

CERTAIN INDICATORS OF VIOLENCE IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH SPORTS

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SUMMARY

The various manifesting forms of violence fall into the group of acute problems of contemporary Serbian society. There are multiple reasons for this, which are the consequence of a multi-decade post-socialist transformation, complicated by the pauperization of society, as well as by intense globalization processes. Peer violence is one of the negative features of everyday life and lifestyle of children and youth. Having this in mind, the authors have identified some manifesting forms of peer violence in children and youth sports on the territory of the city of Novi Sad. It concerns the results of the analysis of secondary material (more specifically - legal acts and strategies) which deal with the issue of peer violence in sports. Furthermore, the authors have identified the manifesting forms and intensity of peer violence in children and youth sports through conducting focus-group interviews with coaches and parents of children aged 6 to 16. In addition to peer violence, thanks to focus-group discussions, topics such as coach violence over children, as well as parental violence over (their own and others') children, were mentioned. By researching the population of children, coaches and parents, we have obtained an initial insight into the stated social problem with two compatible views. This is significant because no research group, by the nature of its social roles in sports, has a complete overview of the social problem investigated by the authors. The results of the research represent a contribution to a small number of papers that indicate negative psycho-social consequences in the sports peer group, but also in children and youth sports in general.

Key words: children, youth, coaches, parents, Novi Sad.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Violence is a term we often hear in everyday speech. It is a social phenomenon that, in scientific and research terms, belongs to the field of sociology, criminology, psychology, legal and other compatible sciences and disciplines. Consequently, in the literature, we find a different conceptual definition and classification of violence, such as: physical and psychological, rational and irrational, direct and indirect, individual and social, current and long-term, group and individual, manifest and latent, and the like.¹ Some of the first associations to this term can be domestic violence (towards women, children, elderly and/or ill family members)² violence in emotional partnerships, mobbing, violence towards members of minority social groups (based on racial, ethnic, religious affiliation and/or life orientation and functional disabilities/handicap). The above examples indicate the most commonly investigated form of violence, which is at the same time the focus of this work: direct or interpersonal violence. Although in the past years it has been the subject of research in the field of psychology, law and practical politics, it is a complex social phenomenon, which should be considered from the aspect of sociology, as the basic and most general social science.

Scheme of direct violence:

Violator → action / manifestation of violence → subject/victim of violence

Peer violence is also one of the dominantly present topics in everyday life (primarily school) environment of children and youth. It is a topic for which the research interest of psychologists, pedagogues and sociologists in recent years has grown in proportion to media reporting on peer violence throughout Serbia. Peer violence, like all other forms of violence, belongs to the domain of acute problems of contemporary Serbian society, which has suffered strong political and economic changes in the last thirty years. They are conditioned by the disintegration of the former state (SFR Yugoslavia), with the influx of over 500,000 refugees from the territory of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, post-socialist transformation, sudden population pauperization, bombing of the country in 1999, the establishment of an international protectorate in Kosovo and Metohija and the unilateral declaration of independence of this territory by the Kosovo Albanians,

¹ See: Milan Tripković „Nasilje“, u: Aljoša Mimica, Marija Bogdanović (prir.), Sociološki rečnik. Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike, (2007): 346–347; Sandra Radenović, Bioetika i nasilje, Godišnjak Katedre za društvene i humanističke znanosti u medicini Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Rijeci, 3(5), (2012): 205–218.

² See: vana Milovanović, „Problem nasilja nad ženama na Kosovu i Metohiji – usmerenost na opštine centralnog i severnog dela pokrajine“. Baština, 37 (2014): 353–372.

in connection with which political negotiations still continue. Such intense cumulative social changes left a deep mark on all social actors, including children and youth before whose birth all of the above mentioned changes occurred. Thus, children and youth in Serbian society grow in an environment that is manifestly peaceful and democratic, and latently tolerant of violence that is all-pervasive in a real and virtual environment (in school, on the street, in city transport, in the media, in social networks).

