Study the relationship between socioeconomic status (ses) and sports participation (Case study: Ahvaz city)

Abdolhossein Ebrahimi¹, Abdulrahman Mehdi Pour², Tahere Azmsha³, Mehdi Hatami⁴

1. M.A in Sport Management Chamran Ahvaz University
2. Assistant Professor in Sport Management, Chamran Ahvaz University
3. Lecturer in Sport Management, Chamran Ahvaz University
4. Department of Physical Education, Islamic Azad University, Jam Branch, Jam, Iran

Corresponding Author: Abdolhossein Ebrahimi

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this Research study the relationship between socioeconomic status (ses) and sports participation ahvaz citizens. This study has been implemented by applied field method. The population of all individuals who use the sport facilities which is, 66135. The statistical sample of sporting venues and n=384 as persons were selected. The tool for collecting data is researcher’s questionnaire in which two sections, their demographic characteristics, and sports participation (α =0.87) was adjusted. For analyzing data from descriptive statistics and inferential statistical regression model with random coefficients and random effects model ANOVA was used in HLM6 software. The results showed With better socioeconomic status and increasing education and parent education and income at the will increase their participation.

Keywords: socioeconomic status, sports participation, ahvaz citizens

INTRODUCTION

Physical inactivity is increasingly recognised as an important precursor of chronic ill health with large costs for individuals and society (Humphreys and Ruseski, 2011). The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that physical inactivity causes 1.9 million deaths per year worldwide, 10 to 16 percent of breast cancer, colon cancer and diabetes cases, and about 22 percent of coronary heart disease cases (WHO, 2008). Physical inactivity is also recognised as potentially the most important modifiable health behaviour for chronic disease (Scarborough et al, 2011).

It is suggested that an individual's income is an important determinant of sport participation. For most sports, at least a minimum of equipment is needed to practice the sport, a pair of running shoes is needed to go running or jogging. Other sports such as tennis, golf, and equestrian are more cost-intensive (Breuer, & Pawloski, 2010). It is assumed that increased income facilitates participation in sport and therefore individuals with higher income should be more likely to practice sport it is suggested that income has a positive effect on sport participation in general and in participation in a sport club. Generally speaking, both income and time are needed to participate in sport. In this regard, the interplay between income and time as well as the partially substitute character of income and time must be considered. Human capital determines taking part in sports and refers to an individual's educational level in the current study. It is suggested that individuals with a higher educational level (that usually goes along with a higher number of educational years) have learned more different sports and thus acquired more consumption skills (Downward & Rasciute, 2010). The evidence from previous research indicates that individuals with higher educational level were more likely to practice sport in general (Ruseski et al, 2011) and in a sport club. For this reason, it is predicted that an individual's educational level will have a positive impact on sport participation in general and in sport clubs.

A popular assumption is that sport has positive impacts on physical health and fitness, on self-esteem, offers access to positive adult role models for teenagers and young adults living in disadvantaged communities, and fosters the capacity to build relationships across religious, ethnic and economic lines (Cameron, 2001). American sociologist Jay Coakley (2002) mounts critique of using sports to help control young people.
Coakley explains that young people are identified as being possible ‘problems’ or even ‘threats’ to society and there is a perceived need to change their personal characteristics and behaviors “so that they can escape their immediate environments and become productive citizens in the very same social and economic system that gave rise to the conditions that limited their lives in the first place” (Coakley, 2002). Sport rarely enables young people to escape their place in the political, legal, economic and social system. Sporting success does not end the challenges being faced. These challenges can include chronic ill health, lack of housing and sanitation, unemployment, less than adequate education, social breakdown in many communities, substance abuse, a general feeling of purposelessness about life and high rates of suicide. Rather than address the social justice and there source needs that young people require to politicize and empower themselves what we end up with programs that focus on teaching ‘approved’ attributes that tell young people to “pull themselves up by their athletic shoelaces” (Coakley, 2002).

METHODS

This study is an applied kind and the type of data collecting is descriptive - analytic study, which is implemented through survey method. The first population includes all multipurpose gymnasium of futsal, basketball, handball and volleyball courts, swimming pools and grass lands belonging to the Youth and Sports Department and other government agencies of Ahwaz which the number of them is 99. The second population includes all the people who use the sport facilities which the number of them is 66135. The sample of first population via farmers and Morgan table was estimated 86 sites as sample population. The sample of second or the users of multipurpose gymnasium is 384 (121 females and 263 males), which is considered in 8 Ahwaz area based on the population of each district. In order to collect data in this study, we have used the following two questionnaire, one questionnaire for demographic data, it included demographic characteristics of users of the sports venues such as age, occupation, income, socioeconomic status. Another questionnaire was sports participation. The validity of the questionnaires was confirmed. Cronbach’s alpha coefficient for the total scale was calculated. /87 percent. HLM6 software has been applied for analysis and testing hypotheses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data shows that based on the demographics of each region, the highest proportion of respondents (17%) have belonged to the region 6. And next, respectively region 4 is about 15%, and region 5 is about 14%. The minimum number of respondents (7%) have lived in the region 2. Then about 68 percent of respondents are males and 31 percent are females. Most participants (23%) aged 20 to 24 years and 25 to 29 years. 50.8 percent of them in the study were single and 49.2 percent were married. Around 54 people have BA degree that have reserved the most proportion to themselves and only about 2 percent of them have MA degree that is also the lowest proportion. HLM6 software has been used to examine the relationships between variables. The impact of individual-level variables on the dependent variable is considered. To answer this question in this way, the model is used which is called Random Regression Model Coefficient.

