

EXAMINATION OF SATISFACTION LEVELS OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED ATHLETES

EXAME DOS NÍVEIS DE SATISFAÇÃO DE ATLETAS COM DEFICIÊNCIA VISUAL

EXAMEN DE LOS NIVELES DE SATISFACCIÓN DE ATLETAS CON DISCAPACIDADES VISUALES

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ABSTRACT: This study was conducted to determine the effect of demographics on athlete satisfaction of visually impaired athletes. The visually impaired clubs had a total of 108 visually impaired athletes, including 43 men and 65 women, consisting of different visually impaired athletes. The basis of volunteerism was taken into consideration in the participation. Athlete satisfaction of visually impaired athletes was analyzed according to gender, disability status, Sports branches, how long they played sports, year of working with the coach and their degree of vision. The ‘athlete satisfaction scale’ developed by Türksoy (2008) was used as a data collection tool in the research. Results show that there is no significant difference in athlete satisfaction of visually impaired individuals ($p > 0.05$) according to gender, disability status, how many years they have played sports, the year they work with the coach and the sport branch ($p < 0.05$).

KEYWORDS: Visually impaired. Visually impaired athlete. Athlete satisfaction.

RESUMO: Este estudo foi conduzido para determinar o efeito dos dados demográficos na satisfação de atletas com deficiência visual. Os clubes de deficientes visuais contavam com um total de 108 atletas com deficiência visual, 43 homens e 65 mulheres, sendo diferentes atletas com deficiência visual. A base do voluntariado foi levada em consideração na participação. A satisfação dos atletas com deficiência visual foi analisada de acordo com o sexo, estado de deficiência, ramos desportivos, tempo de prática desportiva, ano de trabalho com o treinador e grau de visão. A ‘escala de satisfação do atleta’ desenvolvida por Türksoy (2008) foi utilizada como ferramenta de coleta de dados na pesquisa. Os resultados mostram que não há diferença significativa na satisfação do atleta dos deficientes visuais ($p > 0,05$) de acordo com o sexo, estado de deficiência, há quantos anos pratica esportes, o ano em que trabalha com o técnico e o ramo esportivo ($p < 0,05$).

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Deficiência visual. Atleta com deficiência visual. Satisfação do atleta.

RESUMEN: Este estudio se realizó para determinar el efecto de la demografía sobre la satisfacción de los atletas con discapacidad visual. Los clubes con discapacidad visual tenían un total de 108 atletas con discapacidad visual, incluidos 43 hombres y 65 mujeres, compuestos por diferentes atletas con discapacidad visual. En la participación se tuvo en

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cuenta la base del voluntariado. La satisfacción del deportista de los deportistas con discapacidad visual se analizó según el sexo, el estado de discapacidad, las ramas deportivas, el tiempo que practican deportes, el año de trabajo con el entrenador y su grado de visión. La "escala de satisfacción del atleta" desarrollada por Türksoy (2008) se utilizó como herramienta de recopilación de datos en la investigación. Los resultados muestran que no existe diferencia significativa en la satisfacción del deportista de las personas con discapacidad visual ($p > 0,05$) según sexo, estado de discapacidad, cuántos años han practicado deporte, año de trabajo con el entrenador y rama deportiva ($p < 0,05$).

PALABRAS CLAVE: Discapacidad visual. Atleta con discapacidad visual. Satisfacción del atleta.

Introduction

The word "satisfaction" has been appeared in English language during the thirteenth century for the first time and it was derived from the Latin word "satis" which means "enough". There are two basic principles in the interpretation of the concept of "satisfaction". The first of these principles sees satisfaction as a process, and the second sees it as a response.

When looking at satisfaction as a process, it is focused on the underlying factors rather than the satisfaction itself. And when looking at satisfaction as a response, satisfaction is seen as meeting the expectations (NAKTIYOK, 2002). Gellerman (1970) defined the term satisfaction as "a concept that cannot be directly observed by another person but used to describe pleasure or inner peace that can only be described and expressed by the individual concerned". According to Cribbin (1972), satisfaction is an emotional concept rather than being mental. The factor satisfaction is such an element that it is not possible for an individual to feel better without the mediation of this element. Stein and Ravizza (1989) defined satisfaction in sports as reactions influencing positively the emotions and/or perceptions reflected by sports experience such as having fun, loving, and being satisfied (ÖZDEVECIOĞLU; YALÇIN, 2010). Sport is a phenomenon that is frequently used in education and therapy for disabled people to adapt them to society. This phenomenon enables the disabled person to reach the desired standards. By enabling disabled individuals to come together with healthy individuals, sports also fulfill an extremely important function regarding the integration aimed to be achieved in special education. Sport is beneficial to live a healthy and happy life and is important for all people; however, sport has a different importance for people with disabilities. Because sports can open a new window for disabled individuals who are already facing many challenges every day in their lives and living with the stress caused by these challenges. Regardless of the type and degree of disability, moving, exercising,

participating in sports activities give pleasure to individuals, and this pleasure of moving increases their motivation for life.

