

Analysis of the level of aggression and violence of students and other professional groups who are fans of Düzce sports football

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to examine the levels of aggression and violence of students and other professional groups who are Düzcespor football fans. For the research model, the survey model, one of the quantitative research types, was chosen. The study's data collection process was carried out during the 2019-2020 season of the Turkey Football Federation, and the population of the study consisted of Düzcespor fans between the ages of 12-68. The sample of the study, on the other hand, consists of 498 people who voluntarily participated in the study using the random sample selection technique. As a result of normality tests (Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro Wilk), it was determined that the scores obtained from the scales did not show a normal distribution. For this reason, non-parametric tests Mann Whitney-U Test, Kruskal Wallis Test, and Bonferroni Test, one of the Post Hoc tests, were used to determine which group caused the significant difference between the groups as a result of the analysis. Frequency, percentage, minimum, maximum, average, and standard deviation values were also used to analyze the data. The level of significance was determined as $p < 0.05$. The study's findings showed that Düzcespor supporters had moderate aggression and violent behaviors. There was a significant difference between the variables of gender, age, education level, occupation and income, and aggression and violent behavior. The study results revealed that aggression and tendency to violence are higher in males, younger people, high school students and people with low income.

Keywords: Düzcespor, football, fans, student behavior.

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INTRODUCTION

Sports activities are based on the history of humanity globally, and it is claimed that the foundation of today's sports branches was laid in ancient times (Öntürk and Ekici, 2018). Just as people continue to mature continuously from history to the present, the phenomenon of sports has continued to develop as a dynamic structure from history until today, diversified and served different purposes (Efek, 2020). Sports, sometimes referred to as competition, participation, and as a means of watching, have become a center of attraction for many people in sports and media organs today. Sport contributes to individuals not only physically but also psychologically and socially and is subject to many areas

from nutrition to education (Zorba and Göksel, 2016; Chang et al., 2018; Yeh et al., 2017; Thomas et al., 2016; Yıldız and Erhan, 2019; Dinçer, 2020). Sports activities, which serve as a means of getting away from a stressful life, relaxation, and entertainment, have become a phenomenon for those who do sports and sports fans who spend a long time with these activities. Thus, sports, which gather many people together with concepts such as competing, winning, hosting the opponent, and going away, gained a cultural and commercial identity (Çalışkan and Poyraz, 2020; Yetim, 2000; Yücel et al., 2015).

Sport, which serves various purposes such as feeling belonging to a group, competing, relieving stress, and

winning, sometimes causes undesirable events among the fans. The phenomenon of aggression, which we encounter physically and verbally, is defined as a person's behavior that deliberately harms other people and their environment physically and psychologically (Can et al., 2020; Tuzgöl, 2000). The physical, verbal and psychological behaviors of athletes, fans, managers, and coaches against rival athletes, supporters, managers, and trainers before, during, and after the match can be expressed as aggression in sports (as cited in Can et al., 2020). Many factors reveal aggressive behavior. Family, social group, education, communication, and culture phenomena can be given as examples of these factors (cited in Can et al., 2020), as many features shape the character of the person (Kabakci et al., 2019) and people survive by joining different groups in society (Albayrak and Bayrakdaroglu, 2018).

When the literature is examined, it is seen that many international (Carriedo et al., 2021; Darabi and Shahri, 2020; Dillon et al., 2020; Firdaus and Trilia, 2020; Karakullukcu and Yildiz, 2020; Parent and Fortier, 2018) and national (Dere and Türen, 2020; Güler, 2020; Küçük et al., 2017; Reyhan et al., 2020; Şeker and Uslu, 2020) studies have been conducted to reveal, analyze aggression and violence in sports. In most studies, the subjects were selected from amateur athletes or students with less participation. With this study, the number of subjects was increased. Subjects from almost every segment of the society (student, worker, unemployed, civil servant, etc.) were included in the study. The fan group of a single club was selected. The importance of the study can be expressed in this way. With these applications, the validity of the research was tried to be increased. Besides, being a fan of a team that has a smaller scale in terms of economy and popularity compared to big clubs and being a fan of well-known clubs in Turkey and around the world can reveal the difference in terms of identification and dedication of the fan, and this can affect the behavior of the fans, which is another importance of our research. Since it is thought that variables such as gender, age, education level, profession, and income level may also affect aggression and violence, they were chosen as the independent variables of the study.

