefore, organization committees want to benefit from volunteers in maximum levels by determining their motivations, features, needs and expectations carefully (3) because satisfactions of those who participate in events (athletes, coaches, managers and spectators) are directly proportional to volunteers' needs and expectations being met (16). Likewise, the success of an event depends on those who have different features working with each other with team spirit. At this point, not ignoring volunteers who don't expect anything financial in return and who work in team spirit and knowing the factors which motivate volunteers to volunteer are very important in the success of big events (16).

Finding out social and psychological conditions which encourage volunteers to participate in events through determining potential volunteers' needs and expectations by analyzing volunteering

phenomenon in sports sociologically is the aim of the present study.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

This study was conducted on a total of 196 marathon volunteers, 95 males and 101 females, who participated in the 39th Vodafone İstanbul Marathon volunteer training in 2017.

In the study, "Special Event Volunteer Motivation Scale" (SEVMS), which was developed by Farrell et al. (7) and adapted into Turkish by Yıldız et al. (27) was used in addition to demographic questions. "Special Event Volunteer Motivation Scale" (SEVMS) is a 5-Likert type scale and the items in the scale are expressed as (1) not important at all, (2) somewhat important, (3) important, (4) very important and (5) extremely important. First of all, reliability analysis was conducted to find out whether SEVMS measured an

integrative structure for the existing data and factor analysis was conducted to find out whether the data met the basic pattern of the scale. Since Bartlet Sphericity test Chi-square value which showed that the correlation matrix of the items was not unit matrix as a result of reliability and factor analysis was 2582.64 (p<0.05) and Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value was 0.849, it was concluded with factor analysis that the items could form a high degree of pattern. When a four factor structure was formed, it was seen that 64.29% of the total information within the data, which statistically forms a significant part of the information, could be kept. Following all these results, items 16 and 18 were excluded from the analysis both due to their low factor loads and their tendency to pull down the reliability coefficient that showed the integrative structure obtained.

Cronbach 🏿 Values	Items	Factor Loads	
	M19. I wanted to help make the event as success	0,771	
Purposive sub-dimension	M20. I wanted to help out in any capacity	0,763	
M9-M13-M14-M19-M20-M21	M14. I wanted to put something back in the community	0,736	
$\alpha = 0.879$	M13. I wanted to do something worthwhile		
	M21. I wanted to feel part of this community	0,717	
	M9. Volunteering creates a better society	0,596	
	M7. Volunteering at this tournament makes me feel better about myself	0,793	
External traditions sub-dimension	M1. It was a chance of a lifetime	0,758	
M1-M2-M5-M6-M7	M5. I wanted to broaden my horizons	0,752	
$\alpha = 0.872$	M6. Being a volunteer with this tournament is considered prestigious	0,750	
a = 0.872	M2. My skills were needed	0,683	
Solidary sub-dimension	M3. I wanted to interact with others	0,787	
M3-M4-M11-M12	M11. I wanted to develop relationship with others	0,785	
$\alpha = 0.869$	M4. I wanted to gain some practical experience	0,704	
	M12. I wanted to work with different people	0,674	
Commitments sub-dimension	M15. A relative/friend is involved in this event	0,727	
M8-M10-M15-M17-M22	M8. Most people in my community volunteer	0,726	
$\alpha = 0.772$	M17. I wanted to continue a family tradition of volunteering	0,719	
	M10. I am expected to volunteer	0,542	
General $\alpha = 0.892$			

Since total score and sub-dimension scores of SEMVS were not distributed normally according to Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (p<0.05), all analyses were conducted by using non-parametrical methods. In the assessment of demographic variables, whether the groups were statistically different from each other was shown with one way univariate non-parametric variance analysis Kruskal-Wallis Test for the comparison of more than two independent groups and Mann-Whitney U Test in the comparison of two independent groups. SPSS 22.0

(Statistical Packages of Social Sciences) software was preferred for statistical analyses.

#### **RESULT**

GENDER		N	Average	Standard deviation	Standard error	Median	P-value
D . T . 1C	male	95	27,2316	3,26312	0,33479	28	
Purposive Total Score	female	101	26,6040	4,21445	0,41935	28	0,572
Solidary Total Score	male	95	17,4526	2,62057	0,26887	18	
	female	101	16,1782	3,30876	0,32923	16	0,005*
Commitment Total Score	male	95	15,0000	5,13644	0,52699	18	
	female	101	14,7327	5,36077	0,53342	18	0,746
Extample traditions Total Cooks	male	95	18,2526	4,24507	0,43553	24	
External traditions Total Score	female	101	17,8020	4,07926	0,40590	22	0,497
Volunteer Motivation Total	male	95	77,9368	11,31823	1,16123	87	•
Score	female	101	75,3168	12,97300	1,29086	85	0,182

In terms of solidary sub-dimension, there is a statistically significant difference between male and female volunteers (p<0.05). Male volunteers have higher scores than female volunteers. No difference was found in other dimensions.

