

Views of the sports audience who received sports education about the sports organizations postponed due to Covid-19

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ABSTRACT

This research was conducted in order to determine the views of the sports audience who received sports education about the sports organizations postponed due to Covid-19 regarding the postponement. The method of this research, which is a descriptive research, is a scanning model and it was conducted with the questionnaire technique. The questionnaire form developed by the researcher was applied to the research group online and 812 feedbacks were received. The analysis of the data was evaluated in the licensed SPSS 21 package program and descriptive statistics were used in the study. As a result of the research, the majority of the participants stated that they could not think of a life without sports and that they could go to the stadium and sports halls to watch the matches after the postponement was over. In the study, it was determined that the individuals over the age of 61 do not think of going to the gym after delay. It has been concluded that the fact that Covid-19 is more effective, especially on elderly individuals, negatively affects the status of individuals of this age to go to the sports halls or sports organizations.

Keywords: Sports organizations, education, postponement, Covid-19, sports education.

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INTRODUCTION

The audience constitutes important crowds in these organizations (Aycaan et al., 2009; Kuru, 2009). Today sports activities and sports competitions have an important place in leisure activities. In this context, the effects of sports organizations on individuals are increasing day by day. Sports organizations consist of important elements such as sponsors, sportspeople, and spectators. Here, especially the spectators constitute large audiences. In this respect, the audience constitutes an important crowd in these organizations (Aycaan et al., 2009; Kuru, 2009).

Sports organizations qualitatively consist of large masses such as those who organize sports events, those who take part in these competitions, athletes and those who participate in these competitions as spectators. In this respect, sports organizations stand out as activities that share common excitement and interest among those who work in this organization and those who participate

passively (audience) (Koçan, 2007). Especially the spectators are significant parts of the crowd (Kuru, 2009). Particularly sports activities have an appeal for people to participate in these sports organizations in masses. Especially the competition between teams or individuals increases the interest of people in sports organizations. In addition, the support of a team or an athlete as well as the success of the team or the athlete they support makes it easier for individuals to be a part of sports activities by ensuring their satisfaction. Based on this, it is possible to state that the economic and socio-demographic factors, audience performance as well as the attractiveness of sports activities are among the reasons that affect people's participation in sports organizations as spectators (Pala, 2015).

In all sports based on watching, there is an inclination from the society and social groups to the individual. Such a community comes together to become a sports

audience and then disperse (Baldik, 2002). Audiences proceed from daily life, acquire a new identity in the crowd, and participate in various desired or undesired collective events. In sports organizations, individuals who chant together and behave in the same manner unite with the masses and enter into a collective excitement as well as experience a spiritual discharge (Kuru and Var, 2009). Sports audience follows sports organizations in order to get away from the routine of daily life and watch the sportspeople or the team they support or experience the spirit of fanaticism. Audiences' feelings for sports organizations are related to their commitment to sports organizations, teams, or athletes. While individuals who only want to get away from the routine of daily life participate in sports organizations as spectators, individuals who want to experience fanaticism exhibit hooligan behavior. Different levels of participation in sports organizations can cause different behaviors or psychological problems in postponement of the sports organizations as well.

Based on what has been said, it is possible to state that the existence of sports organizations depends on the audiences that follow them. These masses come together and form an economic, sociological, and cultural structure. This situation ensures the continuity of sports organizations. At the same time, sports organizations meet the recreation needs of these masses. Continuation of sports activities requires the support of the masses (Erdoğan, 2012). That is being said, events and situations that may prevent the masses from participating in sports competitions may create important problems. It would not be wrong to say both economic and sociological problems may arise considering that sports activities have become an industry today. Nowadays, the most important case that prevents sports events from being held is the Covid-19 outbreak. Due to the epidemic, there may be negative social and psychological effects on sports audiences. The general statistical status of sports spectators is as follows (<http://www.biggestglobalsports.com/>):

- Football is the biggest global sport in all measured countries and among the top 10 sports, while being the dominant sport in South America, Europe, and Africa. The world cup final is watched by an estimated 600 million people. More than 200 countries take part in the world cup qualifiers.
- Basketball is a major sport in the USA and China, as well as a major sport in Continental Europe and South America, making it one of the biggest global sports. NBA finals are broadcasted in more than 200 countries and more than 10 countries are represented in the rosters.
- Tennis, possibly the most universal sport in the world, is among the top 7 sports measured in every country and is a great interest in Asia, Europe, Australasia, Latin and North America. Wimbledon is among the top 10 most watched events and Roger Federer is the 4th highest

earning athlete.