In the study conducted for this purpose, it was assumed that the study participants answered the scale questions sincerely. The sample selected for the study represented the population, and the scales used were capable of measuring the participants' aggression and violence levels. The data obtained in the study were limited to the scales used and those who voluntarily participated in the study. We wanted to know if the variables of gender, age, education level, profession and income may affect the supporters' aggression and violent behavior in them. The study aimed to examine the levels of aggression and violence of students and other professional groups who are

Düzcespor football fans.

METHODS

Research model

A survey model, one of the quantitative research types, was chosen for the research model.

Study group

The research group consisted of 498 people who voluntarily participated in the study among Düzcespor fans, who are in the 3rd League of the Turkey Football Federation 2019-2020 season (Table 1). The data collection process was carried out in Düzcespor-Şile Yıldızspor on 15.02.2020, Düzcespor-24 Erzincanspor on 23.02.2020 and Düzcespor-68 Aksaray Belediyespor on 08.03.2020 in Düzce, and the universe of the study was formed by Düzcespor fans between the ages of 12 to 68. The sample of the study, on the other hand, consists of 498 people who voluntarily participated in the study using the random sampling technique.

Data collection

The scale method was used in collecting the data. In the study, two different data collection tools were used. To determine the participants' various demographic characteristics (gender, age, education level, occupational group, and income level), a 5-question "Personal Information Form" was used by the researchers. To determine the aggression and violence levels of the participants, the "Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale (SSAVS)" developed by Buss and Perry (1992), adapted to Turkish by Can (2002) and whose validity and reliability studies were conducted by Şanlı and Güçlü (2015) was used.

Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale (SSAVS): The scale, developed by Buss and Perry (1992), adapted to Turkish by Can (2002), was analyzed for validity and reliability by Şanlı and Güçlü (2015). The scale is a 5-point Likert-type scale consisting of 21 items. There are three sub-dimensions of the scale, including aggression at the cognitive level, aggression at the affective level, and aggression at the behavioral level. There are five questions at the affective level when there are eight questions at the behavioral and cognitive levels. The items are rated between "Never" (1), "rarely" (2), "occasional" (3), "frequently" (4), and "always" (5). It can also be used via the total aggressiveness score by purpose. The lower (1-35), medium (36-70), and high level (71-105) can be expressed in aggression dimensions. The Cronbach Alpha inner consistency

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the participants.

Variable		F	%
Gender	Female	97	19.5
	Male	401	80.5
Age	12-18 years old	180	36.1
	19-35 years old	191	38.4
	36 years and older	127	25.5
Educational level	Secondary school and below	89	17.8
	High school	274	55.0
	University	135	27.1
Occupational Group	Student	225	45.2
	Self-employment	86	17.3
	Civil Servant	47	9.4
	Retired	28	5.6
	Worker	93	18.7
	Housewife	5	1.0
	Unemployed	14	2.8
	Income Status	0-1500 TL	232
Income Status	1501-3000 TL	126	25.3
	3001-4500 TL	79	15.9
	4501-6000 TL	37	7.4
	6001 TL and above	24	4.8
Total		498	100%

coefficient of the scale was 0.86.

Data analysis

The statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 17.0 package program was used to analyze the obtained data. As a result of the normality tests (Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro Wilk), it was determined that the scores obtained from the scales did not have a normal

distribution. For this reason, the MANN Whitney-U test and Kruskal Wallis from non-parametric tests are preferred, while the Bonferroni test from post hoc was used to determine which group caused the differences. The frequency, percentage, minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation values were used in analyzing the data. The level of significance was accepted as $p < 0.05$.

As shown in Table 2, when the tests are examined, it is observed that the total scores obtained from the scale do not show normal distribution ($p < 0.05$).

Table 2. Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk normality tests for the total scores of the sports spectator aggression and violence scale.

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistics	df	p	Statistics	df	p
SSAVS	.122	498	.000*	.921	498	.000*

*($p < 0.05$).

