

## **Analysing the Opinions of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports Regarding the Formation of Modern Sports Awareness in Turkey**

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**KEYWORDS** Sport Management. Sports Culture. Sports Policy. Institutionalization. Sports Legislation

**ABSTRACT** The purpose of this study is to determine the opinions of the provincial directors working in *Provincial Directorate of Youth Services and Sports* serving in 81 cities of Turkey regarding the formation of modern sports awareness in Turkey. The population of the research is composed of Provincial Directors working in 81 cities of Turkey. The sample is composed of 67 Provincial Directors selected using random sampling method. In this applied research, 5 Likert Type Scale were implemented. Following the study, it has been concluded in line with the participants' opinions that modern sports awareness has not been formed in Turkey; and there is a need for institutionalization, adequate club activities, more effective local administration, a functional sports policy and creating modern sports legislation. A significant difference was found on age and service period according to the participants' opinions, no significant difference was determined on education and place of duty.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The existence of a significant parallelism between conscious dissemination of sports to crowds, people's doing sports in a modern way and development of societies is accepted (Ünal 2009). Sports affect the society and help its advancement, and similarly the society contributes to the development and advancement of the sports phenomenon. Actually society and sports are a part of an inseparable whole (Ramazanoğlu et al. 2005). Regarding this mutual interaction, Wessels and Joseph (2013) state that sports affect human behaviors and physics and can be used for the improvement of people's standard of living. The increase in the level of awareness in society will develop via sports and accordingly such concepts as unity, solidarity and respect will grow stronger (Wessels and Joseph 2013). Global advancements and developments not only provide common cultural attributes, but also mediate modernization of many social institutions.

Modernization is the arrangements made in social, political, economic, cultural, administrative, scientific and technological fields with the purpose of having the structures, institutions, values and systems the developed societies already have (Yetim 2010). Improvement of such social institutions as education, culture, art, health and sports and increasing the level of utilization can be evaluated as a part of modern-

ization process. It is particularly in a continuously changing and developing phase in sports, local, national and international environments to which increasing interest is attributed day by day. Conscious dissemination of sports in the whole society and ensuring the participation of masses in the modern sports are one of the effective indicators of social development. It can be stated that the participation of societies with increased level of welfare in economic, social and cultural terms in sports activities is high. It is stated in the document of *Ministry of Youth and Sports National Youth and Sports Policy* that inadequate physical activity reduces people's quality of life (www.gsb.gov.tr). The organic connection between quality of life and development expresses the reflections of sports activities on social development.

Modern sports awareness is a basic approach needed to have within the scope of forming a mentality and material infrastructure that enable making more people benefit from all kinds of positive effects of sports (State Planning Organization The Eighth Five-Year Development Plan, 2000). Modern sports awareness or mentality doesn't form only with the interest of individuals and society, and it also cannot be expressed as an international process.

While Yetim (2010) states that the way, level, benefits and problems of participation in sports in a society are not limited to the skills and inter-

ests of individuals, Özen et al. (2012) utters that the sports perspective and sports policies have a crucial role in development and dissemination of sports.

Modern sports awareness can also be defined as a non-repressive process based on the freedom of choice and not incorporating violence, which aims at spending an entertaining and healthy life not full of work (State Planning Organization The Eighth Five-Year Development Plan 2000). Concerning the modern sports awareness incorporating many lively and concrete elements, Erdemli (2006) highlights that sports is among the activities that coincide with the individual's responsibility, freedom, enlightenment and constructive-creative living, which is a decent standard of living (Erdemli 2006).

Within the scope of modern sports awareness, the most important element for making more people benefit from the positive effects of sports is completion of physical infrastructure (institutionalization) or realization of the required policies and investments. Ramazanođlu and Ramazanođlu (2000) emphasize that sports is necessary for people in order to get used to it, to develop the skills and to stay healthy, sports facilities are an element of sports environment, and it is only possible through the existence of facilities that the sports will develop and become widespread. Erkal et al. (1998) point out that one of the most important factors for incentive of sports activities is sports infrastructure. Ünal and Ekici (2008) state that sports parks and sports guiding stations serving for free should be built primarily in crowded residential areas.

Widespread modern sports awareness in society will only be possible with the combination of different sportive factors and bringing them into force. Making intellectual and physical infrastructure ready for the society is starting point of this process.