- Cricket dominates sports media coverage for nearly a quarter of the world's population in the Indian subcontinent. It also has a very large audience in England, Australia and South Africa. The 2015 world cup and 2011 semi-finals between Pakistan and India were watched by more than 1 billion people.
- Athletics is a global sport. It is seen as an iconic global event, gaining more than 1 billion estimated viewers at the Olympics. More than 40 countries have won medals in the last Olympics from all continents.

The viewing situations of the sports organization audiences can also be in different dimensions. The concepts of spectator, fanatic and fan are frequently used in football, especially since it has become a global organization. In this context, those who watch sports activities without any emotional bond are called audience; those who regularly follow and support the teams and athletes they are interested in and have positive feelings towards them are called fans; and lastly those who are passionately attached to their teams are called fanatics (Karahüseyinoğlu et al., 2016). Hooligans, on the other hand, see every way legitimate to win, do not care about the aesthetics and beauty of sports, care about the symbols of their teams to the degree of sickness, and may act aggressively within the framework of their own views.

Being received sports education alters the perception and perspective towards the athletes and sports. While associating sports with education, it is accepted as a correct approach to think it together with the concept of physical education. Because physical education and sports are two phenomena that complement each other (Yetim, 2000). Although sports play an important role in the socialization process of people, sports education also contains different sectoral characteristics on its own. In Turkey, sports education is given under different names and by different institution. When closely examined, it is seen that there are problems and lack of coordination between these institutions in application. In the context of the preparation for future expansions of the institutions and organizations that offer sports education, it is necessary to take into consideration the sports sectors where basic references and standard occupational definitions such as the European Education Directive are made. In order to create healthy generations, societies consider physical education and sports as an integral and complementary part of general education and adopt the event as a state policy and conduct it in a way that covers every period of human life. The point reached by developed countries giving sports education in the world is a known fact. The fact that they have been exporting athletes and sports educators is an indication that they have been working in a scientific and professional sense (Devecioğlu et al., 2011).

It is important to determine the perceptions of

individuals who have received sports education regarding the postponement of the sports organizations during the Covid-19 process. When all this information is examined, it can be stated that sports organizations are actively followed by millions of people on a global scale in which individuals who received sports education is an important part.

When all these statistics are examined, it can be stated that sports organizations are actively followed by millions of people on a global scale. This situation shows that many people see sports organizations as a part of their lives. For this reason, postponements due to the Covid-19 outbreak had an impact on people.

Covid-19 appears as an epidemic caused by a virus named SARS-CoV-2, which arose in the city of Wuhan in China's Hubei province on 31.12.2019 (Ministry of Health Covid-19 Guide, 2020). After the appearance of the first case in China, it was seen that the virus spread rapidly and began to show itself in almost every country in the world. This epidemic started to be considered as a pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11.03.2020 (Dikmen et al., 2020).

The high transmission effect of the coronavirus causing the Covid-19 pandemic has been influential in seeing this virus almost all over the world. It is stated that the

transmission of the virus occurs through the spread of droplets and contact with the droplets. Additionally, it is stated that being within the distance of 1 meter even without any contact for 10 minutes with the person who carries the virus or who is infected by the virus poses risk of virus transmission. The fact that the virus in the droplets emitted by the individuals with the disease due to sneezing and coughing can stick and cling to the surfaces and this affects the spread of the disease. Contamination occurs when healthy individuals contact with these surfaces and later touch to their nose, mouth and eye mucosa (Aslan, 2020; Deniz and Kiraz, 2020).

In order to prevent the transmission of the virus, some protective methods such as the use of personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, etc.), maintaining a social distance (at least 1 meter distance between individuals), social isolation, etc., have started to be used (WHO, 2020). In this respect, it has been observed that special regulations are required regarding the areas where individuals are collectively present, moving and are in contact. As these areas accelerate the spread of the virus, the regulations have become an obligation. Some measures had to be taken as cases are started to be seen in Turkey. These measures are as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Measures taken in Turkey against Covid-19.