RESULTS

In this section of the research conducted to examine the aggression and violence of Düzcespor football fans, the descriptive statistical analysis, Mann Whitney U test, and

Kruskal Wallis test results were shown in the tables.

When Table 3 is examined, statistical information about the scores the participants got from the scale can be seen. Accordingly, the participants' average score on the Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale was

Table 3. Statistics of scores obtained from Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale.

Scale	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
SSAVS	498	21.00	105.00	45.4598	17.68775

determined to be 45.4598.

According to Table 4, it is seen that there is a significant relationship between the gender of the participants and their level of aggression and violence ($p < 0.05$). Accordingly, men's levels of aggression and violence are higher than women's.

According to Table 5, it was found that there is a significant relationship between the participants' ages and their aggression and violence levels ($p < 0.05$). According to the results of the Bonferroni test performed to determine between which groups the significant difference was, the following results were obtained.

While the violence and aggression levels of the participants between the ages of 12-18 are higher than those between the ages of 19-35 and 36 and over, the violence and aggression levels of the participants between the ages of 19-35 are higher than those of those aged 36 and over.

According to Table 6, it has been determined that there

is a significant relationship between the educational status of the participants and their level of aggression and violence ($p < 0.05$). According to the Bonferroni test results, individuals at the high school level have higher aggression and violence levels than those at the university level.

According to Table 7, it has been determined that there is a significant relationship between the professions of the participants and their level of aggression and violence ($p < 0.05$). According to the Bonferroni test result, the aggression and violence levels of the students are higher than the self-employed, civil servant, retired, and workers.

According to Table 8, it was determined that there is a significant relationship between the income of the participants and their level of aggression and violence ($p < 0.05$). According to the Bonferroni test results, the aggression and violence levels of individuals with an income level of 0 to 1500 TL are higher than those of 1501 to 3000 TL, 3001 to 4500, and 4501 to 6000 TL.

Table 4. Comparison of participants' scores of sports spectator aggression and violence scale with Mann Whitney-U Test according to gender variable.

Scale	Gender	N	Mean rank	Z	P
SSAVS	Female	97	209.48	-3.053	.002*
	Male	401	259.18		

*($p < 0.05$).

Table 5. Comparison of participants' Scores of Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale with Kruskal Wallis test According to age variable.

Scale	Age	n	Mean rank	X^2	df	p	Post Hoc
SSAVS	12-18 years old	180	310.98	68.255	2	.000*	1>2
	19-35 years old	191	241.64				1>3
	36 years and older	127	174.18				2>3

*($p < 0.05$).

Table 6. Comparison of participants' Scores of Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale with Kruskal Wallis test according to the educational status variable.

Scale	Educational level	n	Mean rank	X^2	df	p	Post Hoc
SSAVS	Secondary school and below	89	228.84	10.407	2	.005*	2>3
	High school	274	268.27				
	University	135	225.03				

*($p < 0.05$).

Table 7. Comparison of the participants' scores of the sports spectator aggression and violence scale with the Kruskal Wallis test according to the occupation variable.

	Occupation	n	Mean rank	X ²	df	p	Post Hoc
SSAVS	Student	225	293.24	50.776	6	.000*	1>2 1>3 1>4 1>5
	Self-employed	86	227.72				
	Civil Servant	47	186.94				
	Retired	28	167.64				
	Worker	93	219.47				
	Housewife	5	117.30				
	Unemployed	14	300.79				

*(p < 0.05).

Table 8. Comparison of participants' scores of Sports Spectator Aggression and Violence Scale with Kruskal Wallis test according to income variable.

Scale	Income	n	Mean rank	X ²	df	p	Post Hoc
SSAVS	0-1500 TL	232	279.59	19.384	4	.001*	1>2 1>3 1>4
	1501-3000 TL	126	224.35				
	3001-4500 TL	79	227.48				
	4501-6000 TL	37	210.26				
	6001 TL and over	24	223.60				

*(p < 0.05).

DISCUSSION

In this part of the research conducted to determine the aggression and violence levels of Düzcespor football fans, the obtained data has been examined in the light of the relevant literature. The data obtained from the scale of audience aggression and violence in sports show that Düzcespor supporters have moderate aggression and violent behaviors.