Making people of all ages believe in sports, love sports and perceive the importance of this field is a serious and comprehensive subject. However, the most important principle in realizing the purpose of getting the attention of people of all ages towards this field to engage in sports is to organize within the area and to deal with the management problem delicately (Ünal and Ekici 2008).

There is a need for building a solid basis which will develop sports in Turkey in parallel to the reasons and results of general, political and

social changes, will not prevent its structuring keeping it alive with its own independent institutions (Serarslan 2005). The structuring of *the Ministry of Youth and Sports* updated around this need continues its existence as an institution responsible for the sportive policies and implementations in favor of the formation and dissemination of modern sports awareness. Making sports, having an important place in personal development of people and promotion of countries, widespread and achieving the demanded success depend on the considerably strong and resistant organization and management (Sunay 2009).

In Turkey, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is responsible for the policies and implementations that will ensure the formation of modern sports awareness in society as a result of its central and provincial organizations. *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* working in the cities are responsible for the development of sports from local to national and they are the representatives of the ministry at local level.

In this regard, the purpose of the study is to determine the opinions of *the Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* working in provincial organization of *the Ministry of Youth and Sports* regarding the formation of modern sports awareness in Turkey and to present the differences of the participants concerning this opinion by some demographic characteristics.

## METHODOLOGY

The scale form with a reliability coefficient 0.775 used in the master's thesis named "Opinions of Sports Managers in Formation of Modern Sports Awareness" by "Özer, U" in 2011 was used as a data collection tool with the purpose of determining the opinions of *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* on modern sports awareness and collecting of data in the research.

The questionnaire is composed of 35 questions. The first five questions are directed to demographic characteristics of the participants. Next 30 questions are composed of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions; the questions from 1 to 10 express socio-economic, those from 11 to 20 express education and those from 21 to 30 express political sub-dimensions.

The questionnaire constructed for this study was sent to the participants through electronic

environment and it was ensured to be filled. 67 of the questionnaires sent to 81 cities returned and they were considered for evaluation. The data obtained were analyzed with the SPSS 16.0 statistics package program. The opinions of the participants regarding the questions on socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions were firstly evaluated according to percentage and frequency method; then the differences between some demographic characteristics of the participants and socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions were compared with one-way analysis of variance at a significance level of 0.05.

### FINDINGS

Concerning some demographic characteristics of the participants, it has been determined that 22.4 percent of provincial directors are aged between 20-30, 52.2 percent is aged between 31-40 and 25.4 percent is aged 41 and over. By the education, 19.4 percent is holding associate degree, 70.1 percent is holding undergraduate degree, 9 percent is holding graduate degree and 1.5 percent is holding PhD degree. Concerning their period of duty, 6 percent has 1-3 years, 23.9 percent has 4-6 years, 43.3 percent has 7-10 years and 26.9 percent has 10 years and more. When the provincial directors' place of duty is examined, it has been ascertained that 13.4 percent works in Aegean region, 13.4 percent works in Mediterranean, 3.4 percent works in Central Anatolia, 13.4 percent works in Black Sea, 14.9 percent works in Marmara region, 17.9 percent works in Eastern Anatolia and 13.4 percent works in Southeastern Anatolia region.

As can be seen in Table 1, the difference between the averages of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports by the age variable has been analyzed. According to

the analysis results, the assessments of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports concerning the political sub-dimension in terms of the age variable differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$  significance level. As the difference between the averages belonging to the factors in terms of the age variable yields significant result, LSD analysis was utilized in order to test from which group the difference arises (Table 1).

**Table 1: Anova results of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of provincial directors by the age variable**

Age variable	Factors	Modern sports awareness		
		Socio-economic	Education	Political
20-30	Average (X)	3.60	3.70	3.30
	Standard deviation	0.50	0.38	0.32
31-40	Average (X)	3.65	3.87	3.51
	Standard deviation	0.43	0.28	0.34
41 and over	Average (X)	3.71	3.85	3.84
	Standard deviation	0.38	0.35	0.44
	F	0.234	1.486	8.895
	Significance Level (p)	0.792	0.234	0.000

According to the LSD analysis in Table 2, it has been determined that the difference in political dimension related to the modern sports awareness originates from the group aged 41 and over. When the source of difference between the averages in Table 3 is analyzed, it is seen that the political dimension average of provincial directors aged 41 and over ( $X=3.84 \pm 0.44$ ) is higher than the provincial directors aged between 31-40 ( $X=3.51 \pm 0.34$ ) and 20-3 ( $X=3.30 \pm 0.32$ ).

