

ANALYSIS OF PARTICIPATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SPORTS SYSTEM IN R SERBIA

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Summary:

Competitive sport today is recognized by the strength of the organization and by the achieved results. It confirms a nation's cultural wealth, personate general national interest and represent a particular country in the world. That is the main reason why the Serbian Constitution defines sport as category of special social interest. Modern life style, with all modern technologies, is the basic reason why kids and youth are physically inactive. It is the scientific evidence base fact that physical inactivity of youth has negative influence on physical health, social and spiritual development and generally negatively influences biological potential of a nation. Engaging kids and youth in the system of sport could be one of the basic models of prevention against sedentary growing up style, i.e. physical inactivity. Because that one of the goals of the strategy of development of sport in the Republic of Serbia is to make sport generally accepted and desirable model of social behaviour, especially for schoolchildren. The aim of this research was to analyse the current quantitative characteristics of primary school children's engagement in sports system in Serbia. This research has been realized as systematic non-experimental survey. The sample consisted of 7787 elementary school pupils from 1st to 8th grade from five different regions in Serbia (Vojvodina, Belgrade, two central and one South regions of R Serbian, 3929 boys and 3858 girls). The results were analysed by the method of descriptive and regression statistic. The results of the participants have revealed that pupils generally attain actively 41 different sport, which means that they participate in 40.17% of all sports. The boys were active in 38 and girls in 37 of all sports recognized by the law of Republic of Serbia (117). The overall prevalence of children not participating in the sport system was 45.67%, as follows: 38.85% with boys and even 52.62% with girls. The majority of boys from the analysed sample are engaged in football (25.71%), swimming (5.55%), and karate (3.87%), whereas the highest number of girls choose volleyball (14.69%), swimming (5.63%) and folklore (5.22%). Unfortunately, it was established that in the course of elementary school education there is no statistically significant trend of change of prevalence of participation of the elementary school pupils in sports system of the Republic of Serbia (Boys - $R^2 = 0.0125$, $p = 0.798$; Girls - $R^2 = 0.0003$, $p = 0.984$), i.e., the value of the regression coefficient of the change trend of prevalence of participation in sports system with schoolchildren in 1st to 8th grade per year was -0.322 with the boys, whereas it was 0.0342 with the girls. The results of this research showed elementary school children initial quantitative date about involvement in the system of sport in R Serbia. Based on the results it can be concluded that more than a half of them are engaged in the sports system and that the prevalence of non-participation is higher in girls compared to boys. The regression analysis results showed that during the elementary education period (8 yrs.), the physical education system, the overall education system at school, and competitive sport system, absolutely do not affect in any way the change of prevalence of participation of the observed elementary school children population in the sports system in the Republic of Serbia.

Keywords: sport, elementary school, prevalence.