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Parental Awareness and Knowledge for Participating in Talent Selection of Golf

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to determine the golf knowledge and awareness of the parents whose children were involved in a golf talent selection project. It was held in order to spread golf and find new talents in Turkey. A questionnaire was applied to the parents of 400 children (223 boys and 178 girls) aged 8-11 during this project. Frequency distribution was used for each question ($p < 0.05$). As a result, the majority of the parents who live in Silivri - where one of the well-known golf facilities in Turkey is located - did not have any knowledge about golf but the majority of the parents (97.3%) wanted their children to be involved in golf. This was not effective to bring their children for the project because more than half of the parents brought their children for golf talent selection leading by their physical education and sport teachers (53.6 %). In addition more than half of the parents were active in sports therefore they encouraged and supported their children to play golf.

Keywords: parental awareness, golf, role modelling, children, talent selection

Introduction

Golf is one of the most expensive sports in the world (Hallmann, 2015) and one of the few sports activities that can be played by all ages, genders, and skill levels (McHardy, Pollard, Luo, 2006) Its cost is higher than some other sports in terms of both the equipment and the courses. It has been stated that golf has grown in popularity as both a recreational and a spectator sport (Shin, Kim, Moon, 2016) and it has grown around the world remarkably. (Nauright, 2006). Besides, the interest in this sport is not high in general due to the modest socio-economic levels of the population in Turkey. The first golf club known as Istanbul Golf Club, was founded in 1895 in Istanbul and the Turkish Golf Federation was established in 1996 (Türkiye Golf Federasyonu. 2005). Therefore, participation in golf has risen considerably in Turkey for twenty years. Turkish Golf Federation has had many campaigns to promote golf and organized many national and international tournaments. A project for gaining new golfers and spreading golf all over Turkey has been running since 1998 and it has been supported by the Turkish Golf Federation. In this project, talented children have been selected and the knowledge about golf of the parents has been evaluated. Talent was described as a process from childhood to adult age with an emphasis on the interaction between the developing person and the surrounding environment (Wolfenden & Holt, 2005; Piech et al, 2016; Soberlak, P. & Cotè, 2003). It has been discussed the importance of the family in the introduction to sport and the development of a sport career for their children (Piech et al, 2016). In several studies, it has been reported the significance of the parental supportive role for children on sports participation.

Parents have been recognized as a substantial influence on sports participation of their children (Kay, 2004) and as the most salient for both participation and learning (Keegan, Harwood, Spray, Lavalley 2009). It has been also stated that parents were particularly influential in early and middle childhood (Cote, 1999) In Turkey, there have been limited studies about the role of family on participation in sport especially for early and middle childhood period (Dinç et al, 2011; Kotan et al, 2009). It has been reported that parents should be interested and supported as well as children on directing to sports (Dinç et al, 2011) but financial condition was supposed as a negative factor for participation in sport (Ünal et al, 2012).

This factor can also affect the participation in golf, which is one of the most expensive sports. The influence of the parents on children's participation was major factors in youth sport experiences (Domingues, Gonçalves, (2013) and therefore some project should be supported by governments or federations.

Purpose of the Study

To our knowledge, the role of the parents on children's participation in golf remains unknown. Thus, additional research is needed to more clearly understand this issue for decision-making processes of parents and career development of their children in order to participate in a new sport. This paper may contribute to golf participation in Turkey by exploring the parents' awareness and knowledge about this sport. Therefore, in the light of the existing studies, the main goal of this study was to determine the golf knowledge and awareness of the parents whose children participated in talent selection of golf in Turkey.

Two research questions were addressed in this study:

- (1) Do the parents know anything about golf?
- (2) Why did the parents bring their children to take part in golf activity?

Method

Participants

This study was applied to the parents whose children were candidates to be a golfer in the Silivri region of Istanbul province in order to find of the knowledge of the families about the golf. This sample was consisted of the parents of 400 children (223 boys and 178 girls) aged 8-11. All parents participated in this study voluntarily. 58% were participants were mothers and 42% were fathers. The children all were public school students.

Procedure

The Ethics Committee of the Local University granted ethical permission for this study. In the beginning of the project, the permission was given by the Turkish Golf Federation. The parents provided written informed consent prior to participation in this study.