Bearing in mind the general exposure of children and youth to violence, we initially attempted to investigate the extent to which children are exposed to violence in sports. The reason for this research is twofold: sport is a very specific social phenomenon, which has a socializing character in childhood.³ As such, sport has the potential to contribute to the positive development of character, the adoption of positive norms and values in children and youth. Therefore, in sports, children and youth can master the skills of successful dealing with violence and solving violent life episodes. On the other hand, we must not ignore the numerous latent socio-psychological dimensions of sport. The literature declaratively refers to the overstressed value of the competition and victory in (children's and youth) sports, which makes sport a place of pressure, stress, frustration, which can badly affect the psycho-physical stability of the young person and the dynamics of the group. The second reason for our research interest in the subject of peer violence in sports is the lack of sociological research in the field. Following the published works, we come to the conclusion that the sociological investigation of violence in sports illuminates the following: the problem of fan violence at sports events, athlete violence, parent violence against athletes, violence of coaches, violence against sports judges.⁴ When we take into account the specificity and degree of the presence of violence as a social phenomenon on the one hand, as well as the specificity and attractiveness of sports from early childhood, on the other hand, the need for more intensive research interest and the phenomenon of peer violence in sports is quite clear. Namely, the speed at which the number of sports programs for children/youth grows does not correspond with the number of research papers that would point out the negative socio-psychological consequences in the sports peer group. Hence this paper, which is at the same time exploration of an exploratory type, aims to determine the existence and manifestation of peer violence in sport, as a kind of latent social phenomenon.

³ Željka Bojanić, Dušana Šakan and Jasmina Nedeljković, „Personality traits as predictors of perfectionism”. *FactaUniversitatis*, 16(1), (2018): 57-71.

⁴ See: Dragan Koković, *Doba nasilja i sport* (Novi Sad: Sports" World, 1990), Dragan Koković, *Društvo, nasilje i sport* (Novi Sad: Mediterran Publishing, 2010).

2. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The above-mentioned dual nature of sport, compounded by violence as a general social problem, was the reason for the realization of this exploratory research. In the first phase of the research, with a review of secondary literature, we also met with legal acts, strategies of the Republic of Serbia and youth policy action plans, which are to a certain extent related to the issue of (peer) violence and exclusion of children and youth in everyday life, as well as sports. In the second phase of the research, we carried out focus-group interviews with coaches, working with children aged six to sixteen, on the topic of the presence of forms of peer violence in sports. We also conducted a focus group interview with the parents of children of the mentioned age, so that we could look at the problem from the parent's point of view. The research was carried out on the territory of Novi Sad, in the period April 2018 - March 2019.

Bearing in mind that this is an explorative research, there are no formal hypotheses of research, but a group of research questions to be answered:

1. Is violence present in children's and youth sports?
2. If yes, what are the forms of violence?
3. What is the intensity of violence?
4. What are the dominant characteristics of children of victims, and what of the children abusers?
5. What are the manifest consequences of violence on children-victims?

The research involved coaches, parents and children who have to do with the following sports: football, basketball, handball, water polo, volleyball, wrestling and judo. The choice of sports is based on the representation of the mentioned sports in Novi Sad, physical contact, but also by the absence of physical contact in a specific sport. In socio-demographic terms, it is about children, coaches and parents who live and work in the city (Novi Sad) and who have many years of experience in dealing with these sports. Our previous research has shown that socioeconomic factors such as parental education and material status are not related to the frequency of children's sports activities⁵ indicating that sport is one of the most important extra-curricular activities for the development of children

⁵ See: Ivana Milovanović, Željko Krneta i Gustav Bala, „Relacije socijalnog statusa roditelja i intelektualnih i motoričkih sposobnosti predškolske dece“, Efekti primene kinezioloških aktivnosti na antropološke karakteristike predškolske dece, Novi Sad, Fakultet sporta i fizičkog vaspitanja (2017): 181–204. Videti: Zoran Milošević, Nebojša Maksimović, Ivana Milovanović, Radenko Matić, Damjan Jakšić and Jovan Vuković, „Socio-economic characteristics of families and physical activity of children“, Exercise and Quality of Life, vol. 8, no. 2, (2016): 3-8

among parents, regardless of their educational and material status. This was one reason more for investigating the presence and manifestation of peer violence in sports.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following section outlines the results of the analysis of the legal acts, strategies and Action Plan for youth policy in the territory of the AP Vojvodina for the period 2015-2020, which are indirectly related to the topic of discrimination and violence in children and youth sports. Furthermore, key results of focus-group interviews with coaches and parents are described.