Data analysis

The most important findings of this study was that there is a relationship between some feature of social – economic of people with the extent of their participation. The feature of social – economic of people here is respondent’s education level and their parents and also their income level that was examined each of them separately. According to the information in Table 1, it was determined that by increasing their education level their sport participation is increased. Based on P value the relationship is meaningful and strong intensity is (0.93). The relationship between fathers’ education level and their sports participation is also significant and positive, it means by increasing the education level of fathers, their children’s sports participation is increased. But the relationship between mothers’ education level and their sports participation is not meaningful, namely it was not found a meaningful relationship between these two variables in this model.

Eventually it became clear that the relationship between sports participation and their income is positive and significant, by increasing their income their sports participation was increased. The coefficient for income is 0.96, which indicates a strong influence of this variable on the dependent variable that its ratio of the effective coefficient is more than coefficient of education level (0.93).
Table 1. Test results of relation between one person and his parents’ level of education, income, with sports participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fixed Effect</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Standard error</th>
<th>t-ratio</th>
<th>d.f.</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For INTRCPT1, b0</td>
<td>0.141658</td>
<td>0.226438</td>
<td>0.626</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, γ00</td>
<td>0.935518</td>
<td>0.093412</td>
<td>10.015</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For EDUCATION slope, β1</td>
<td>0.309925</td>
<td>0.043183</td>
<td>7.177</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, y10</td>
<td>2.786225</td>
<td>0.341269</td>
<td>8.164</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For FATHER EDUCATION slope, β1</td>
<td>2.989722</td>
<td>0.349386</td>
<td>8.557</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, y00</td>
<td>0.189687</td>
<td>0.089358</td>
<td>2.123</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For MOTHER EDUCATION slope, β1</td>
<td>-0.088759</td>
<td>0.199308</td>
<td>-0.445</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, y10</td>
<td>0.961510</td>
<td>0.049767</td>
<td>19.320</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then, to investigate the influence of these variables with controlling of other variables, we review them together in the equation, the results are presented in Table 2. Results indicate that by controlling other variables, only income and education levels affect on their sport participation and the other two variables, education level of parents have lost their significance. This indicates that the basic relationship between the education levels of parents with their sports participation has been a false relationship.

Table 2. Test results of relation between one person and his parents’ level of education, income, with sports participation by applying statistical control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fixed Effect</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Standard error</th>
<th>t-ratio</th>
<th>d.f.</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For INTRCPT1, b0</td>
<td>-1.125985</td>
<td>0.134757</td>
<td>-8.356</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, γ00</td>
<td>0.610580</td>
<td>0.087798</td>
<td>6.954</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For EDUCATION slope, β1</td>
<td>0.112109</td>
<td>0.068446</td>
<td>1.638</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, γ20</td>
<td>-0.030357</td>
<td>0.079611</td>
<td>-0.381</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For MOTHER EDUCATION slope, β3</td>
<td>0.635311</td>
<td>0.066821</td>
<td>9.508</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRCPT2, γ40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSIONS

The findings revealed that there is a strong relationship between some socio-economic characteristics of individuals, such as level of education and income with levels of sport participation, it means that the higher the level of education and income, the greater their athletic participation. Qodratnama (2012) in the article, socio-economic status and level of physical activity among students of Shahid Chamran University concluded that there is a significant relationship between socioeconomic status, income and education level of parents, with students' sports participation. These results are consistent with study of Donward et al (2010), Russki et al (2011), Pawlowski et al (2011), that have all demonstrated, between individual characteristics such as level of education and income of people have a meaningful relationship with sport participation rates.

These findings are consistent with the study result of Kantoma et al (2007), and Lisa et al (2004), indicating that there is a positive relationship between physical activity are income. Findings showed that there is a significant positive correlation between parental education levels with the amount of physical activity of Citizens. However, this relationship was found only in the father's education but mother's education level was no significant relationship with level of physical activity of students. It seems that by increasing parents' level of education, and increasing of knowledge and awareness Can better encourage their children to exercise and physical activity and then to get mental health. This finding is consistent to the research results of Bettina and Keresztes (2008), Bettina and Fitzpatrick (2007) and Kantoma et al (2007). However, the results is inconsistent with Zumin et al (2006) that is no evidence of relationship between parental education level and pupils motor ability.
The overall findings show a significant positive correlation between socio-economic status and citizens' level of physical activity. In other words, the findings suggest that individuals who have parents with moderate to high socio-economic status, are more participating in sports. These findings are consistent with findings of Drenowats (2010), Stalsberg and Peter (2010), Seabra et al (2008).

Random regression coefficients showed respectively that people's income and their education and father's education level are the strongest predictors of sports participation for individuals. Also based on theoretical foundations of research, the importance and need to engage in sport activities for educated people is brighter and they plan to exercise more regularly. While those with less education and often in the lower classes of society, typically have an instrumental relationship with their bodies, their body is a tool to work and earn money. This can also be seen in their culture of health. Frost on the relationship between sport and economic status refers to young people who live and grow in slums, rarely have financial power and time to go to the tennis courts and swimming pools. So people with high socioeconomic classes were more aware of aims to promote physical activity and sports than other classes. Therefore, their participation is more in this regard.

REFERENCES