As can be seen in Table 3, the difference between the averages of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports by the

**Table 2: LSD test results of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of provincial directors by the age variable**

Factor	(I) Age variable	(J) Age variable	Mean difference (I-J)	S.h.	Level of significance
Political	20-30	31-10	-0.21143	0.113	0.065
		41 and over	-0.53529(*)	0.129	0.000
	31-40	20-30	0.21143	0.113	0.065
		41 and over	-0.32387(*)	0.108	0.004
	41 and over	20-30	0.53529(*)	0.129	0.000

service period variable has been analyzed. According to the analysis results, the assessments of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports concerning the education and political sub-dimension in terms of the service period variable differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0,05$  significance level. As the difference between the averages belonging to the factors in terms of the service period variable yields significant result, LSD analysis was utilized in order to test from which group the difference arises (Table 3).

**Table 3: Anova results of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of provincial directors by the service period variable**

Service period	Factors	Modern sports awareness		
		Socio-economic	Educational	Political
1-3	Average (X)	3.28	3.38	3.13
	Standard Deviation	0.73	0.59	0.48
4-6	Average (X)	3.73	3.86	3.51
	Standard Deviation	0.34	0.20	0.23
7-10	Average (X)	3.64	3.87	3.51
	Standard Deviation	0.45	0.28	0.40
10 and over	Average (X)	3.71	3.83	3.72
	Standard Deviation	0.39	0.36	0.46
	F	1.278	3.037	2.885
	Significance level (p)	0.290	0.035	0.043

According to the LSD analysis in Table 4, it has been determined that the difference in education dimension arises from the service period of 1-3 years and other service periods. When the source of difference between the averages in Table 4 is analyzed, it is seen that the education dimension average of provincial directors working for 1-3 years ( $X=3.38 \pm 0.59$ ) is lower than the provincial directors working for 7-10 years ( $X=3.86 \pm 0.20$ ) and 10 years and more ( $X=3.83 \pm 0.36$ ).

As can be seen in Table 5, the difference between the averages of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports by the education variable has been analyzed. According to the analysis results, the assessments of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports concerning the education and political sub-dimension in terms of the education variable don't differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$  significance level. The difference between the averages belonging to the factors in terms of the education variable doesn't yield significant result (Table 5).

As can be seen in Table 6, the difference between the averages of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports by the place of duty variable has been analyzed. According to the analysis results, the assessments

**Table 4: LSD test results of education and political sub-dimensions of provincial directors by the service period variable**

Factor	(I) Service period	(J) Service period	Mean difference (I-J)	S.h.	Level of significance
Education	1-3	4-6	-0.48750(*)	0.17376	0.007
		7-10	-0.49052(*)	0.16579	0.004
		10 and over	-0.45278(*)	0.17182	0.011
	4-6	1-3	0.48750(*)	0.17376	0.007
		7-10	-0.00302	0.09680	0.975
		10 and over	0.03472	0.10680	0.746
	7-10	1-3	0.49052(*)	0.16579	0.004
		4-6	0.00302	0.09680	0.975
		10 and over	0.03774	0.09327	0.687
	10	1-3	0.45278(*)	0.17182	0.011
		4-6	-0.03472	0.10680	0.746
		7-10	-0.03774	0.09327	0.687
Political	1-3	4-6	-0.38125	0.21810	0.085
		7-10	-0.39224	0.20809	0.064
		10 and over	-0.59722(*)	0.21566	0.007
	4-6	1-3	0.38125	0.21810	0.085
		7-10	-0.01099	0.12150	0.928
		10 and over	-0.21597	0.13405	0.112
	7-10	1-3	0.39224	0.20809	0.064
		4-6	0.01099	0.12150	0.928
		10 and over	-0.20498	0.11707	0.085
	10 and over	1-3	0.59722(*)	0.21566	0.007
		4-6	0.21597	0.13405	0.112
		7-10	0.20498	0.11707	0.085

**Table 5: Anova results of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of provincial directors by the education variable**

<i>Education Factors</i>		<i>Modern sports awareness</i>		
		<i>Socio-economic</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Political</i>
<i>Under-graduate</i>	Standard deviation	0.49	0.44	0.48
	Average (X)	3.69	3.87	3.59
<i>Master</i>	Standard deviation	0.43	0.29	0.38
	Average (X)	3.66	3.71	3.13
<i>PhD</i>	Standard deviation	0.23	0.07	0.21
	Average (X)	3.60	3.80	3.80
	Standard deviation	0.43	0.32	0.40
	F	0.654	1.495	2.579
Significance level (p)		0.584	0.225	0.061

of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports concerning the education and political sub-dimension in terms of the place of duty variable don't differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$  significance level. The difference between the averages belonging to the factors in terms of the place of duty variable doesn't yield significant result (Table 6).