Table 4. Sub-dimension scores of the volunteers in the study in terms of their departments									
DEPARTMENT		N	Average	Standard dev	iation Standard error	Medi	an P-value		
D T-1-1 C	Physical education and sport	95	27,4526	3,40765	0,34962	29			
Purposive Total Score	Other	101	26,3960	4,06221	0,40421	28	0,024*		
Solidary Total Score	Physical education and sport	95	17,4316	2,79305	0,28656	18			
	Other	101	16,1980	3,18126	0,31655	17	0,004*		
Commitment Total	Physical education and sport	95	15,3895	5,30214	0,54399	18			
Score	Other	101	14,3663	5,16086	0,51352	18	0,193		
External traditions	Physical education and sport	95	18,9579	3,82020	0,39194	24			
Total Score	Other	101	17,1386	4,28259	0,42613	22	0,003*		
Volunteer Motivation	Physical education and sport	95	79,2316	11,12162	1,14105	86			
Total Score	Other	101	74,0990	12,76362	1,27003	85	0,011*		

In terms of the department participants graduated from/will graduate from, statistically significant difference was found in terms of purposive, solidary, external traditions scores and volunteer motivation total score (p\*<0.05). The scores of physical education and sports department students/graduates were found to be higher than those of students/graduates of other departments.

		N	Average	Standard deviation	Standard error	Median	P-value
	15-24 years	168	26,8631	3,80973	,29393	28	
. T. 10	25-34 years	21	26,8095	4,02019	,87728	28	_
sive Total Score	35-45 years	7	28,2857	2,42997	,91844	29	<del>-</del> 0,765
-	Total	196	26,9082	3,78685	,27049		_
	15-24 years	168	16,8869	2,96370	,22865	17	
T-1-1 C	25-34 years	21	15,3810	3,57038	,77912	16	0.021
ry Total Score	35-45 years	7	18,8571	2,03540	,76931	20	<del>-</del> 0,021
	Total	196	16,7959	3,05491	,21821		_
	15-24 years	168	14,9762	5,16895	,39879	18	0.102
::tt-Tt-1 C	25-34 years	21	13,1905	5,70630	1,24522	17	
nitment Total Score	35-45 years	7	17,1429	4,94734	1,86992	20	<del>-</del> 0,192
-	Total	196	14,8622	5,24149	,37439		<u> </u>
	15-24 years	168	18,0536	4,08775	,31538	23	
al traditions Total Score	25-34 years	21	17,0476	4,73789	1,03389	21	
iai traditions Total Score	35-45 years	7	20,1429	3,57904	1,35275	25	<del>-</del> 0,238
-	Total	196	18,0204	4,15588	,29685		<del>_</del>
	15-24 years	168	76,7798	12,09267	,93297	85.5	
teer Motivation Total	25-34 years	21	72,4286	12,83188	2,80015	82	<del>-</del> 0,048
3	35-45 years	7	84,4286	10,75263	4,06411	94	
-	Total	196	76,5867	12,23855	,87418		_
	Total	196	76,5867	12,23855	,87418	_	

Statistically significant difference was found between age groups in terms of solidary sub-dimension and volunteer motivation total score (p<0.05). The scores of 34-45 age group were found to be higher than the scores of other groups. No difference was found in other dimensions.

MONTHLY INCOME		N	Average	Standard deviation	Standard error	Median	P-value
	Less than 1000 TL	154	27,1039	3,54093	,28534	28	
	1001-2000 TL	24	25,5833	5,38853	1,09993	28.50	
Purposive total score	2001-4000 TL	11	27,6364	2,57964	,77779	28	0,669
	More than 4001 TL	7	26,0000	3,74166	1,41421	27	
	Total	196	26,9082	3,78685	,27049		
	Less than 1000 TL	154	16,9481	2,99628	,24145	17.50	
	1001-2000 TL	24	16,0833	3,33514	,68078	17	
Solidary total score	2001-4000 TL	11	17,5455	3,01210	,90818	19	0,108
,	More than 4001 TL	7	14,7143	2,81154	1,06266	14	
	Total	196	16,7959	3,05491	,21821		
	Less than 1000 TL	154	14,8052	5,10552	,41141	18	
	1001-2000 TL	24	14,0417	6,33472	1,29307	18.50	
Commitment total score	2001-4000 TL	11	16,5455	3,98406	1,20124	21	0,490
	More than 4001 TL	7	16,2857	6,12955	2,31675	23	
	Total	196	14,8622	5,24149	,37439		
	Less than 1000 TL	154	18,2532	3,91338	,31535	23	
	1001-2000 TL	24	16,7500	5,49506	1,12167	22.50	
External traditions total score	2001-4000 TL	11	19,7273	2,83164	,85377	25	0,023
	More than 4001 TL	7	14,5714	3,82349	1,44514	21	
	Total	196	18,0204	4,15588	,29685		
	Less than 1000 TL	154	77,1104	11,45469	,92305	85	
	1001-2000 TL	24	72,4583	16,82643	3,43468	87	
Volunteer motivation total	2001-4000 TL	11	81,4545	7,47481	2,25374	88	0,246
score	More than 4001 TL	7	71,5714	13,98639	5,28636	80	
	Total	196	76,5867	12,23855	,87418		,