Data Collection

Information was collected by a questionnaire that consisted of total 10 questions about socio-economic levels, the awareness and knowledge of the families related to golf. A questionnaire was applied by face to face interview technique to 400 mother or father participants when they brought their children to the talent selection. Data were collected over a 1-week period.

Data Analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS Statistics software package (version 21.0; IBM SPSS, Armonk, NY, USA). Frequency distribution (%) was used for each question. The criterion for significance was set using an alpha level of $p < 0.05$.

Results

The results of this questionnaire showed that the large number of the participants' mothers was housewives and the majority of the fathers was freelance or workers (Table 1).

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of the Profession of Fathers and Mothers

(Question 1): The profession of fathers and mothers	Percent (%)	
	fathers	mothers
House wives	-	63,8
Workers	28,7	5,5
Civil servants	8	5,0
Free lances	30,2	3,2
Pensioners	3,2	,5

Table 2 shows that 67.7 % of the children were involved in some sports activity before their golf participation.

(Question 2): Was your child involved in any sports activity?	Yes (%)	No (%)
	67.7	32.3

When the parents were asked the question (Question 3) of “At what age did your child start playing sports?” it was found that they started playing sport at the age of 9-10 mostly (Table 3).

(Question 3): At what age did your child start playing sports?	Age (year)	Percent (%)
	5-6	13.5
	7-8	19.5
	9-10	66.9

Table 4 shows that 53.9 % of the children were active in other sports activities (basketball, soccer, volleyball, tennis, swimming, martial arts and other) than golf.

(Question 4): What sports has your child been involved in?	Percent (%)
Basketball	10,2
Soccer	29,2
Volleyball	10,7
Tennis	,2
Swimming	1,7
Martial arts	,7
Other	1,2

The percentage distribution of the involvement and knowledge of families about golf are shown in Table 5. More than half of the families were active in several sports, even though the majority of the family members was not active in golf. The majority of the family members wanted their children to be involved in golf activities. Most of the family did not have any knowledge about the golf and golf course.

The percentage distribution of the reasons of the families to bring their children to take part in golf activity is shown in Table 6. More than half of the parents brought their children to take part in golf because physical education and sport teacher asked them.

Table 6. Percentage distribution of the reasons of the families to bring their children to take part in golf activity.

(Question 10): Why did you bring your child to take part in golf?	Percent (%)
To be involved any sport activity	17.4
To play golf	9.6
To make a fortune by taking a chance in golf	19.4
Physical education and sport teacher asked to participate in talent selection	53.6

Discussion

It has been determined that the majority of the families' socio economic levels were low and the majority of the children started to play basketball, volleyball and soccer at the age of 9-10 years old before they involved in playing golf. It has been found that 55.1 % of the families involved in sport in a recreational way. They have supported their children to play golf although they have never played golf before. More than half of the families were affected by the physical education and sport teachers of their children in order to bring them for the talent selection in golf. But it is remarkable that the families who send their children to be a competitor in golf did not know any knowledge about golf although there are well known golf facilities of Turkey in Silivri. Golf is also a mentally compulsive sport (Clark, T. P., et al., 2005) which requires talent and development of coordination and conditional features like all other sports. It can be performed in specific regions and expensive clubs because the golf equipment is expensive and it requires a special training and area. Accordingly, it is difficult to spread all over the country like in all other developing sport branches.

In order to be successful internationally it should be supported and sport policies intended for this should be formed. There have been some sample strategies in which financial supports and talented athletes were brought together (De Bosscher, et al., 2006). Kirk et al (1997) in their study has been stated that adolescent' participation in different types of physical activity and sports varied according to family income and structure are the key factors in determining a child's involvement in junior sport and financial factors may be barriers in participation in junior sports. Another study informed that talented youngsters from poorer economic background would be heavily disadvantaged, especially in sports such as tennis (Baxter-Jones AD, et al., (2003). The financial condition was also supposed as a negative factor for sport participation in Turkey (Ünal et al, 2012). The talent development is a long term process that involves more than talented person, but also strong support system (Bloom, 1985). Within this view, Turkish Golf Federation organized the talent selection project by collaboration with some of the sport science academicians to increase of the participation of the golf in Turkey. The present study was conducted during that project in order to determine the golf knowledge and awareness of the parents whose children involved in golf talent selection project.

