

A study on soccer coaches' anxiety, problem solving, social self-sufficiency, and social proficiency expectations

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the state anxiety, trait anxiety, problem solving skills, social self-sufficiency skills, and social proficiency expectations of coaches participating in the "Giresun Soccer Coaches Improvement Program", which is a program organized in collaboration between the Giresun Province Branch of Soccer Coaches Association (TÜFAD) and Giresun University's Faculty of Education Physical Education and Sports. The study group includes 65 coaches all of whom are members of the Soccer Coaches Association (TÜFAD) in the province of Giresun. Over a four-moth period, the coaches were given training twice a month in sports psychology, athlete health, choice of talent, and sports injury, as well as various subjects within education. The State and Trait Anxiety Inventory, Problem Solving Inventory, Social Self-Sufficiency Scale, and Social Proficiency Expectation Scale were used for the purpose of data collection. Data analysis conducted by computer using IBM SPSS Statistics 17.00. Upon completion of the study, it was established that coaches experienced a significant increase in their state and trait anxiety levels, problem solving skills, social self-sufficiency, and social proficiency expectations. This study important in that it pioneers research in this field, opening the door to further more detailed studies on this subject.

Keywords: Problem solving, social proficiency, anxiety, social self sufficiency, education, sports

INTRODUCTION

Human beings are social creatures. They carry on with their lives by occupying different positions within a given society, and through assuming different roles (Dönmez, 2010). Nowadays, it seems that people have difficulty in recognizing and understanding both themselves as well as others. Ensuring that individuals get to know and perceive themselves and others in a correct manner, and thereby realizing their own potential, adapting to the society efficiently, and being happy over the course of this journey is regarded as one of the fundamental goals of contemporary societies. This is because individuals are socially adapted to society, and are able to develop social attitudes alongside gain satisfaction from their behaviors. It is possible for us to get along well with other people, and therefore lead happier and fulfilling lives in so far as how we perceive ourselves and others (Kat, 2009).

Sports scientists go to great lengths in order to improve sportive performance. They are constantly on the lookout for new training principles and ways to improve the performance levels of their players. Self-sufficiency is influential over academic motivation, learning, and overall success (Schunk ve Pajares, 2001). Self sufficiency is about people's individual judgments as to how well they could manage to do what is necessary in order to deal with all possible situations (Bandura, 1982). According to Haycock et. al (1998), the existence of a sufficient level of motivation and skills will help individuals to start working and maintaining a given task by revealing their self-sufficiency (Aydoğan and Özbay, 2012). The level of anxiety occupies a significant place in education.

Anxiety is a state whereby stimuli that would otherwise induce no sense of fear under normal circumstances triggers a set of reactions (Tavacıoğlu, 1999). This is further divided into two categories: state anxiety and trait anxiety. Trait anxiety is the tendency of an individual to have longerterm and more severe anxiety. It could also be described as the individual's tendency to perceive and interpret nearly every situation he encounters as being stressful. It could also described as a sense of unhappiness and discontent induced upon the individual as a result of perceiving objectively neutral situations as being potentially dangerous and self threatening. Individuals with a high level of trait anxiety experience state anxiety more frequently and intensely than others (Öner, 1996). State anxiety is a sense of subjective fear experienced by an individual due to the stressful circumstances that he/she finds him/herself in. Such anxiety is usually dependent on temporary situations that every individual usually experiences. The severity of the state anxiety as well as the degree of perceived threat is associated with the permanence of the individual's interpretation of the dangerous situation in question. State anxiety passes once the situation triggering the said tension and anxiety within the individual vanishes. State anxiety increases in times of extreme stress; whilst it decreases when such stress disappears Individuals who are adept at coping with their anxiety levels will generally also deal with any issue and problem they encounters with relative ease.

Problem solving is the level of attainment of the rules that leads a person to the solution, and incorporating those rules in such that they can be used to solve problems (Bilen, 1999). Saygili (2000) has divided the factors instrumental in problem solving into two groups. The first of these two groups includes individual factors. Individual factors include intelligence, motivation, level of readiness, and functionality. The second group on the other hand includes social factors. Social factors include socio-economic and socio-cultural levels, an individual's social development, parental attitude, and individual's level of education. In order for a person to achieve success, he has to recognize himself as being better.