Date	Measures taken
16.03.2020	Public entertainment and recreation areas, gyms and SPAs were closed to the public.
21.03.2020	A curfew has been imposed on people aged 65 and over and on those with chronic diseases.
21.03.2020	Within the scope of the fight against the virus, an additional circular was issued that forbids sitting in and allow only take-away service at restaurants.
24.03.2020	The number of customers who can shop in the supermarkets as well as the working hours were reregulated. Intercity and urban public transport vehicles have been decided to carry passengers 50% of the specified capacity in the vehicle license temporarily.
29.03.2020	A circular on commercial taxis was published. Within the scope of commercial taxis registered in Izmir, Ankara and Istanbul provinces, traffic restrictions have been imposed according to the last digits of the license plate.
03.04.2020	New measures were taken regarding the entering and leaving cities and for age restrictions.
05.04.2020	It was decided to leave food and water regularly at designated points in the habitats of street animals such as gardens, parks and animal shelters as well as to disinfect the living areas of the animals.
10.04.2020	A two-day curfew was imposed.

Resource: Deniz and Kiraz (2020).

The fact that sports organizations are qualitatively based on close contact of individuals for both the audience and the players poses a significant risk in terms of the spread of the Covid-19. This situation has led to the cessation of

sports competitions in Turkey and in the world (Yavuz, 2020; Hurriyet, 2020). The fact that the humans are the foundation of sports organizations and these activities require social contact increase the possibility

of further spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, cancellation of sports organizations which have become an industry now can cause some effects on the masses, namely the audiences. In his news article, Devecioğlu (2020) states that the sports sector which is regarded as both sports service and entertainment and recreation service is among the restricted sectors that have lost most in added value with an estimated loss of 38%.

Sports organizations have an important place in meeting the leisure and sports needs of individuals. Growth and development in the sports industry increases the number of viewers. However, the introduction of the social distance rule within the scope of combating Covid-19 negatively affected sports organizations on a global scale. In this context, the purpose of the research is to determine the views of the audiences about the postponement of sports organizations due to Covid-19.

METHODOLOGY

Model of the research

This research was carried out using the scanning method in the descriptive research model.

Universe and sample

The universe of the research consists of sports audiences who received sports education. Academics working in the field of sports sciences and students studying in the field of sports sciences represent the universe of the research. Although the universe of the study is quite large, the convenience sampling method was preferred. The sample number in Turkey is attainable viewers, which for this research is 812 spectators.

Data collection tool

The questionnaire form was prepared by the researcher and its validity and reliability study was conducted. 40 questions were prepared to try to determine the general attitude of the audience towards sports organizations during the Covid-19 outbreak. The number of questions in the scale has been reduced to 18 in line with the opinions and suggestions of the academics. In addition, the questionnaire includes 6 questions about socio-demographic characteristics and 5 questions about watching sports organizations. The questionnaire form consists of 29 questions in total.

Data analysis

The licensed SPSS 21 package program was used in the

analysis of the data. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data.

FINDINGS

In this section, the findings obtained within the scope of field research are evaluated.

Table 2 contains the findings regarding the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. 72.5% of the participants in the study are male, 36.2% are between the ages of 36-45, and 56.5% are married. 55.8% of the participants are university graduates and 32.6% are physical education teachers. The total income of the house of 29.6% is between 3,000 and 6,000 TL.

Table 3 contains the findings regarding the participants' interest in sports. According to the findings, 27.5% of the participants stated that they are members of the paid satellite broadcast, 19.8% of them are a member of any fan club or sports association. 24.3% of the participants state that they missed the atmosphere of the match and 53.8% missed the competitions. 43.6% of the participants define themselves as fans and 38.4% as the audience. In addition, 11.9% of the participants play games of chance. Table 4 examines the findings regarding the perception of postponing sports organizations. Accordingly, when the statistics are evaluated, it can be stated that the participants are generally not satisfied with the postponement of sports organizations. The expression "I cannot think of a life without sports" has the highest average among the expressions with 4.37 ± 0.899 . This situation shows that the participants largely cannot imagine a life without sports. Most of the participants follow the news of the team/athlete they support from the media and support social responsibility projects. In addition, the majority of the participants stated that they can go to the stadium and sports halls to watch the matches after the delay is over.