While there were no statistically significant differences in purposive and solidary sub-dimension scores and volunteer motivation total scores in terms of monthly income variable (p>0.05), a significant difference was found in favour of individuals with a monthly income of 2001-4000 TL in terms of personal interest dimension (p<0.05).

Level of English		N	Average	Standard deviation	Standard error	Median	P-value
	High	20	24,3500	5,41222	1,21021	25.50	
Purposive total score	Moderate	77	27,0390	3,38122	,38533	28	0.070
	Low	99	27,3232	3,53071	,35485	29	- 0,078
	Total	196	26,9082	3,78685	,27049		_
	High	20	15,6000	3,23468	,72330	16	
C-1: d t-t-1	Moderate	77	16,7403	2,76445	,31504	17	- - 0,099 -
Solidary total score	Low	99	17,0808	3,19973	,32159	18	
	Total	196	16,7959	3,05491	,21821		
	High	20	14,5000	6,05675	1,35433	18.50	- - 0,851
6 4 4 4 4	Moderate	77	14,6623	4,42068	,50378	18	
Commitment total score	Low	99	15,0909	5,68222	,57108	18	
	Total	196	14,8622	5,24149	,37439		_
	High	20	15,1500	4,88041	1,09129	19.50	
F . 1. 12	Moderate	77	18,1299	3,93818	,44880	23	0.000*
External traditions total score	Low	99	18,5152	3,97277	,39928	23	- 0,009*
	Total	196	18,0204	4,15588	,29685		_
	High	20	69,6000	16,46815	3,68239	78.5	
Volunteer motivation total	Moderate	77	76,5714	10,42824	1,18841	85	0.053
score	Low	99	78,0101	12,21115	1,22727	86	- 0,072 -
	Total	196	76,5867	12,23855	,87418		

In terms of level of English, statistically significant difference was found in external traditions sub-dimension scores (p<0.05). Participants with low level of English were found to have higher external traditions scores. Since no

statistically significant differences were found in purposive, solidary, external traditions subdimensions and volunteer motivation total scores in terms of the state of being a member of a Civil Society Organization (CSO), the state of the city of residence and the state of occupation (p>0.05), it can be said that these variables do not affect volunteer participation in sport activities (p>0.05).

#### **DISCUSSION**

As a result of the statistical analyses in the study, it was found that women volunteered in sports organizations more than men. Although it was found that more man volunteers participated in sports events than women in studies of Koşan and Güneş (7), Downward et al.(6) and Yıldız (28); it was found that more women volunteers participated in sports events in the studies of Berber (4), Atçı et al.(2), Fişne (8). Since the interest and popularity of sports branches can differ according to gender in the country and the city in which an event is organized, the state of gender can also differ in volunteer participation in an event.

According to solidary sub-dimension, there is a statistically significant difference between women and men and the scores of men are higher than the scores of women. According to the results of the study, aim of social interaction and having group identity in men provided more motivation to volunteer. This result is different from data in the study of Yıldız (28). Atçı et al. (2) showed that there was no significant result in terms of female volunteers in the results of the interpersonal relations sub-dimension which we can evaluate with the solidarity sub-dimension. In societies that male hegemony is dominant, boys are brought up more freely than girls. This situation causes men to adapt to social life quicker, to be more active in getting in social interaction and to get a group identity easier. When it is considered that men who are brought up freely are appreciated since childhood even when they misbehave causes them to believe that they can succeed in every situation by being appreciated and that they consider this appreciation as success, it can be said that the wish to be appreciated motivates men to volunteer in a sport event with the aim of interacting socially and gaining a group identity. Thus, we can say that as a result of the wish to be appreciated, men have more motivation to volunteer in sport events than women with the aim of social interaction and gaining a group identity.