3.1 Legal basis for the prohibition of discrimination and violence in sport

By inspecting the legal acts and strategies of the Republic of Serbia, the Law on Youth from 2011, as well as the National Youth Strategy in Serbia for the period from 2015 to 2025, come as relevant, whose common goal is “to improve the social position of young people in Serbia and create the conditions for meeting the needs and interests of young people in all areas of interest to young people”.⁶ The National Strategy for Youth in Serbia for the period from 2015 to 2025 arises from this law, which regulates: “active participation of young people in social life, securing the rights of young people to equal opportunities, informing young people, encouraging and evaluating tolerance, democracy, exceptional achievements of the youth, encouraging and developing formal and non-formal education, encouraging and stimulating employment and self-employment of young people and youth entrepreneurship, improving youth safety, sustainable development and healthy living environment, preservation and improvement of the health of young people and other activities and areas of importance for young people”.⁷ Along with these two acts, there is an Action Plan for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy (for the period 2015-2017 and 2018-2020), which defines all actors in the realization of the key objectives of the strategy, namely: “employability and employment of young women and men; quality and opportunities for acquiring qualifications and development of competences and innovations of young people; active participation of young women and men in society; health and well-being of young women and men; conditions for

⁶ Law on Youth of the Republic of Serbia, 2011: 1.

⁷ Law on Youth, 2011: 3

developing youth safety culture; supporting social inclusion of young people from categories at risk of social exclusion; mobility, scope of international youth cooperation and support for young migrants; youth information system and youth knowledge; use and participation of young people in the creation of cultural content" (Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Youth Strategy 2018-2020: 1). In the territory of AP Vojvodina, there is also the "Youth Policy Action Plan in AP Vojvodina for the period 2015-2020", where it is emphasized that in the territory of the province, youth policy is based on "access to youth as a resource" (Youth Policy Action Plan in AP Vojvodina for the period 2015-2020, 2015: 3). The mentioned action plan is divided into eight areas as follows: youth education, youth employment, youth health and social policies towards youth, culture and youth information, youth activism and leisure, volunteerism and youth mobility, youth safety, environmental protection and sustainable development. Among the above topics, sport is mentioned within the youth free time section, while peer violence, as well as violence in sport, is mentioned in the field of "youth safety". Peer violence is mentioned as a phenomenon dominantly present in school, while violence in sports is mentioned as a phenomenon of fan violence and hooliganism at sports events.⁸ Although not directly related to this exploratory research, the mentioned Action Plan is an important segment of the secondary material, as an indication that the actors and creators of youth policy in the AP Vojvodina have pointed to the existence of peer violence as a social problem whose reduction is not visible, but possibly changing forms (due to activities of children and youth on social networks). They also recognized the existence of violence at some sporting events, but not the phenomenon of violence in the organized sports of children and youth.

Insight into these documents indicates that the topic of violence in youth sport may be in indirect relation with several mentioned points, but none of them are explicitly mentioned. On the other hand, the Law on Sports of the Republic of Serbia explicitly states in point 4: "Every kind of abuse, misuse, discrimination and violence against children in the field of sports is forbidden. Organizations in the field of sports and persons performing professional and educational work with children in these organizations, as well as all members and employees in sports organizations, shall in particular promote equality among children and actively oppose all forms of abuse, misuse, discrimination and violence".⁹ Thus, the field of prohibition of abuse, misuse, discrimination and violence against children and youth is regulated by law, emphasizing the promotion of equality between children and youth. By realizing field research, primarily through a focus-group

⁸ Youth Policy Action Plan in AP Vojvodina for the period 2015-2020, 2015: 77-78.

⁹ Law on Sports of the Republic of Serbia, 2016: Article 4: 1.

interview with coaches, we investigated to what extent discrimination and peer violence are present in sports, and indirectly the extent to which coaches and other employees in sports clubs comply with the stated provisions of the law.

3.2 Results of focus-group interviews with coaches and parents

This section shows the most common responses from coaches and parents, recorded during the focus-group interviews conducted at the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education in Novi Sad. The first question is: "What actions show that there is violence among children in various sports activities?"

A.L. (wrestling coach): There is a thin boundary between what is "teasing", which is something that is not so controversial in relation to what is controversial, which is violence. Because in principle, I'm not sure if I should mention this: they stand in a column and who will be the first, that's the first thing. They are already showing something here, if they are leaders, if they are not, if they will easily go to the end of the line ...'