In the study, the relationship between the descriptive characteristics of socio-demographic characteristics and sports interest and the perception of postponing sports organizations was examined within the scope of cross-table statistics. Accordingly, no relationship was found between gender, marital status, educational level, profession, income, membership in a sports-related community, defining the relationship with the team, and the perception of postponing sports organizations. However, a significant relationship was found with some questions regarding the perception of postponing sports organizations according to age, paid satellite broadcasting and playing games of chance. These are included in Table 5.

When the results in Table 5 are examined, a relationship has been found between the games of chance and the question "During the postponement process, I watch past sports matches/competitions from the media" ($p < 0.05$). The individuals who play the games of chance watch the past sports competitions

Table 2. Socio-demographical characteristics.

	Frequency	%
Gender		
Female	223	27.5
Male	589	72.5
Age		
18-25	233	28.7
26-35	133	16.4
36-45	310	38.2
46-60	123	15.1
61 and over	13	1.6
Marital Status		
Single	353	43.5
Married	459	56.5
Education Level		
High School	99	12.1
University	456	56.2
Graduate	257	31.7
Profession		
Physical Education Teacher	265	32.6
Student	261	32.1
Academic	117	14.4
Trainer/Referee	169	20.8
Total Income of the House		
Lower than 3,000 TL	213	26.2
3,000-6,000 TL	240	29.6
6,000-10,000TL	205	25.2
10,000 TL and higher	154	19.0

Table 3. Findings related to sports interest.

	Frequency	%
Subscription to paid satellite network		
Yes	223	27.5
No	589	72.5
Membership of any fan club or sports association		
Yes	161	19.8
No	651	80.2
Situations missed by the audience		
Athletes	123	15.1
Atmosphere of the match	197	24.3
Competitions	437	53.8
Friendships among the fans	27	3.3
Other	28	3.4

Table 3. Continues.

Definition of the relationship with the team		
Audience	312	38.4
Fan	354	43.6
Fanatics	132	16.3
Hooligan	14	1.7
Playing games of chance		
Yes	97	11.9
No	715	88.1

Table 4. Findings related to the perception of the sports audience about the postponement of sports organizations.

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1- Postponement of sports organizations affects me negatively.	1	5	3.33	1.297
2- Not being able to follow sports competitions makes me sad.	1	5	3.54	1.261
3- The future of the team / athletes I support during the postponement process worries me.	1	5	3.10	1.301
4- Before the postponement. I used to watch every game of the team / athletes I support in the stadium / sports hall / media.	1	5	3.38	1.241
5- During the postponement process. I watch past sports matches / competitions from the media.	1	5	3.39	1.189
6- I become distant to the team / athlete that I support during the postponement process.	1	5	2.23	1.033
7- I follow the news of the team / athlete I support during the postponement process from the media.	1	5	3.63	1.059
8- I follow the news of rival teams / athletes from the media during the postponement process.	1	5	3.35	1.120
9- Sports news in the media satisfy me during the postponement process.	1	5	2.65	1.125
10- I give financial support to the team / athlete I support during the postponement process.	1	5	2.28	1.075
11- Sports federations do not leave sports clubs / athletes alone during the postponement process.	1	5	3.39	1.158
12- As a supporter. I volunteer to end the postponement process early.	1	5	3.17	1.244
13- The reason for the postponement affects the number of fans going to the stadium / sports hall in the next period.	1	5	3.64	1.147
14- I support social responsibility projects of my team / the athletes related to postponement.	1	5	3.70	.955
15- The reason for postponement decreases the financial value of sports clubs / athletes.	1	5	3.58	1.172
16- I cannot think of a life without sports.	1	5	4.37	.899
17- I am hopeless about the future of sports competitions.	1	5	2.76	1.197
18- After the postponement is over. I would go to the stadium and sports halls to watch the matches.	1	5	3.60	1.079

more than the ones who do not play.

A relationship was found between age and the question "The reason for the postponement affects the number of fans going to the stadium/sports hall in the next period" ($p < 0.05$). 10.6% of the individuals between the ages of 46-60, and 1.5% of the individuals between the ages of 26-35 answered "strongly disagree". However, 38.5% of the

individuals aged 61 and over answered "strongly agree". Middle-aged individuals find that the effect of the number of fans going to the stadium/sports hall after postponement is lower than young and aged individuals.

