

Contributing Factors to the Lack of Parental Involvement in Sepak Takraw

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Abstract—the aim of this paper was to describe the factors that contribute to the lack of parental involvement in Sepak Takraw. The research design employed in the study was ethnography. The participants were four families selected purposively from one village, in Bali, Indonesia. The collection of data was done through the administration of an in-depth interview and a non-participant observation. The data analysis method employed was thematic analysis. The results showed that there were three reasons why parents did not support their children to become sepak takraw athletes: the consideration of sepak takraw as a dying sport; the difficult nature of the sport; and the inability of the sport to help the economic situation of the family. The study, therefore, recommends that coaches and policymakers should encourage parents to give more support for their children to become Sepak takraw athletes by socializing the benefits of sepak takraw.

Keywords—parents, children, involvement, sepak takraw

I. INTRODUCTION

Many things contribute to young athletes' achievement of which internal motivation and external motivation are part of. From these two, external motivation seems to be more important for young children. This is because family acts as an agent of socialization for children [1]. Children are firstly introduced to certain types of sports within their family. Parent has the ability of encouraging or discouraging their children to join certain sports. Studies reporting how the family could encourage their children to join certain sports have been flourishingly conducted. Little research, however, have addressed how parents could contribute to their children's achievement in sports, with attention placed on sepak takraw.

The achievement of sepak takraw is influenced by many factors [2]. One of which is family support. Support from family members such as parents might help the children to enjoy playing certain sports. When family members support their children, the achievement of the children in sports tends to be high, and vice versa.

Numerous studies have reported that supports from family have contributed positively to children's achievement [3,4,5]. Parents can make provision for financial, social, emotional

support, and personal development for their children. Even, children whose parents are former athletes may have a greater influence on them participating in sports. Besides, parents might also socialize their children to sports achievements. Nevertheless, not all parents support their children.

In fact, there are cases where parents do not support their children. Surprisingly, studies addressing this issue are quite scarce. Accordingly, to provide a balance investigation on the contribution of family support towards children's achievement, a study with the aim of investigating reasons why parents do not support their children to join sports, sepak takraw in particular, needs to be conducted.

II. METHOD

The present study is a part of a larger study aiming to investigate the development of sepak takraw in Indonesian context viewed from a socio-cultural perspective. The study was conducted in one village in Bali, Indonesia. The research made use of a qualitative approach, in the form of ethnography research design. The reason for the selection of this method is because it could help the researchers obtain and analyze data in a natural setting [6]. In addition, this design also allowed the researchers to study people's behavior in a naturally occurring setting with the focus on the cultural interpretation of behaviors [7]. There were four nuclear families purposively chosen as the participants of the study. Indicators used in selecting the participants include family size and composition, socioeconomic status and sports experiences. Family parameters were limited to a father, a mother, and two children (ranging from 5-15 years old). Data were collected by administering a non-participant observation and an in-depth interview. The procedures used in the collection of data include: providing verbal consent to the participants, interviewing the participants informally on a scheduled time and observing the daily activities of the participants. The data were analyzed by following some procedures: transcription of the interview, coding of interview, comparing the results of the interview and observation note, determining emergent themes, and drawing conclusions.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis reveals that there are three reasons why parents seem not to support their children to join sepak takraw: sepak takraw is considered as a dying sport, sepak takraw does not guarantee a future career for their children, and sepak takraw could not help the family financially. Each of which is discussed in the following sections.

The participants of the study believed that sepak takraw was considered as an unpopular sport. Instead of encouraging their children to join sepak takraw, they support their children to participate in sports other than sepak takraw, such as tennis and athletics. This is shown in the following excerpts.

“Sepak takraw is less prestigious and popular. I directed my two children to join tennis instead”. (Excerpt 1, Interview, Family 1 & Family 4)

“Sepak takraw tournament is rarely held. I prefer my sons to join athletics (Excerpt 2, Interview, Family 2 & Family 3).

The excerpts 1 and 2 suggested that parents did not seem to support their children to join sepak takraw. They thought that sepak takraw is not a popular and prestigious sport to play because it is quite rare to find sepak takraw tournaments in their contexts.