Z.A. (the mother of a boy who trains football): "What I noticed is more visible during trainings, competitions here and there ... starting with football, there are some kind of calling out children, especially if the child does something worse than others, for example does not do some exercises as good as the better ones, and calling names between the children themselves and the simple manifestation of the aggressiveness of some children who want to stand out, and the bullying of those who are more extrovert and calmer, but during trainings, I noticed this the most"

B.O. (water polo coach): "Well, basically, we only have a few problems. So, it happens, for example, the biggest problem for us is some children who ... how should I say, who do not like water polo ... who are here because they are being made to come by their parents, and then we have a problem that the child will not be disciplined, a real problem, hindering the work of other children, and the like .. Then the rest of the children lash out on him..."

The second question was: "What type of violence is most commonly present?"

Z.A. (the mother of a boy who trains football): "Mental, verbal bullying and humiliation of children. For example: 'you don't know this, you are so clumsy, in this context ..'"

B.T. (the father of boy who trains judo): "Putting others down and SMS messages, and so on ... This is generally the most common type ..."

S.M. (football coach): "Most often verbal or psychological violence is present. Children are cruel towards the weaker ones, and in sports towards those children who do not show good motor skills or talent for this sport."

Z.B. (the father of a boy who trains basketball): "Well, such situations are normal. Children come to sports to toughen up ..."

When the question is: "Where does violence often happen," the joint answer is in the locker room after the training. The reason for this is, according to the

coaches and parents, that the children after training are still under impression because of the training dynamics itself and that the locker room is the most logical place for quarrels among children. In addition, in most cases, coaches are not present in the locker room, which is one reason more for the manifestation of violence. In addition, violence does not happen before/during/after games, competitions and sports camps, because "chosen" children travel to these events, among whom there is more pronounced cohesion.

When it comes to the form of violence, both coaches and parents point out that it is verbal violence, through insults at the expense of the "incapacity" of a child who is a victim of sports results and talent for a particular sport. It turns out that the manifestation of psychological violence in girls happens more often in the form of gossip, attempts to exclude the girl victim from the game (in team sports), openly scoffing at the expense of clothes, footwear and outdated mobile phones. Boys get more verbal insults on the account of "no talent" for playing or lack of cooperation during training/match (for not passing the ball, etc.). There are cases of smirking, but they are more often stressed by parents rather than by coaches. The following responses speak in favor of this:

B.M. (the mother of a girl who trains judo): "Specifically, my daughter did not have a problem, but in the group while she trained ... it starts verbally, they fight, but not exactly like boys, more often ... it is verbal .. those who are better assemble a group of their own and those who are not that good, simply distance themselves from them and do not talk to them. And this can be disturbing ... but with girls also, especially in some of the men's sports, they can very crude and raw, almost worse than men with some rude words ... more verbally, but they fight less ... "

B.T. (handball coach): "They are much more hurt verbally than by physical violence, they pay more attention to this and it hurts them more ... Physical pain will be over but this leaves a trace ..."

M.K. (basketball coach): "We have a whole generation in the club, from preschoolers to the eighth grade, and I can tell you that all the incidents that existed were mostly of verbal character, we did not have physical violence ... it was more verbal in character, but what is interesting is that these children who used verbal violence against other children also had problems in school ... it is not like one child is ideal at school and excels at sports nor is it the other way around. This is a model of behavior that is mapped out of school on sport, from sport to leisure and to some groups outside of school, outside of clubs .. I'm not saying, there were situations ... it mostly comes down to teasing, downplaying, because of physical appearance ... depending on if someone is tall, low, skinny, chubby, fat or so, somewhere in our country it was the dominant way ... and we are a collective sport. Our coaches need to build some team spirit, we even asked some parents not to bring their children anymore because children were

disturbing the order, we had a case like that ... a child who constantly provokes someone in the locker room ..."

T.B. (judo coach): "In my opinion, there is only psychological violence. Physical violence rarely occurs in martial arts in younger categories. At the age between 10-14 years, there are often teasing like "you have such ugly sneakers ...", the younger member says to the older one. While with the older, perhaps her financial situation does not allow her to afford better shoes. It happened that three girls had consistently played together in the team and were phenomenal and then one of them had to pause due to asthma problems. Then the two of them who continued began to threaten her regarding further results, told her they would beat her, etc., so that she would attend trainings more regularly. I was there and heard that two of them threatened her. In the end, there was a confrontation between the parents as a kind of conversation. Sometimes parents also advise their children to feel free to hit somebody if necessary. Mostly they are not interested in resolving the situation peacefully, but they say 'if they attack you, you attack her also,' which means they do not approach the problem seriously at all. There were situations when quarreled about who had a better phone, tablet ... whose parents have a better phone, and they continue this conversation in front of their parents and then parents continue this discussion. I have a problem with my parents i.e. with their reactions to the problem. The children still understand, so at training they reconcile through conversation, while parents sometimes stay in those unnecessary conflicts. And these things are often initiated by the parents themselves."