Besides its positive contributions to health of the individuals; by doing sports, the individuals can share their loneliness with other people, establish friendships, learn solidarity, can recognize, and develop their skills, and they improve positive emotions towards themselves, their bodies and other people. All of these can give the individual the chance to catch and maintain a meaningful and satisfying life. In addition, disabled individuals can complete the training process of specially organized competition sports, participate in competitions, and experience success and failure. And in this sense, they perceive themselves as athletes rather than a disabled individual anymore. With the confidence of this feeling, they can learn to overcome obstacles (ÇELENK, 2021; DALBUDAK *et al.*, 2016; DALBUDAK; YIĞIT, 2019; DALBUDAK, 2020).

Due to the loss of physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and social skills at different levels, congenitally or subsequently for any reason, disabled individual is a person who cannot be adapt to normal life and needs support even for functions that he / she can perform on his own (GÜR, 2001). According to the report of TÜBİTAK (Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey), there is located approximately 8-8.5 million people with disabilities in Turkey. There are about 400,000 visually impaired people in Turkey (GÜRKAN; ARK, 2015). Although there are many definitions and classifications for the visually impairment, the amount of loss in sight is based on. According to the accepted definition in both international and national literature; “The people whose vision is less than the ratio of 20/200 after all possible corrections, or the people whose vision is less than 20 degrees despite the sight corrective lenses are expressed as blind” (ÖZİDA, 1999; TURNBULL *et al.*, 2004; ÖZYÜREK, 1997). At an international competition, IBSA has specified three classes regarding partially and completely blind athletes. Each class has been applied in the sports games which the visually impaired athletes can play (IBSA, 2006). These are; B1: The athletes in this classification are completely or almost completely blind, they perceive the light but cannot recognize the shape of a hand from any distance, B2: Although they can recognize the shape of a hand, their visual acuity is less than 20/600 and their visual angle is below 50 degrees in the visual environment, B3. The athletes in this class have visual angles which are 5-200. Their visual acuity is from 20/600 to 60/600 (DALBUDAK, 2019). This study was conducted to reveal the effect of demographic characteristics of visually impaired athletes, who are actively engaged in regular sports in different branches and who have different visual levels and disabilities, on athlete satisfaction. The common point of the

definitions of satisfaction made by many researchers is that it meets expectations. Every individual has expectations in his/her own living space. This may differ from individual to individual. This difference is even more different in individuals with disabilities. Disabled individuals have more expectations comparing the expectations the healthy individuals have.

Methodology

The Athlete Satisfaction Questionnaire (ASQ) and the "Personal Information Form" prepared by the researcher regarding demographic characteristics of the athletes were used to collect the data. There were two sections. In the first section, there was a personal information form which was used for b1- b2 -b3 visually impaired individuals who do sports (their gender, sport branch, disability, visual level, the period that they have been doing sports, the years of working with the trainer). Expert opinions and literature reviews were used to create the personal information form and determine the scales.

And in the second section, the Athlete Satisfaction Questionnaire (ASQ) was used which was developed by Riemer and Chelladurai in 1998. The scale was prepared as a 7-point Likert- type scale, and in our study the numerical values changed from 5 to 1 which means; “not satisfied at all”, “slightly satisfied”, “moderately satisfied”, “satisfied” and “very well satisfied”. Türksoy (2008), to be used in his doctoral thesis titled “Athlete satisfaction in football and the determination of expected and realized leadership behaviors from coaches”, has created the Athlete Satisfaction Scale in Turkish. Türksoy developed this scale, because of the adaptation of the 56-item ASQ scale into Turkish, by selecting the highest score of 20 items and 7 sub-dimensions, after completing the study of its validity and reliability. Athlete Satisfaction Scale is a 5-point Likert-type scale rated between “strongly disagree” and “strongly agree”. Athletes answered the questions as “Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Undecided, Agree, Strongly Agree”.