A relationship was found between the paid satellite broadcasting and the question "The reason for the postponement affects the number of fans going to the

Table 5. Comparison of perception regarding the postponement of sports organizations and some variables.

		Perception regarding the postponement of sports organizations										p*
		Strongly disagree		Disagree		Indecisive		Agree		Strongly agree		
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	
		5- During the postponement process. I watch past sports matches / competitions from the media										
Games of chance	Yes	5	5.2	25	25.8	3	3.1	40	41.2	24	24.7	0.017
	No	49	6.9	167	23.4	71	9.9	329	46.0	99	13.8	
		13- The reason for the postponement affects the number of fans going to the stadium / sports hall in the next period.										
Age	18-25	13	5.6	27	11.6	36	15.5	118	50.6	39	16.7	0.045
	26-35	2	1.5	21	15.8	17	12.8	57	42.9	36	27.1	
	36-45	19	6.1	45	14.5	43	13.9	124	40.0	79	25.5	
	46-60	13	10.6	18	14.6	11	8.9	56	45.5	25	20.3	
	61 and over	1	7.7	1	7.7	3	23.1	3	23.1	5	38.5	
Paid satellite	Yes	16	7.2	23	10.3	25	11.2	95	42.6	64	27.7	0.043
	No	32	5.4	89	15.1	85	14.4	263	44.7	120	20.4	
		18- After the postponement is over. I would go to the stadium and sports halls to watch the matches.										
Age	18-25	7	3.0	33	14.2	47	20.2	89	38.2	57	24.5	0.003
	26-35	3	2.3	21	15.8	35	26.3	45	33.8	29	21.8	
	36-45	11	3.5	34	11.0	88	28.4	107	34.5	70	22.6	
	46-60	2	1.6	26	21.1	20	16.3	51	41.5	24	19.5	
	61 and over	3	23.1	2	15.4	2	15.4	5	38.5	1	7.7	

*Chi-square Statistics.

stadium/sports hall in the next period" ($p < 0.05$). 27.7% of those who have paid satellite networks and 20.4% of those who do not have paid satellite networks answered "strongly agree".

A relationship was determined between age and the question "After the postponement is over, I would go to the stadium and sports halls to watch the matches" ($p < 0.05$). Individuals aged 61 and over stated that they agree with the lowest rate with 7.7%. Stating that Covid-19 is more effective especially on individuals over the age of 60 can be seen as an important factor for not to prefer to go to the sports halls for individuals of this age.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sports activities and watching sports are among the important recreational activities of people today (Kuru, 2009). Sports organizations for people are seen as an important part of their lives. People turn to sports organizations in order to relieve the stress of busy work tempo and follow them (Pala, 2015; Karahüseyinoğlu et al., 2016). Especially football industry is among the most important sporting events in the world and in Turkey and it has a wide audience. For example, football matches played on weekends are among

the important activities for many people and are followed intensively (Aycan et al., 2009; Erdoğan, 2012). The close interaction of the fans with each other during football matches is seen as an important factor in the spread of the virus, and the postponement of sports organizations is thought to be critical in preventing the spread of the virus (Koçak and Özer Kaya, 2020). The dynamism and mobility in sports organizations reveals a thought-provoking picture in the Covid-19 process (Türkmen and Özsarı, 2020).

Postponing sports organizations due to the Covid-19 epidemic has negatively affected daily

life for many people. Especially considering that millions of people actively watch sports organizations and even 1 billion people follow the organization in the Olympic games, postponement has had a direct effect on the daily lives of many people. Due to the delay, individuals were deprived of both sports competitions and of watching the team or athlete they followed. In this study, the general views of the audience regarding the postponement of sports organizations were evaluated. As a result of the research, the majority of the participants stated that they could not think of a life without sports and that they could go to the stadium and sports halls to watch the matches after the postponement was over.

In the study, no relationship was found between the relationship with the team and the perception of postponing sports organizations. People who define themselves as audience, fans, fanatics, or hooligans have similar perceptions. This may be due to the low number of fanatics and hooligans in the research sample.

In the study, it was determined that individuals over the age of 61 would not consider going to the sports halls after the postponement is over. The fact that Covid-19 is more effective, especially on elderly individuals, negatively affects the status of individuals of this age to go to sport halls or organizations.

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