The last response indicates another type of problem that exists in sport, and which coaches point to. Namely, on several occasions during the discussion, the coaches emphasized the overstated interference of parents in training and competitions, with advice to their children to "defend themselves physically". On the other hand, during the discussion, the parents emphasized that some coaches encourage aggressive and violent behavior in children. Such findings point to the existence of a problem in a "parallel" sphere, which has indirect links with peer violence. It points to the violence against children in sports as a compatible but still separate phenomenon, which is not in the research focus of this paper. If we look at the other answers to the question about the type of violence, we see that psychological violence is the most pronounced phenomenon of peer violence. Following the testimonies of the interlocutors, it turns out that verbal insults and humiliations are more likely to have deeper psychological repercussions on children. Although they do not say how they (coaches and parents) empower child victims in such situations, interlocutors say that such situations are present almost every day and that children are simply exposed to this kind of communication. However, there are also parents (mostly fathers) who say that such situations are completely "usual" and "necessary" because children come to

sports just to "toughen up". Such statements were frowned upon by the other participants in the focus-group interview, emphasizing that "today is a different time" and that "children are not the same as before", which is indirectly related to the research on the "Z" generation or the millennials.¹⁰

The question: "What are the dominant traits of the child victim and what of the child abuser?" was usually answered by the interlocutors that they were shy, introvert children, who are somewhat slower in the given sport. And vice versa, it turns out that extrovert children, who are better or even worse in the given sport, are more often violent. The abuser is not necessarily a child who is talented or not talented for a given sport. It is a child, according to the coaches and parents, who is violent both in school and out-of-school activities. What coaches emphasize is the fact that many parents ignore the coach's allegations about the aggressiveness of their child and that changes rarely occur with the child and parents themselves. More often, the problem is "solved" by signing the child out of the club. This is supported by the following statement of an interlocutor, who is the coach of martial arts:

T.T. (Judo coach): "We had one case ... Somewhere in 2010-2011. A project for socially disadvantaged children was organized in the framework of self-defense and sambo, and there was one large group of Roma children who really worked fantastically throughout the entire 2-3 months. After the completion of the project one boy remained in the club, of course he was exempted from paying the membership fee. He was attacked by another child, and he was the son of a policeman, and he hit the other child during the fight so hard with his head that we couldn't stop the bleeding for at least half an hour. The parent came and we explained everything, that he attacked and hit him intentionally, and the parent (policeman) said: 'My child did not do it.' Then he called his son and then asked him whether he really did it, to which he replied that it was by accident, not intentionally, and so on. The child abuser came to trainings for about two weeks after that and finally signed out. The point is that the parent did not react at all as he should at all..."

The above example points to numerous problems related to peer violence in sports. It points to the *a priori* vulnerability of children - members of minority ethnic groups who come from lower social classes, who are abused by other children convinced that they will not suffer great consequences. The interlocutor highlighting that the child abuser is also the son of a policeman, who denied the very idea that his son deliberately hurt another child, indicates a strong impression under which she was in the role of coach at a given moment. From a

¹⁰ Kathleen A. J. Mohr and Eric S. Mohr (2017). Understanding Generation Z students to promote a Contemporary Learning environment. *Journal of empowering Teaching Excellence*, Vol. 1, pp. 84-94.

broader social point of view, although noted as isolated, this example illustrates the latent exposure to the violence of the "weaker" in Serbian society: the poor, children belonging to minority ethnic groups, children with some functional disabilities. It also illustrates the inadequate power of the coach to protect the child victim. Hence the answer referring to "problem solving" by the self-initiative signing out of the abuser from the club, because the club management did not estimate that the child-abuser should be sanctioned. This example contains several layers of unwillingness of social actors to solve the problem or react at least: following the statement of the aforementioned martial arts coach, the child abuser stopped coming to training two weeks after the incident/was signed out from the club. There is a lack of description of the behavior of the coach and other children towards that child during the two weeks after the incident. Although we assume that the child experienced some sort of silent "anathema", ignorance by the coach and/ or peers, followed by the signing out from the club, the fact remains that the club's leadership did not officially respond by signing out the child-abuser. Such information illustrates a social "atmosphere" in which the problem "will somehow be solved" without using official sanctions, which was present in the mentioned case. The child-abuser is tacitly informed that he will not be directly penalized for his actions. Also tacitly, the other children-potential victims are shown the same: the abusers are not always punished for their actions. Thus, the atmosphere of "insecurity" is spreading not only in sport, but also in the wider social environment, resulting in the new generations of children who, at least in some form, experienced violence during their childhood and youth.

