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## EXAMINATION OF SPORTS FACILITIES' COMPETENCY LEVELS

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to examine the competency levels of sports managers in terms of sports facility adequacy. A descriptive survey model was used in the study. The population of the research consists of sports managers in Turkey. The sample of the research consists of 134 participants selected through random sampling method among sports managers working in different institutions and organizations in Turkey. Personal information form and sports facility adequacy scale were used as data collection tools. In binary comparisons (gender, marital status, and family's use of sports facility), Student's t-test was used, while in multiple comparisons (age, number of children, duration of work in the institution, education level, and sports background), one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's multiple comparison tests were employed. Significant differences were observed based on marital status, whereas no significant differences were found based on gender, age, number of children, duration of work in the institution, sports background, and family's use of sports facility variables. According to the analysis results, it was determined that married participants had higher mean scores compared to single participants. The views of sports managers are important regarding the qualities and functioning of sports facilities. In terms of the variables included in the research, it can be seen that sports managers' opinions do not have any effect on sports facility adequacy. However, the average scores of the findings can be considered moderate. This indicates that sports facilities' adequacy is not low but also not high. In conclusion, consulting with sports managers' opinions and thoughts will be important during the construction and subsequent processes of sports facilities. Additionally, a more comprehensive study related to the research topic can be recommended.

**Keywords:** Sports, sports facility, competency

## INTRODUCTION

Sport has always been a significant phenomenon in the lives of human beings. In ancient times, it was practiced instinctively as part of the struggle for survival. Later on, it found its place in activities related to entertainment and leisure for people. The increasing prevalence and adoption of sports in people's lives contribute to its significant presence (Derelioğlu and Çankaya, 2021). At the same time, sports have persisted in human life, always remaining a part of daily existence (Sabah, 2022). In some societies, it was utilized to build paramilitary or soldier communities, while in others, it was embraced purely for enjoyment and health benefits. The administrative development of sports, however, has been ongoing for the past two centuries. Although there was a certain level of organization in sports management in earlier years, it can be said that it became more prominent in the modern era.

The location of sports facilities holds great importance within the realm of sports. Sports facilities or centers are indispensable for the execution and functioning of sports activities. Sports facilities have demonstrated their presence over many years. From ancient Greece to the present day, they have gone through various stages while maintaining their significance (Basım and Argan 2009). However, these stages and changes are not vastly different. In other words, it can be said that the purpose and utilization of sports facilities have remained largely the same from ancient times to the present day (Fried 2005). There are specific classifications in sports facilities. These are categorized as single-purpose sports facility, single-sport-specific facility, multipurpose sports facility, and non-traditional sports facility (Ammon and Stotlar 2003). A single-purpose sports facility is designed exclusively for the practice of a single sport. A single-sport-specific facility, on the other hand, is designed for a single area, within which various disciplines can be practiced. In the case of a multipurpose sports facility, it is described as a place where multiple sports are conducted and numerous activities take place. A non-traditional sports facility, meanwhile, can be defined as unconventional facilities, particularly catering to adventure sports (Basım and Argan 2009).

The management process of sports facilities plays a key role in their operation. The achievements that can be obtained through effective management mechanisms will not only increase the commitment of the target audience but also prevent negative thoughts from arising (Derelioğlu et al., 2021). Before the management process of sports facilities, the mission, vision, objectives, and goals need to be defined. Subsequently, the functions of management including planning, organization, direction, coordination, and control must be executed. Planning helps to clarify the purpose and goals of the sports facility. The organization function ensures the internal structuring of the facility, particularly its organization. Direction facilitates the mobilization of personnel within the facility. During this process, if managers can effectively oversee the transition, their success becomes evident at the end of the process (Torrington and Weightman, 1987). The coordination function is also highly significant as it establishes a more systematic and orderly operation within the sports facility. Lastly, the control function monitors the performance, suitability, and financial activities within the

facility (Basim and Argan 2009). Additionally, it allows organizations to address their mistakes and potential future issues that might arise (Sisaye, 2005: 52).