**Table 6: Anova results of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of provincial directors by the place of duty**

<i>Place of Factors duty</i>		<i>Modern sports awareness</i>		
		<i>Socio-economic</i>	<i>Educational</i>	<i>Political</i>
<i>Aegean</i>	Average (X)	3.60	3.82	3.52
	Standard deviation	0.60	0.24	0.37
<i>Mediterranean</i>	Average (X)	3.53	3.80	3.48
	Standard deviation	0.58	0.55	0.40
<i>Central Anatolia</i>	Average (X)	3.67	3.93	3.61
	Standard deviation	0.39	0.41	0.66
<i>Black Sea</i>	Average (X)	3.71	3.82	3.50
	Standard deviation	0.34	0.28	0.41
<i>Marmara</i>	Average (X)	3.65	3.82	3.53
	Standard deviation	0.45	0.23	0.24
<i>Eastern Anatolia</i>	Average (X)	3.70	3.80	3.51
	Standard deviation	0.39	0.33	0.40
<i>South-eastern Anatolia</i>	Average (X)	3.71	3.78	3.66
	Standard deviation	0.28	0.92	0.34
<i>Anatolia</i>	F	0.20	0.19	0.22
Significance level (p)		0.974	0.978	0.969

## DISCUSSION

Modern sports awareness can be considered as the ultimate benefit obtained from the sports

opportunities by the individuals from all ages, sex, ethnic origins, beliefs and social status from every segment of the society in short. While 82 percent of the participant who are *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* state that the modern sports awareness does not exist in Turkey, 53 percent of them state that the number of sports facilities in Turkey is insufficient.

Dissemination of sports to crowds and individuals' habit of doing modern sports, extensity of sports fields and facilities are directly related to their accessibility and availability. Huston et al. (2003) who emphasized the relation between the extensity of sports facilities and the participation of individuals to sports state that individuals will be more active if the availability of sports facilities are improved. Creation and dissemination of modern sports awareness in society will only be possible with the formation of extensive facility network all over the country. In the sports policy of Norwegian government that was prepared for society-wide dissemination of sports, it is emphasized that sports facilities are necessary for the sports activities in which the whole population can participate, and it is highlighted that the most important element of this policy is to ensure that the government builds and finances those facilities (Bergsgard and Tangen 2010).

In the study by Aydin et al. (2007) that was carried out in our country, it is understood that putting the facilities and materials necessary for sports activities at people's disposal and providing those facilities belonging to public institutions within working hours are inadequate. Similarly, 73.2 percent of the participants of the research by Yaman et al. (2004) have stated that the number and qualification of sports facilities are insufficient.

As it constitutes the subject of the study, the relation between the formation and dissemination of modern sports awareness in Turkey and institutionalization exhibits highly intricate structure. However, it is understood that the models and policies of institutionalization with the purpose of keeping the crowd's interest alive are insufficient in application when the studies in current literature are evaluated. Expression of individuals' interests will be realized in facilities, increase in mass interest and putting it into application will become concrete with the quantitative and qualitative competence.

While Green (2010) expresses that physical activity and sports facilities have the potential

to increase the participation in sports and physical activities; Gratton and Henry (2002) point out that sports facilities can be considered as an important tool in further development of sports.

It can be stated that equal dissemination of sports facilities all over the country and support of them by both government and private institutions will contribute a lot to the formation of modern sports awareness and development of current athletic structure in Turkey. The fact that masses do modern sports signifies a process in parallel to the encouragement of children for sports and increasing the numbers of sports facilities in a qualitative and quantitative manner. Modernization of social athletic perceptions can be realized by updating the facility policies.

In parallel to institutionalization culture gaining wide currency in a country, the increase in the number of active athletes is an indispensable process. While supporting the physical education and sports courses given in educational institutions with club activities adds a new dimension to the efforts of raising qualified athletes, it will also play a mediator role in turning mass sports to performance sports.