The answers of the coaches and parents to the question "What are the consequences of violence to the children", were very compatible:

B.T. (the father of a boy who trains water polo): "The child turns in oneself and loses self-confidence."

G.E. (the parent of a child who trains basketball): "The truth is that the child loses self-confidence, but it should only wake up some receptors, and he should to solve it. Because, I think he should not get used to it that his parent will solve every problem, especially if peer violence is within a class or group of his age, now if someone is older and is applying physical maltreatment, that is something else ... if it is some kind of harassment in terms of his generation, he should try to encourage him to handle it himself to fight with his some quality of his, one - another ... except if it takes on some dramatic measures, I do not think that a child should be used to the parent being there, who will solve every problem. If we let him get used to it then tomorrow when other problems arise ... he will just say: 'ok , somebody will solve this for me ... my dad, mom, coach, this one - that one ... 'but he should try to solve it ... so if he can't or strikes a wall, then of course he helps the child in one way or another to solve this... "

T.L. (volleyball coach): "The loss of self-confidence is evident in such situations. The coach can contribute to improving the child's position to some extent by pointing to the skills for which he is talented, but he or she has to fight for their own position in the group. "

Finally, the question to which extent coaches can contribute to the reduction of violence in sports produced answers that point to the collective responsibility of adults in solving this problem, primarily parents, teachers and coaches. This is a common conclusion and discussion with parents. If the sport is a "mirror of the society" in which it exists, the mentioned focus-group interviews support this claim. Although only some answers to the numerous questions that we have asked coaches and parents are presented, it is unambiguous that this is a social phenomenon, whose roots are much deeper than the manifestation of children's and youth sports. The presented results of the discussion also pointed to the issue of adult violence against children, which further testifies to the complexity of the problem.

CONCLUSION

This paper presents a contribution to research that addresses the existence and manifestation of peer violence in children's and youth sports. This is an exploratory research, which involved the analysis of secondary material related to the research problem, as well as the realization of focus-group interviews with coaches and parents of children aged six to sixteen.

By analyzing secondary material, primarily legal acts and by-laws in the Republic of Serbia, which are in some relation to the mentioned topic of research, it turns out that the legislator has recognized the problem of violence in sports and that the Law on Sports clearly states the sanctioning of any form of neglect, abuse, discrimination and violence in sport. On the other hand, the *Strategy for Youth for the period 2015-2025*, as well as the *Youth Policy Action Plan in AP Vojvodina for the period 2015-2020*, do not recognize peer violence in sports as an autonomous social problem. More specifically, the *Action Plan* targets the issue of peer violence in schools and social networks, and on the other hand, we are reading about the violence of fans at certain sports events. Such data are to some extent related to the positive image of sports in early childhood and youth, when sport is seen primarily as a form of socialization, in which a number of positive psycho-physical characteristics of young people develop. On the other hand, it points to an even smaller number of scientific research of the "reverse side" of sports in the mentioned age, more specifically realized on the territory of AP Vojvodina.

In addition to the analysis of secondary material, in this paper we also pointed out the results of focus-group interviews with coaches working with children and youth as well as parents of children of that age. Although only some of the questions and answers from the mentioned interviews are presented, it is clear that peer violence in sports exists. The interlocutors emphasized that violence often occurs in locker rooms after the training, when children are still "under