In this study SPSS 22.00 Program was used which has been used in quantitative research methods. In the study, T test and One Way Analysis of Variance (One Way ANOVA) were used for meaning, standard deviation, frequency, independent samples. The total Cronbach Alpha value of the Sports Satisfaction Scale was found to be 0.915.

Findings

Table 1 – Distribution of the Demographic Characteristics of the Visually Impaired Athletes Participated in the Study

Variable		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	43	39.8
	Female	65	60.2
Sport Branch	Individual	29	26.9
	Team	79	73.1
Disability Status	Congenital	53	49.1
	Subsequently	55	50.9
Visual Degree	B1	54	50.0
	B2	23	21.3
	B3	31	28.7
Years of working with the trainer	1-5 Years	33	30.6
	6-10 Years	57	52.8
	10 Years and Over	18	16.7
Years of doing sports	1-5 Years	19	17.6
	6-10 Years	53	49.1
	10 Years and Over	36	33.3

Source: Prepared by the authors

The distribution of the findings regarding the socio-demographic characteristics of the individuals participated in the study has been given here.

Table 2 – T test Results of Sports Satisfaction Scores of Visually Impaired Athletes According to Gender

Variable	N	X	S	Sd	T	P
Male	43	3.3988	.57066	106	-1.465	.146
Female	65	3.5785	.65646			

Source: Prepared by the authors

No significant difference was detected according to the t test results according to gender. $t_{(106)} = -1.465, p > 0.05$).

Table 3 – T test Results of Sports Satisfaction Scores of Visually Impaired Athletes According to Disability Status

Variable	N	X	S	Sd	t	p
Congenital	53	3.5755	.65491	106	1.116	.267
Subsequently	55	3.4409	.59784			

Source: Prepared by the authors

No significant difference was found according to the results of the t test according to the disability status $t_{(106)} = -1.116, p > 0.05$.

Table 4 – T-Test Results of Sports Satisfaction Scores of Visually Impaired Athletes According to Sports Branch

Variable	N	X	S	Sd	T	P
Individual	29	3.4914	.63556	106	.156	.877
Team	79	3.5127	.62811			

Source: Prepared by the authors

No significant difference was detected according to the t test results according to the sports branch. $t_{(106)} = -.156, p > 0.05$.

Table 5 – Sports Satisfaction Average Scores of Visually Impaired Athletes According to Their Vision Degree

Variable	N	X	S
b1	54	3.0750	.02523
b2	23	3.2000	.00000
b3	31	4.4871	.03408
Total	108	3.5069	.62720

Source: Prepared by the authors

Table 6 – One-Way Variance (ANOVA) Analysis of Visually Impaired Athletes According to the Vision Degree

	Sum of Squares	Df	Average of Squares	F	P	Difference
Between Groups	42.024	2	21.012	32166.291	.000	b1-b2,
Intragroup	.069	105	.001			b1-b3, b2-b3
Total	42.092	107				

Source: Prepared by the authors

When the results of one-way analysis of variance according to visual acuity were examined, a significant difference was found ($F_{(105)} = 32166.291, p < .05$). And as a result of the Post-Hoc tests performed to determine the difference between groups, a significant

difference was found between b1-b2, b1-b3 and b2-b3 groups. According to this, the highest score was b3 (X = 4.4871), then b2 (X = 3.2) and the least score was b1 (X = 3.075).

Table 7 – Average Sports Satisfaction Scores of Visually Impaired Athletes by Years of Working with the Trainer

Variable	N	X	S
1-5 years	33	3.3818	.53849
6-10 years	57	3.5939	.66508
10 years and over	18	3.4611	.64433
Total	108	3.5069	.62720

Source: Prepared by the authors

Table 8 – One-Way Variance (ANOVA) Analysis of Visually Impaired Athletes by the Years of Working with th Trainer

	Sum of Squares	Df	Average of Squares	F	P
Between Groups	.985	2	.493	1.258	.288
Intragroup	41.107	105	.391		
Total	42.092	107			

Source: Prepared by the authors

According to the results of the One-Way Analysis of Variance, a significant difference was not detected according to the year of working with the trainer ($F_{(105)} = 1.258, p > .05$).

Table 9 – Average Sports Satisfaction Scores of Visually Impaired Athletes According to the Years of Sport

Variable	N	X	S
1-5 years	19	3.2184	.31632
6-10 years	53	3.5840	.65352
10 years an over	36	3.5458	.67890
Total	108	3.5069	.62720

Source: Prepared by the authors

Table 10 – One-Way Variance (ANOVA) Analysis of Visually Impaired Athletes to Years of Doing Sports

	Sum of Squares	df	Average of Squares	F	P
Between Groups	1.950	2	.975	2.551	.083
Intragroup	40.142	105	.382		
Total	42.092	107			

Source: Prepared by the authors

There was no significant difference between the One-Way Variance Analysis results according to the Years of Doing Sports ($F_{(105)} = 2.551, p > .05$).