These results were confirmed by the results of non-participant observation, in which parents tended not to socialize sepak takraw to their children, and of which the parents were former athletes of sepak takraw. During family time, both parents and children would not talk much about sports, particularly sepak takraw, instead of talking they rather watch tennis tournaments on TV sports channel. Parents were also observed to rarely play sepak takraw with their children. They prefer asking their children to join a tennis club than a sepak takraw club. The parents even accompanied and watched their children when they play tennis at their tennis club.

“Sepak takraw is considered a difficult sport”

After the interview conducted, it was revealed that the parents considered sepak takraw as a difficult sport. This is shown by the following excerpts.

“Sepak takraw is a very difficult sport. It’s like doing acrobatic”. (Excerpt 3, Interview, Family 2,3)

“Sepak takraw requires demanding skills, such as jumping and floating”. (Excerpt 4, Interview, Family 1, 4).

Excerpts 3 and 4 suggested that parents assumed that sepak takraw is a hard sport to play. Sepak takraw is considered as an acrobatic game that requires a lot of skillful acrobatic moves such as spike movements. Unlike other sports, sepak takraw really needs special skills and courage from the player to play it very well.

Sepak takraw could not help the family economically

The data from the interview also reveal that parents did not support their children to play sepak takraw because they assumed that sepak takraw could not help the parents economically. This can be seen in the following excerpts.

“Instead of allowing my children to play sepak takraw, I asked them to help us do bamboo handicrafts (*nultul*). This helps us economically” (Excerpt 5, Interview, Family 2,3).

“Rewards given to sepak takraw is less than what we expected” (Excerpt 6, Interview, Family 1, 4).

Excerpts 5 and 6 reveal that money is also another factor why parents do not support their children to play sepak takraw. Through observation, it was noticed that instead of doing sporting activities, children seemed to make use of their leisure time to help their parents in making bamboo crafts.

These research findings empirically suggested that family socialization had not occurred in the context of the present study. The results seemed to contradict with [8] that found out that sports socialization occurred within family members as a vehicle to shape family interactions.

Socialization process begins with the smallest unit of the society, the family [9]. When babies are born, they enter the world with certain grace. Some traits are inherited; others come from the particular environment in which the child is born [10]. The child soon establishes a relationship with his or her family from the time he or she first entered the world. Relationship is built with the parents, siblings, or even the immediate environment. The socialization process occurs naturally in this place. Through family interaction, children learn some particular norms, values, knowledge, and skills they need to live their lives. Unconsciously, these children also learn their family beliefs about certain aspects of life, including sports [11]. Unfortunately, this process is not reflected in the present study.

Viewed from the sociological perspective, the changes of the socialization process can be caused by changes in the sociocultural elements of the society. Socio-cultural changes can significantly affect the development of sports in the society because sport cannot be separated from culture, and vice versa [12,13,14]. Society has a powerful influence on how a sport can be developed in such society. Society determines which sports are prestigious and which ones are not, which sports are important in a community, what teams are liked by the community and others.

Sport is learned and it is part of the culture of a society. As a society or culture experiences change, people’s perceptions and attitudes toward certain sports also change. This affects their understanding and participation in sports. For example, when certain types of sports are popular and gaining public attention, people in the community are attracted to take part in such sports, and vice versa. In this case, the process of sports socialization plays an important role in attracting people to participate in sports.

In summary, when parents do not have good perceptions about any sport, including sepak takraw, they would not support their children to play such sports. As a result of this, the children’s achievement in sepak takraw tends to be low.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, parents did not support their children to become sepak takraw athletes. This was attributed to some reasons: the parents considered sepak takraw as a dying sport, the parents thought that sepak takraw was a difficult sport to play, and the parents assumed that sepak takraw provided less contribution to their economy. The results of this research therefore suggest that sepak takraw coaches and policymakers engage in promotion and socialization of sepak takraw to parents. This could be done by publicizing the benefits of sepak

takraw, such as its ability to maintain physical and mental health, improve children's social skills, and improve affective, cognitive, and psychomotor skills. This could make parents encourage their children to become sepak takraw athletes.

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