According to Korkmaz (2009) proficiency expectation is being aware of oneself. The individual makes a comparison between his own capacity and the performance he is expected to deliver and acts accordingly. Proficiency expectation the self- reliance on the part of the individual in terms of how successful they will be in the face of the challenges they encounter. Short proficiency expectation is being aware of one's own capabilities. What makes this study thus important is the fact that it will be a pioneering study in this field, in that it involves determining the state and trait anxiety levels, problem solving skills, social self sufficiency skills, and social proficiency expectations of Giresun soccer choaches, and will thus lead the way for future studies to be conducted on this subject.

METHODS

As a result of the literature review, it has been established that no training program is currently being pursued that covers the issues such as training intended for soccer coaches, the diets of athletes', sports injuries, talent selection, or sports psychology. In using such deficiencies as a starting reference point, this study has been conducted for the purpose of nurturing coaches who have improved themselves in terms of socialization, culture, and well-being. The data analysis of this experimental study was done on computer using the IBM SPSS Statistics 17.00 computer program. Data was collected over two sessions. Prior to distributing the surveys, the rules and regulations for filling out the survey was read by the researcher, and it was made clear that participation was to be voluntary. Moreover, as part of the confidentiality clause, it was ensured that the personal participants was to be used, and thus was not collected.

Study Group

This study aims to examine the state anxiety, trait anxiety levels, problem solving skills, social self sufficiency skills, and social proficiency expectations of the coaches participating in the "Giresun Soccer Coaches Improvement Program" organized in collaboration between the Giresun Province Branch of Turkish Soccer Coaches Association (TÜFAD) and Giresun University's Faculty of Education Physical Education and Sports. The study was conducted involving 65 soccer coaches. In this respect, a study program consisting of 8 subjects was implemented twice a month over a four month period. Candidates were asked to fill out surveys before and after the study program on the survey focused on the relationship between the coaches' levels of education (18 primary school, 32 secondary school, and 15 university graduates), the number of years of experience in coaching (16 people with 0-5 years, 19 people with 6-10 years, 19 people with 1115 years, and 11 people with 16 plus years of experience), and at what level they coached (29 upper level and 36 lower level coaches).

Module	Contents	Objectives	Method and Procedure	Duration
Training management and learning motivation	 A general description of training A general description of management and learning Description of Motivation Place and importance of motivation in sports 	 Improving a coach's management and teaching quality Emphasizing the importance of motivation in management and learning 	 PowerPoint presentation Face to Face lecturing Q&A Method 	2*45=90'
Talent selection in sports	 Athlete scouting and recognition methods Criteria to be taken into consideration during talent selection 	- Teaching the ways to find talented players	- PowerPoint presentation - Face to Face lecturing - Q&A Method	2*45=90'
General nourishment and diet of athletes	Regular nourishment and healthAthletes' diets	- Raising healthy and strong athletes	- PowerPoint - Face-to-face lecturing - Q&A Method	2*45=90'
Sports Injuries and First Aid	 Protection against on the pitch injuries Protection against off the pitch injuries First aid for injuries and wounding General first aid issues 	- Improving upon first aid knowledge in on the pitch and off the pitch injuries and wounding	 Q&A Method PowerPoint presentation Face to-face lecturing Q&A Method 	2*45=90'
A current look at amateur and professional Soccer	 Ocieral instance issues Nice and bad examples in today's soccer Presenting examples of successful athletes Analyzing sports in developed countries 	- Improving general soccer culture	- PowerPoint presentation - Faceto-face lecturing - Q&A Method	2*45=90'
Relationship among coaches, athletes and spectators	 Ways in which to improve the quality of communication between the coach and the athlete Methods for identifying the athletes' relationship with 	- Ensuring the establishment of sound communication between the coach, athletes and spectators	 PowerPoint presentation Faceto-face lecturing Q&A Method 	2*45=90'
Self disclosure	spectators - Importance of coach's ability to express herself to the athletes	- Raising coaches who are able to express themselves clearly to the society, athletes and executives	- PowerPoint presentation - Face to-face lecturing	2*45=90'
Emotion Management	- Management of emotions expressed by coach in the event of defeat or win	- Raising coaches successfully dealing with emotion management	- Q&A Method - PowerPoint Presentation - Face-to-face lecturing - Q&A Method	2*45=90'