Sports facilities can generally be defined as places that provide opportunities for individuals and athletes to engage in sports activities. The operation and adequacy of these facilities are also of great importance. The comfortable and safe participation of individuals in sports activities positively impacts both the development of sports and the mental well-being of society. In this regard, the examination of the adequacy of sports facilities will serve as a guiding resource for their operation and utilization. In light of this information, the purpose of the study is to investigate the competency levels of sports facilities.

## **METHOD**

### **Design of Study**

Descriptive and relational survey method, which is a quantitative survey method, was employed in the research. Relational survey is a scanning model that examines the change in existing variables and identifies the reasons for the observed change (Karasar 2011). For the implementation of scales and data collection in the research, approval was obtained from Ordu University, Ethical Committee for Social and Human Sciences Research, through decision number 2022/177 dated 06/10/2022.

### **Population and Sample**

The population of the study consists of sports managers located in Turkey. The sample of the research comprises 134 sports managers selected through random sampling method from various institutions and organizations across Turkey.

### **Data Collection Tools**

In the study, a 'Personal Information Form' and a 'Sports Facility Adequacy Scale' were utilized. The researcher-developed personal information form includes demographic variables such as gender, age, marital status, number of children, duration of work in the institution, education level, sports background, and family's use of sports facility.

The 'Sports Facility Adequacy Scale' developed by Çetin and Karaçam (2020) is a 5-point Likert scale consisting of 12 items. The sports facility adequacy scale is unidimensional. The overall score on the scale is calculated between 12 and 60.

### **Statistical Analysis**

Prior to the data collection process in the study, participants were informed about the research. During this process, no time constraints were imposed. In the study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of the scale items

were analyzed. When examining the reliability coefficients of the sports facility adequacy scale, a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.956 was found. To assess the assumption of normality in the research, skewness and kurtosis values were examined. In the study, Student's t-test was employed to analyze scale scores based on gender, marital status, and family's use of sports facility variables. Additionally, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's multiple comparison test were used for the variables of age, number of children, duration of work in the institution, education level, and sports background.

**FINDINGS**

**Table 1.** Frequency and Percentage Distributions Regarding Demographic Characteristics of Sports Managers

		n	%
Gender	Male	104	77,6
	Female	30	22,4
Age	18-30	29	21,6
	31-40	51	38,1
	41 and above	54	40,3
Marital Status	Single	37	27,6
	Married	97	72,4
Number of Children	None	46	34,3
	1-2	73	54,5
	3 and above	15	11,2
Years of Employment at the Institution	0-10	92	68,7
	11-20	27	20,1
	21 and above	15	11,2
Sports Background	None	32	23,9
	Amateur	65	48,5
	Professional	37	27,6
Family's Use of Sports Facility	Yes	69	51,5
	No	65	48,5

The sports facility adequacy levels of sports managers according to gender are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Gender Variable

Scale	Gender	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	Male	104	36,22	10,46	0,379
	Female	30	34,20	12,89	

In the study, it was determined that there was no significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the gender variable (Table 2).

Sports managers' facility adequacy levels according to age are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Age Variable

Scale	Age	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	18-30	29	37,31	8,71	0,576
	31-40	51	34,64	12,00	
	41 and above	54	36,00	11,27	

In the study, it was determined that there was no significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the age variable (Table 3).

Sports managers' facility adequacy levels according to marital status are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Marital Status Variable

Scale	Marital Status	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	Single	37	31,81	10,28	0,010
	Married	97	37,27	10,98	

In the study, it was found that there is a significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the marital status variable (Table 4).

Sports managers' facility adequacy levels according to the number of children are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Number of Children Variable

Scale	Number of Children	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	None	46	34,34	11,27	0,461
	1-2	73	36,84	11,04	
	3 and above	15	34,86	10,41	

In the study, it was determined that there is no significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the variable of the number of children (Table 5).

Sports managers' facility adequacy levels according to the duration of work in the institution are presented in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Years of Employment at the Institution Variable

Scale	Years of Employment at the Institution	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	0-10	92	35,91	11,55	0,957
	11-20	27	35,70	10,51	
	21 and above	15	35,00	9,09	

In the study, it was found that there is no significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the variable of the duration of work in the institution (Table 6).