According to the findings of the test of the research (Table 4), there is a significant (p < 0.05) relationship between the aggression and violence levels of the participants and their gender in favor of men. The finding obtained supports the hypothesis of the research. When the literature is examined, the study findings of Gülle et al. (2020), Özdemir et al. (2018) and Yıldırım (2017) show similarities with the findings of our study. The study finding of Karademir and Kurnaz (2020) is not parallel to our study results.

Although the results obtained in most of the literature studies are parallel to our findings, the reason for the inconsistencies between the studies can be explained by the differentiation of biological and socio-cultural factors. According to Alghamdi et al. (2017), social, political, economic, and cultural factors are influential in the formation and spread of anger and aggression. It can be expressed by the fact that Düzce and Alanya are in different regions and their teams are in different leagues, their economic livelihoods are different, and they are under the influence of different cultures.

On the other hand, the fact that women have a more positive attitude in their relations with other people and their empathy skills are higher than men may cause them to have less aggression. Also, the fact that male fans are more interested in football than female fans and their level of bonding with their teams indicates that the literature results can be considered normal. Biologically, it is known that the male hormone testosterone is also a factor that triggers aggression and violence and makes men more prone to aggression (Cashdan, 2003; Kahveci et al., 2020; Owens et al., 2000; Ramirez et al., 2001). Our finding reveals that the gender variable in the participants has a significant effect on aggression and violence in favor of men.

According to the findings of the test conducted in line with the study (Table 5), there is a significant (p < 0.05) relationship between the aggression and violence levels of the participants and their age in favor of the younger ones. The finding obtained supports the hypothesis of the research. Accordingly, as the age of the participants increases, the level of aggression and violence decreases. When the literature is examined, the study findings of Güvendi and Pehlivan (2020), Koçer (2012), Aksu and Tutar (2020), and İlk et al. (2020) are similar to our research findings. The study findings of Kahveci et al. (2020) and Erdoğan et al. (2018) are not in line with our research findings. These inconsistencies between the research findings may be due to the fans' level of commitment to their teams, personal characteristics, and other sociological factors. As in our research findings, the

experiences brought by age may be effective in displaying less aggressive behavior as the fans' age increases. When the literature is examined, it is seen that the effect of sports and sports media on individuals is investigated (Taşmektepligil et al., 2017). As a result of the research, it was stated that young individuals mainly exhibited fanatic behaviors, and our findings support these results. Our findings reveal that the age variable has a significant effect on aggression and violence in favor of the younger ones.

According to the findings of the test conducted in line with the research (Table 6), there is a significant ($p < 0.05$) relationship between the aggression and violence levels of the participants and their education level in favor of high school students. The finding obtained supports the hypothesis of the research. When the literature is examined, Taşmektepligil et al. (2017) showed that the ones who follow sports programs and sports news from newspapers and television the most are high school students. High school students have the highest rate of fanaticism. The study findings of Kahveci et al. (2020) are consistent with our research findings. In the study of Aksu and Tutar (2020), a significant difference was determined between high school and university students. Koçer (2012) stated that the education level of those who had a significantly higher tendency to violence and aggression was high school. In the study conducted by Akil (2018), it was stated that as the level of education decreases, aggression and violence increase, and this result is not compatible with our research findings. These inconsistencies between the studies may have resulted from the individuals' different personal characteristics, the roles assigned to them by the society they live in, income level, and different stress factors. Considering that sports and media are interconnected, and sports and media are most common at the high school level, our findings can be regarded as usual. The publications that encourage the fans to be hostile through media outlets show themselves as fanaticism, especially at the high school level (Özsoy, 2020). Also, the reason that violence is seen more among adolescents was stated as their high modeling and imitating behaviors from society. That is, violence is a learned behavior (Karakaya and Kubar, 2020). Our findings reveal that the education level of the participants has a significant effect on aggression and violence.