adrenaline" from the events in the hall/field. At the same time, it is a place which neither coaches nor parents enter. They also pointed to the "profile" of the victim (a shy, introvert child who needs more time to show talent or skill for the given sport) and abuser (an extroverted, noisy child who is not talented or interested in that sport in many situations, but trains under the pressure of the parents or because they are practicing this sport). They also pointed to forms of violence: teasing, scoffing and insults at the expense of a child-victim, based on the physical appearance, poorer status (the subject of scoffing being cheaper sneakers, clothes or a mobile phone), lack of talent for sport or, a pronounced talent for sport, which is why this child is favored by the coach. As far as individual focus-group interviews are concerned, coaches and parents have pointed to each other as one of the important "reasons" for the existence of peer violence in sports, claiming that there are coaches/parents that incite physical violence in children and an aggressive atmosphere in general. Coaches emphasize that parents "interfere too much" with their work. Parents say that coaches "do not pay much attention to the individual characteristics and talents of children". Such statements point to the fact that peer violence in sports is only one manifestation of a general social atmosphere, which is declaratively democratic and condemning violence, but essentially supports and promotes violence. They also indirectly point out the fact that children and young people are victims of such general social circumstances whose solution is not visible at the moment.

Although of an exploratory character, this research pointed to two important findings: the by-laws, more specifically the Youth Action Plans should include a section on (peer) violence in child and youth sports, and in the domain of scientific research projects, field research on this and compatible themes should be implemented, on a larger sample and a larger spatial framework.

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НЕКОТОРЫЕ ПОКАЗАТЕЛИ ЖЕСТОКОСТИ В ДЕТСКОМ И МОЛОДЕЖНОМ СПОРТЕ

АННОТАЦИЯ

Различные формы проявления насилия относятся к группе острых проблем современного сербского общества. Этому есть множество причин, которые являются следствием многолетней пост-социалистической трансформации, осложненной обнищанием общества, а также интенсивными глобальными процессами. Насилие среди сверстников является одной из негативных черт повседневной жизни и образа жизни детей и молодежи. Имея это в виду, авторы выявили некоторые формы проявления насилия среди сверстников в детско-юношеском спорте на территории города Нови-Сад. Это касается результатов анализа вторичного материала (точнее – правовых актов и стратегий), которые касаются проблемы насилия среди сверстников в спорте. Кроме того, авторы выявили формы проявления и интенсивность насилия среди сверстников в детском и юношеском спорте путем проведения интервью в фокус-группах с тренерами и родителями детей в возрасте от 6 до 16 лет, а также путем проведения исследовательского опроса 118 детей. Дискуссии в фокус-группах позволили выявить помимо проблемы насилия среди сверстников и такие проблемы, как насилие тренера над детьми, а также насилие родителей над (своими и чужими) детьми. Проведя опрос детей, тренеров и родителей, мы получили первоначальное представление о заявленной социальной проблеме с позиций трех сравниваемых точек зрения. Это важно потому, что ни одна исследовательская группа по характеру своей социальной роли в спорте не имеет полного представления о социальной проблеме, исследуемой авторами статьи. Результаты исследования представляют собой дополнительный вклад в небольшое количество имеющихся работ, которые указывают на негативные психосоциальные проявления в спортивной группе сверстников, а также в детском и юношеском спорте в целом.

Ключевые слова: насилие, дети, тренеры, родители, город Нови Сад.

НЕКИ ПОКАЗАТЕЉИ НАСИЉА У ДЕЧИЈЕМ И ОМЛАДИНСКОМ СПОРТУ

САЖЕТАК

Различите појавне форме насиља спадају у групу акутних проблема савременог српског друштва. Вршњачко насиље једна је од негативних одлика свакодневице и животног стила деце и омладине. Имајући то у виду, овим истраживањем аутори су утврдили неке појавне облике вршњачког насиља у дечијем и омладинском спорту, на територији града Новог Сада. Реч је о резултатима експлоративног истраживања, које је подразумевало анализу секундарне грађе (конкретније законских аката, стратегија за младе, акционих планова политике за младе), које се посредно баве и питањем вршњачког насиља у спорту. Надаље, аутори су реализацијом фокус-групних интервјуа са тренерима и родитељима деце узраста од 6 до 16 година, као и реализацијом анкетног истраживања на узорку од 160 деце, утврдили појавне форме и интензитет вршњачког насиља у дечијем и омладинском спорту. Истраживањем на популацији тренера и родитеља добијен је иницијални увид у наведени друштвени проблем. То је значајно јер ниједна истраживана група по природи друштвених улога које имају у спорту, нема потпуни преглед друштвеног проблема која је истражена. Резултати истраживања представљају допринос истраживачким радовима који указују на негативне социо-психолошке последице у спортској вршњачкој групи, као и дечијем и омладинском спорту опште говорећи.

Кључне речи: деца, омладина, тренери, родитељи, Нови Сад.

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