Majority of the mothers was housewife and most of the fathers were workers and free-lance. Although the economic status of the families in the present study was low, it was observed that their children started sports at early ages. This finding is in agreement with previous reports presented by Cote, (1999) who reported that parents were particularly influential in early and middle childhood. Our finding is also in line with the aspect that encouraging sport participation was portrayed as normal and part of a parent's responsibility to ensure a healthy lifestyle for their children (Strandbu, et al, 2017). In another result of the present study, the children started to be involved in any sports when they were at 5-6 years old but it has been found that they mostly started to their active sports lives at the age of 9-10. They preferred to play firstly soccer then volleyball and basketball respectively before they were involved in playing golf. This was an expected result because soccer, volleyball and basketball are common sports at schools. In the sport literature, role modeling has usually been operationalized as being physically active or involved in sport (Fredricks, 2005). It has been stated that especially the need to understand the support and encouragement is necessary at the entry levels of sport (Gould, Dieffenbach, Moffett, 2001).

The majority of studies have shown that significant adults and friends in an adolescent's life are important for the socialization into physical activity both as role models and through encouragement and support (Anderssen, Wold, 1992; Sallis, et al., 1992; Dempsey, et al., 1993; McMurray, et al., 1993; Gordon-Larsen, et al., 2000; Voorhees et al., 2005). On the other hand, several other studies also highlight the importance of the family support to their children to participate in different sports (Cote 1999; Harwood, 2012). It has been stated that parents serve as role models for their children and may influence positively or negatively their child's tennis experiences (Harwood, 2012) and in another study it has been found that parents perceived they played a role in their sons' rugby performances (Woodcock Holland et al, 2011). In present study, more than half of the families, who were active in sports but no ideas about golf, encouraged and supported their children to play golf. These findings of the present studies are in agreement with previous researches (McMurray, et al., 1993; Cote 1999; Gordon-Larsen, et al., 2000; Woodcock Holland et al, 2011; Harwood, C., & Knight, C. 2012). One of the most important findings is that the majority of the parents (97.3%) wanted their children to be involved in golf but this was not effective to bring their children for the golf talent selection project. It was found that more than half of the parents brought their children to take part in golf talent selection leading by their of physical education and sport teachers.

The results of our study are partly in a line with the findings of other studies which has been reported that both parents and coaches play a major role in the pursuit of the children to reach the highest level in sport (Knoetze-Raper, et al, 2016) and have a relatively strong influence on athlete motivation due to their singular positions of authority (Keegan et al, 2009). With this project, it was important to reach the children whose families had a low socio-economic level so the children who were talented but had no opportunity to play golf because of financial problems were given a chance to be a professional golfer. The accommodation, food and education expenses of the children who have been selected during the project have been defrayed by the Turkish Golf Federation. As a result of these financial aids, the parents have supported their children to improve in golf, even though they did not know anything about the game before. Those families who have been taken as a model helped other families to get involve in golf and also it has helped golf to spread nationwide.

Limitations

It appears this is the first study to be conducted to determine the golf knowledge and awareness of the parents whose children involved in golf talent selection project only in Silivri region where one of the largest and well-known golf facilities in Turkey is located. Therefore, further research are needed and a larger sample size in other regions where golf facilities are located in Turkey is recommended for future studies.

Conclusions

In this study, parental roles in the participation of golf have been explored. The study contributes to the literature about parenting to support children the participation in sport. Although the parents had no idea about golf, they serve as role models for their children and may influence positively to take part in golf. It can be expected to become widespread in golf if those kind of projects continue. It is also remarkable that physical education and sports teachers have important role in participation in youth sport. As a result of the financial supports, the parents have supported their children to improve in golf, even though they did not know anything about the game before. Those families who have been taken as a model helped other families to get involve in golf and also it has helped golf to spread nationwide. This project which has been processing by the supports of the Turkish Golf Federation shows that the importance of the increasing participation and interest in golf.

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