35-45 age group, which is the oldest age group of volunteers in 39th Vodafone İstanbul marathon, has more motivation to volunteer with the aim of social interaction and gaining a group identity when compared with other groups. Considering that this age group is more used to group work due to both their life experiences and professional experiences Turkish Journal of Sport and Exercise / Türk Spor ve Egzersiz Dergisi 2020: 22(3): 444-451 © 2020 Faculty of Sport Sciences. Selcuk University

with the need to be with others to get away from loneliness, the result that they fulfil team solidarity more than other age groups is an acceptable result. This result is similar to Fişne (8)'s result that with increasing age extroversion, accommodativeness and openness to experience also increase.

In terms of monthly income, external traditions total scores of volunteers who have a monthly income of 2001-4000 TL are higher. There are also students in this income group. The reason for such a result is thought to be the fact that volunteering is seen as a recreation activity. Through volunteering, individuals can break away from their routine, refresh themselves and get away from stress.

In terms of the students' departments, there statistically significant differences purposive, solidary and external traditions subdimensions and volunteer motivation total scores in favour of physical education and sport students and graduates. The fact that the event is a sports event undoubtedly attracts the attention of physical education and sports students / graduates. For physical education and sports students / graduates, sports events mean as a practical training. Thanks to the sport event, they have the opportunity to follow event organization closely in terms management functions. Also physical education and sports students / graduates have an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and gain new experiences for having different occupational ability and implement them since there are many different units (media, communication, accreditation, tasks in sports areas, information technologies etc.) in sports events.

External traditions scores of volunteers who had low level on foreign language were higher. Especially in international sports organizations, there are many units where volunteers can work according to their abilities and interests. Due to the possibility of working in many different units and the fact that the event is international, English is used as the communication language. This situation causes volunteers who have low foreign language level to have more interest to volunteer because volunteers both work in different departments according to their abilities and interests and they have an opportunity to improve their English skills. This situation transforms individuals into a global citizen who knows the language in a globalized world where borders have disappeared and the interaction with technological developments is spreading and increasing, making them strong actors that influence the other side in cultural,

political and sporting ways through international communication and interaction. As a result, it is concluded that volunteers see sports events as a career personal development opportunity based on some authors emphasizing that volunteering is related to career and personal development opportunities (23) and that this is perceived as an investment for volunteers (25).

Volunteerism, which is closely related to civil society, is therefore mostly addressed by NGOs today (5); however, the state of being a member of an NGO does not affect volunteering in this study. In Palaz and Boz's (18) study, no difference was found between subjects who were members of voluntary organizations and those who were not in terms of motivations for volunteering. According to the results of the study, the city volunteers live in, employment status and education level do not affect participating voluntarily in sports activities.

Based on the results of this study, which was conducted on Turkish sport volunteers, the following can be recommended for sport managers, researchers and educators:

As studies on volunteerism may differ according to the interest in the branch of sport and the characteristics of the sport branch, it is thought that there may be significant differences in voluntary participation in some sport branches according to gender. It is estimated that there may be more male or more female volunteer participation in some branches of sports. Therefore, studies on volunteering in sports should be diversified and increased according to the branches of sport.

Feminist approaches should be used to ensure that both male and female volunteers work together and as equally as possible and have equal rights.

A more social environment should be created by including different occupational groups without preventing students studying in the field of sports from participation. Thus, interaction between occupations and individuals should be increased and personal development should be supported by creating working environments which volunteers from different groups to share their skills and volunteers to develop their communication skills. Trainings, seminars and conferences should be given at the educational levels on the subject of volunteering and the benefits of volunteering to the individual and society should be explained and the culture of volunteering should be instilled. In this way, it is thought that a great contribution will be made to the formation of sports culture. It is Turkish Journal of Sport and Exercise / Türk Spor ve Egzersiz Dergisi 2020; 22(3): 444-451 © 2020 Faculty of Sport Sciences, Selcuk University

estimated that these trainings will be the most important step of raising a generation with sports culture. In addition to this, it should be ensured that the participation of other occupational groups in volunteer activities in sports besides the students should be increased and the sports culture should be transferred to the whole nation. The spread of sports culture to the nation will increase the interest in sports. In this way, the participation of individuals in sporting activities and sports organizations will increase and the sport sector will be revitalized due to people who show a tendency to sporting goods, services and products.

For successful volunteer management, sports volunteers should be given pre-event trainings and mutual expectations should be conveyed and communication problems that may occur should be prevented. In addition, information about the event should be provided for the success of the event.

The impact of NGO membership on volunteering and volunteer motivation should be supported by qualitative research.

Sports organizations should ensure that university students and sports high school students are involved in sports events and efforts should be made to enable them to experience the subjects they are studying at school on site.

Expectations should be met by assigning individuals who want to improve their foreign language in international sports organizations with volunteers who know a foreign language.

Special activities for sport volunteers according to their age and occupation groups and also student groups should be organized and volunteers should be both merged and motivated to events.

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