Sports managers' facility adequacy levels according to their sports background are presented in Table 7.

**Table 7.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Sports Background Variable

Scale	Sports Background	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	None	32	38,90	8,70	0,166
	Amateur	65	34,41	11,55	
	Professional	37	35,43	11,62	

In the study, it was determined that there is no significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the variable of sports background (Table 7).

Sports managers' facility adequacy levels according to their family's use of sports facility are presented in Table 8.

**Table 8.** Sports Facility Competence Levels of Sports Managers by Family's Use of Sports Facility Variable

Scale	Family's Use of Sports Facility	n	Mean	Sd.	P
Total Score of the Sports Facility Competence Scale	Yes	69	37,01	12,17	0,179
	No	65	34,44	9,59	

In the study, it was found that there is no significant difference in the total score of the sports facility adequacy scale based on the variable of family's use of sports facility (Table 8).

### **CONCLUSION and DISCUSSION**

The aim of the study is to examine the competency levels of sports facilities among sports managers. Significant differences were observed based on the marital status variable, whereas no significant differences were found based on gender, age, number of children, duration of work in the institution, sports background, and family's use of sports facility variables.

When examined based on the gender variable in the study, no significant difference was found in the levels of sports facility adequacy. It can be observed that the gender variable does not have an impact on facility adequacy levels. When reviewing the literature, the results of Atıcı (2022) are consistent with the findings of this study. On the other hand, Çelik (2018) concluded in their research that both men and women have sufficient levels of sports facility features. In a study conducted by Türksoy and Aycan (2020) regarding the quality of sports centers, a significant difference was observed in the equipment quality subscale. However, Çetin and Demir (2021) found no significant difference in the material sub-dimension in their study on recreational sports facilities. Material and equipment adequacy in sports facilities and centers can be considered crucial. When analyzed by the age variable, no significant difference was found in the levels of sports facility adequacy. The age variable is determined to have no effect on facility adequacy levels. When reviewing the existing literature, the study results align with those of Atıcı (2022). In contrast, Çetin and Demir (2021) found significant differences in all sub-dimensions regarding recreational sports facilities and observed that average scores increased with higher age levels. When examined based on the marital status variable, a significant difference was detected in the levels of sports facility adequacy. The findings indicate that married participants had higher average scores compared to single participants. This outcome could potentially be attributed to the perception of higher responsibility among married managers. Examining the results of Türksoy (2019), married participants also had higher average scores in the marital status variable. However, the results do not align with those of Atıcı (2022). When analyzed by the variable of the number of children, no significant difference was found in the levels of sports facility adequacy. Although no significant difference was observed in this variable, it is noted that the average scores were very close to each other. No significant differences were found in the levels of sports facility adequacy based on the variables of duration of work in the institution, sports background, and family's use of sports facility. When reviewing the literature, no studies were found related to the variables of the number of children, duration of work in the institution, sports background, and family's use of sports facility in relation to sports facility adequacy. This situation will likely contribute to supporting future research endeavors.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

The opinions of sports managers are important in terms of the qualities and operation of sports facilities. In terms of the variables included in the study, it can be observed that sports managers do not have any impact

on the competency of sports facilities. However, the average scores of the findings could be considered moderate. This situation indicates that the competency of sports facilities is not low but also not very high. Sports facility management requires an efficient operational program that encompasses post-match activities, previous conditions, club training schedules, and similar aspects. In this regard, active involvement of sports managers will contribute to the seamless functioning of the sports facility system. In conclusion, consulting the ideas and thoughts of sports managers during the construction and subsequent processes of sports facilities is crucial. Additionally, conducting a more comprehensive study on the subject is recommended.

#### **ETHICAL TEXT**

This article complies with journal writing rules, publication principles, research and publication ethics, and journal ethics. Responsibility for any violations that may arise regarding the article belongs to the author of this article. For this research, the permission of the ethics committee dated 06.10.2022 and numbered 06.10.2022-2022-177 was obtained from the Ordu University, Ethical Committee for Social and Human Sciences Research.

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