Table 1. Study program

Data Collection

State and Trait Anxiety Inventory (STCAI) was localized into Turkish by Le Compte and Öner (1976). Öner (1977) conducted the reliability and validity studies of the scales (Özgüven, 1998). It was determined that reliability was between 0.83 and 0.87 for the "Trait Anxiety Scale"; whilst it was between 0.94 and 0.96 for the "State Anxiety Scale". There are ten inverse expressions on the state anxiety scale, and are listed as being 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, and 20. There are seven inverse expressions on the trait anxiety scale and are listed as being 21, 26, 27, 30, 33, 36 and 39. For scoring, the total weighted score of inverse expressions are deducted from the total weighted score of the direct expressions. The total score varies between 20 and 80. Higher scores demonstrate a higher level of anxiety, whereas lower scores demonstrate a lower level of anxiety (Öner and Le Compte, 1985). The original version of problem solving skills scale was developed by Heppner and Petersen, and localized into Turkish by Sahin and Heppner in 1993. Depending on the answers given, scores are thus awarded on a scale of between 1 and 6. In scoring, the items 9, 22 and 29 are kept out of the scoring. Scoring is done based on 32 items. These items include 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 25, 26, 30 and 34, and are scored inversely. The internal consistency (Cronbach Alfa) reliability coefficient was found to be 0.88 (Dönmez, 2010). The original version of social self-sufficiency scale was developed by Smith-Betz (2000), and was later adapted into Turkish by Palancı (2002). The degree of social self sufficiency perception is determined as per higher points scored from the Liker type scale, which ranges from "I can not feel secure at all under these circumstances" to "I feel totally safe, and sits within a spectrum of 1 to 5. The reliability coefficient of the study conducted by Palanci was found as .89 through internal consistency (Cronbach Alfa) method (Dönmez, 2010). The Social Proficiency Expectation Scale was developed by Bilgin in 1999. The internal consistency coefficient for the Social Proficiency Expectation Scale Adolescent Form was found to be 0.93 by using Cronbach Alpha equation. The reliability coefficient of the scale found by going halfway through the test was identified as being 0.86. The total item score correlations of the scale was calculated, and it was established that the articles presented varying degrees of correlations ranging from 0.43 to 0.56 (Bilgin, 1999).

RESULTS

Table 2. t- Test results of the state anxiety (SA) pre-test and post-test average scores						
SA	Ν	Х	S	sd	t	р
Pretest	65	48.98	8.56	64	-9.50	$.000^{*}$
Posttest	65	52.82	8.29			

P<0.05

It was established that there was a significant increase in coaches' state anxiety levels following the
group study (t_{64} = -9.50, p<.01). While the coaches' pre-study state anxiety score average was X =
48.98, at the end of study it was found to be $X = 52$. Such a finding reveals that the practice of the
group study has plays an important role in increasing athletes' level of state anxiety.

CA	Ν	Х	S	sd	t	р
Pretest	65	48.22	6.36	64	-15.87	$.000^{*}$
Posttest	65	54.91	6.17			

Table 3. t- Test results of the trait anxiety (CA) pre-test and post-test average scores

P<0.05

It was established that there was a significant increase in coaches' trait anxiety levels following the group study (t_{64} = -15.87, p<.01). While the coaches' pre-study trait anxiety score average was X = 48.22, at the end of the group study it had increased to X = 54.91. Such a finding goes to show that the practice of group study has a significant impact upon athletes in terms of its raising their trait anxiety levels.

PS	Ν	Х	S	sd	t	р
Pretest	65	97.18	22.49	64	-14.75	$.000^{*}$
Posttest	65	102.62	23.19			

Table 4. t- Test results of the problem solving (ps) pre-test and post-test average scores

*P<0.05

It was established that there was a significant increase in coaches' problem solving abilities following the group study (t_{64} = -14.75, p<.01). Their pre-study problem solving score average was X = 97.18, whilst their post-study score had increased slightly to X = 102.62. Such a finding shows us that the practice of group study has a significant impact in terms of increasing athletes' problem solving skills.

Table 5. t- Test results of the social self sufficiency (sss) pretest and post-test average scores

SSS	Ν	Х	S	sd	t	р
Pretest	65	74.45	26.84	64	-9.94	$.000^{*}$
Posttest	65	77.62	26.41			
*P<0.05						

It was established that there was a significant increase in coaches' social self-sufficiency levels following the group study (t_{64} = -9.94, p<.01). Before the study, social self-sufficiency score average was X = 74.45. Following the study, it was X = 77.62. This appears to indicate that practice of group study positively impacts athletes' sense of social self-sufficiency.