Discussion

This study was conducted to reveal the effect of demographic characteristics of visually impaired athletes with different visual and disability levels who are actively doing sports regularly in different sport branches, on athlete satisfaction.

No significant difference was found according to the t test results of visually impaired athletes according to gender ($t_{(106)} = -1.465, p > 0.05$). No difference was found between gender variable and sports satisfaction. Riemer and Chelladurai (2001) and Bebetos and Bebetos (2006) found similar results between gender variable and sports satisfaction in their studies. According to the disability status of the visually impaired athletes, no significant difference was found according to the t test results ($t_{(106)} = -1.116, p > 0.05$). When the findings regarding the sports satisfaction scores of visually impaired athletes according to their disability status were examined, there was no significant difference found in the sports satisfaction of congenital and subsequently disabled individuals. There are no such studies we have reached to support our study. We can say that sports have a positive effect on people with disabilities, whether they are congenital or subsequently visually impaired. According to his study on visually impaired individuals, Dalbudak (2020) stated that the sports have a very positive effect on visually impaired individuals.

According to the t test results of the visually impaired athletes according to the sports branch, there was no significant difference found ($t_{(106)} = -.156, p > 0.05$). When the findings regarding the sports satisfaction scores of the participants according to the sports branch were examined, there was no significant difference in the sports satisfaction scores of the visually

impaired individuals doing individual sports and team sports. In the study conducted by Yiğit (2018), it was found that the difference between the branch variable and the sub-dimension of the athlete's satisfaction scale was significant. This study does not match up with the study we have done. The reason of this is that the visually impaired individuals are satisfied with sports, and it does not matter for them whether it is a team or an individual sport. Because all kinds of sports are an indispensable passion for people with disabilities.

When the results of the sports satisfaction scores of the visually impaired athletes according to the visual degree were examined, it was found that there was a significant difference in the sports satisfaction scores of the participants in terms of vision. When the results of one-way variance analysis are examined according to the visual level of visually impaired athletes, a significant difference ($F_{(105)} = 32166.291$, $p < .05$) was found and as a result of the Post-Hoc tests performed to determine the difference between groups, a significant difference was found between b1-b2, b1-b3 and b2-b3 groups. Accordingly, the highest score was b3 ($X = 4.4871$), then b2 ($X = 3.2$) and the least score was b1 ($X = 3.075$). We can say that the degree of vision influences sports satisfaction. Because there are no studies like the ones we have done, there are no findings to support our studies.

According to the results of the One-Way Analysis of Variance, no significant difference was detected for the visually impaired athletes' years of working with the trainer ($F_{(105)} = 1.258$, $p > .05$). When the findings related to the sports satisfaction scores of the participants according to the year, they worked with the trainer were examined, it was found that there was no significant difference in the sports satisfaction scores of the visually impaired individuals according to the year of working with the trainer. In the study conducted by Yiğit (2018), there was a significant difference between the athletes' satisfaction according to the years of working with the trainer. This also contradicts our work. We think that the difference in our study is caused by visually impaired athletes. The meaning of the sports for visually impaired individuals is to provide light to their blind eyes. Whether the athletes are just starting sports or doing sports for a long time, it does not affect the year of working with the trainer. No significant difference was found between the results of the One-Way Variance Analysis of the visually impaired athletes according to the years of doing sports ($F_{(105)} = 2,551$, $p > .05$).

When the findings related to the sports satisfaction scores of the participants according to the sports year were examined, it has been determined that there is no significant difference in sports satisfaction scores of visually impaired individuals according to the years of doing sports. Since there are no studies like the ones we have done, there are no findings to support

our studies. Sport has a very important effect on the visually impaired individuals. Through the sport, we can say that the people with disabilities become a part of the society and prove themselves in this field. Sport constitutes an indispensable part of the lives of people with disabilities. With the help of sport, they overcome their existing disabilities.

In future studies, it is recommended to evaluate the athlete satisfaction study, which was used for visually impaired athletes, for other disabled individuals, as well. In addition, it is recommended to conduct a new study in which the athlete satisfaction results of visually impaired athletes and other disabled individuals will be evaluated.

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