According to the findings of the test conducted in line with the research (Table 7), there is a significant ($p < 0.05$) relationship between the aggression and violence levels of the participants and the occupation variable in favor of students. The finding obtained supports the hypothesis of the research. When the literature is examined, similar to our results in the study of Kuru and Var (2009), it has been determined that students are significantly more aggressive than civil servants, and also unemployed ones have significantly more aggressive behaviors than civil servants. In the study of Bilir and Sangün (2014), the aggression levels of the two football

clubs' supporters were compared. It was stated that the group of supporters with the majority of young people and students had a higher aggression tendency. Koçer (2012) noted in his study that supporters with an increased tendency to violence are primarily high school and below, low-income and students. In the study of Yıldırım (2017), similar to our research findings, it was determined that housewives have very low aggression levels, and those who have the highest level of violence are young people and students. The majority of the studies, including our research, showed that those involved in violence are primarily young people and those working in professions with low income. This situation can be delivered as young people are affected more quickly by the tense atmosphere in the sports environment (Yıldırım, 2017). Also, it is an acceptable result for young people, who are biologically more dynamic and enthusiastic than older individuals, to get involved in such events.

On the other hand, it can be thought that those who are older and those interested in professions at a higher level in terms of income and reputation stay away from aggression and violence with different thoughts such as not losing their dignity and loss of income. The experience and experiences gained in life, the prestige brought by the professions gained through these experiences and gained through effort may have made people more tolerant of life and different people. Our finding reveals that the job variable has a significant effect on aggression and violence in the participants.

According to the findings of the test conducted in line with the of the research (Table 8), there is a significant ($p < 0.05$) relationship between the levels of aggression and violence of the participants and the variable of income, in favor of those whose income is 0 to 1500 TL. The finding obtained supports the hypothesis of the research. Accordingly, individuals with low-income levels have higher aggressive behaviors. When the literature is examined, it is believed that Karademir and Kurnaz (2020), Açak et al. (2018), and Taşmektepligil (2016) show similarities with the findings of our research. The study findings of Kahveci et al. (2020) revealed that those with medium and high-income levels had higher aggression tendencies and therefore did not comply with our study's findings. Such inconsistencies between studies may have resulted from the different socio-demographic characteristics of the subjects. Family and educational environment, the difficulty of the job in professional life, stress situations in daily life, experiences related to spouse and child, and many other reasons can be effective on aggression. Some studies in the literature (Akın and Şentürk, 2012; Kangal, 2013) revealed that a high-income level is directly proportional to happiness. Considering that those with good income will feel good psychologically and socially, it can be said that the finding we have obtained can be regarded as usual. Our results reveal that the participants' income level variable has a significant effect on aggression and violence.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this part of the study conducted to examine the aggression and violence levels of Düzcespor football fans, the results obtained based on the findings obtained are included. The results are as follows:

1. Düzcespor supporters have moderate aggression and violent behavior.
2. Gender, age, education, profession, and income variables determine the levels of aggression and violence.
3. Aggression and tendency to violence are seen at higher levels in males, younger people, high school students, students, and low-income people.

Based on the results of the research, the following suggestions can be made for future research:

Since aggression and violent situations may be related to different variables, the number of variables used in research can be increased. By increasing the number of subjects, studies can be carried out on different fan groups, and comparisons between groups can be made. The primary purpose of sports and advocacy is to compete, friendship and benevolence, and it can be tried to be conveyed to the public through both the media and institutions. In many studies, the fact that media organs give a war atmosphere to sports events, and athletes and their supporters go to matches as if to conquer, circulate like a black cloud over the phenomenon of sports. For this reason, seminars and meetings can be organized to inform athletes, media organs, and students about Fair Play, and care can be taken to spread Fair Play. It can be ensured that discussions on sports channels are controlled with more strict rules and that commentators are selected from people with sports training. Besides the practical courses in physical education classes, courses such as sports ethics and Fair Play can be added to the curriculum as compulsory courses. It can be ensured that exemplary role models in sports are encouraged, and if necessary, the number of awards can be increased, and people are rewarded. Considering that the punishments given are not sufficient and dissuasive, practices such as tickets, scrambled broadcasting gifts, club trips, spending time with athletes, incentives, and awards may be more effective than punishments. Incentives can be introduced for those who act respectfully and behave in a friendly manner to athletes, sports facilities and equipment, trainers, referees, opponent team supporters, and management.

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