Table 6. t- Test results of the social proficiency (sp) pre-test and post-test average scores

SP	Ν	Х	S	sd	t	р
Pretest	65	86.66	25.46	64	-3.75	$.000^{*}$
Posttest	65	90.43	21.54			

*P<0.05

Here too it was established that there was a significant increase in coaches' social proficiency levels following the group study (t_{64} = -3.75, p<.01). The pre-study social proficiency score average was X = 86.66. The post-study score had increased to X = 90.43. This finding reveals that show that the practice of group study appears to increase athletes' level of social proficiency.

DISCUSSION

It was established that there was a significant increase in coaches' state anxiety levels following the group study. Such a finding shows that that the practice of group study increases coaches' state anxiety levels. It is believed that when coaches receive planned and informed training, their perspective on games, life, and events change, and their state anxiety increases accordingly. Çelik's (2010) study seems to support such this finding. Çelik had compared the pre-match state anxiety scores of both male and female athletes to one another, and had found that, the state anxiety scores of the male subjects were lower than those of the female subjects. When the test results were examined, it was established that there was a statistically significant difference between the state anxiety scores of the male and female subjects. The studies conducted by Dönmez (2002), Bedir (2008), Başaran (2008),

and Atasoy (2012) also support the findings of this study. Amen's study (2008), however, does not support this study's finding.

It was found that there was a significant increase in coaches' trait anxiety levels following the group study. This finding points out that the practice of group study has a significant effect in increasing coaches' overall trait anxiety. The results of the studies conducted by Engür (2002), Bilge and Pektaş (2004), Civan (2001), Yücel (2003), Erbaş (2005) seem to support the findings of our study. The findings presented in the studies conducted by Aktaş (2009), Dişçi et. al. (1989), Akgün, Gönen and Aydın (2007), Karahan and Eplikoç (2007), Karaman (2009), Develi (2006), Ekşi (2006) and Tekkoyun (2008) are, to the contrary, not consistent with those of our study.

This study also determined that there was a significant increase in coaches' problem solving skills following the group study. The correlation seen here is that that the practice of group study increases coaches' problem solving skills. A study conducted by Akpınar (2010) seems to support the finding of this study which established that the personnel participating in the study had had mid-level problem solving skills as based on the total scores. The studies conducted by Çağlayan (2007), D'Zurilla et. al. (2003), Hackney (2010), Kat (2009), Türkçapar (2007), Canan and Ataoğlu (2010), and Kiremitçi and Doğan (2010) appear to support the findings of this study. The studies conducted by Ferah (2000), Kiremitci (2012), Gökbüzoğlu (2008), Polat (2008), Kesgin (2006) and Çağlayan (2007), do not support the findings of this study.

A significant increase in coaches' social self sufficiency following the group study was revealed by this study, indicating that that the practice of group study has a positive effect in terms of increasing coaches' social self sufficiency. The studies conducted by Çubukçu and Girmen (2007), Dönmez (2010) and Aydıner (2011) support the findings of this study. The studies conducted by McKenzie (1999), İkiz and Yörük (2013) appear not to, support our findings.

Once more it was recognized that there was a noteworthy increase in coaches' social proficiency following the group study, proving that practicing group study has a positive impact on raising coaches' overall level of social proficiency. In one study involving 277 university students, Rovniak and others (2002) had examined the relationship between physical activity and social support, proficiency expectation, result expectation, and self-regulation capacity. The results of their research had established that the proficiency expectation was the most effective variable in relation to a given physical activity. The studies conducted by Öztürk and Şahin (2007), Matsushima and Shiomi (2003), Efe (2007), Bilgin (1997), Çelikkaleli (2004), Akkapulu (2005), Payne and Jahoda (2004), Kashdan and Roberts (2004), Torres and Solberg (2001), Murris (2002), Bezjak and Lee (1990), and Dekovic and Meeus (1997) support the findings of this study on this specific aspect. The studies conducted by Connly (1989), Innes and Thomas (1989), Firincioğlu (2005), Karahan and others (2006), Çakıcı, (2010) and İşleroğlu (2012), do not, on the other hand, support these findings.

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