Regarding the competency status of the activities of youth and sports clubs in Turkey about the formation of modern sports awareness, 62.7 percent of the participants consider as insufficient and 29.9 percent of them are hesitant about this matter. It is understood that both institutionalization and current clubs in the country are inadequate and they don't make any contribution to the formation of modern sports awareness. Dissemination of sports to the bottom and realization of an organization starting from the beginning may provide a basis for individuals and society to do modern sports.

Fisek (1998) expresses that sports clubs all over the world are a necessary tool for doing sports and these clubs are the basic organization style at the basis (Fisek 1998). While Eime et al. (2008) calling attention to the interaction between modern sports awareness and sports clubs utter that sports clubs are the most ideal environment to popularize the participation in sports in the whole society, Robinson (2010) emphasizes that sports clubs have a big impact on the development of elite athletes and encourage the participation in sports by making both individuals and the society adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Due to the development of sports and its widely accepted nature, one of the most realistic

indicators of modern sports awareness is the number of sports clubs and their sufficient qualification. There is a developed sports club network in Germany that created a culture regarding this matter and became a model for the world and 27 million people actively do sports by being a member of approximately eighty seven thousand sports clubs (Wigger 2001). In a study by Yenel and Güngörmüs (2006), it has been concluded that both the number of clubs and registered athletes and the success obtained are inadequate when the population of Turkey and young population are taken into account. In the study by Tasmektepligil et al. (2006), it is stated that 87.3 percent of the participants don't do sports in clubs and inadequate number of clubs plays a role in this matter.

In Article 59 of the T.R. Constitution, the provision states that the Government takes precautions that will develop the physical and mental health of Turkish citizens of all ages and encourages the dissemination of sports to masses (Turkish Grand National Assembly, The Constitution of the Republic of Turkey 1982). Dissemination of sports to masses was expressed as a constitutional duty in the Republic of Turkey, public institutions was determined to be the primary responsible institutions in fulfilling this duty, and local governments among those institutions were considered as the administrative enforcement units in constitutional duties of the government at local level. In this sense, 66 percent of the participant *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* have stated that local governments should play more active roles in formation and dissemination of modern sports awareness.

Taylor (2011) states that local governments have a significant role in creating a healthy society and increasing the quality of life, and he also emphasizes that sports services must be provided by local governments.

The effectiveness of local governments is a determiner particularly for solid and qualified characteristics of the relation between modern sports awareness and a healthy society with a high quality of life.

In this regard, while Bergsgard and Rommetvedt (2006) express that administrations in many countries have started to be interested in sports and sports have become a priority especially in such countries as Australia and United Kingdom and local governments support this.

Regarding the formation of modern sports awareness and the effectiveness of local gov-

ernments in this process, King et al. (1999) state that local governments have the potential to contribute to the dissemination of physical activities and formation of an active society; Steele and Caperchione (2005) emphasize that local government plays a significant role in development of social health and dissemination of physical activities.

Local governments having an important place within the Turkish public administration system become prominent as the determiner administrative units in formation and dissemination of modern sports awareness. They are particularly responsible for reaching sports services to people from every segment of the society, developing the encouraging policies and practices for masses to head for sports and bringing modern sports awareness into force. They are also entitled to become local enforcement units of public administration in the process of creating a healthy and active society.

The difference between the averages of socio-economic, education and political sub-dimensions of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports by the age variable has been analyzed, the assessments of *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* concerning the political sub-dimension between the group aged 41 and over and other age groups differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$  significance level. It is seen that the political dimension average of provincial directors aged 41 and over ( $X = 3.84 \pm 0.44$ ) is higher than the provincial directors aged between 31-40 ( $X = 3.51 \pm 0.34$ ) and 20-3 ( $X = 3.30 \pm 0.32$ ). According to the analysis results, the assessments of *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* concerning the political sub-dimension in terms of the service period variable differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$  significance level. It is seen that the political dimension average of provincial directors working for 1-3 years ( $X = 3.13 \pm 0.48$ ) is lower than the provincial directors working for 10 years and more ( $X = 3.72 \pm 0.46$ ).

The relation between the formation of modern sports awareness and political factors is a process that will become effective by taking concrete steps. Aykin and Bilir (2013) state that the sports policies created by governments' giving place to sports in their programs are important in that they shape the development of sports, and

they point out to the problems in practice although many subjects about sports exist in those programs. We can say that these problems are grouped under two titles. The first one is sports managers and the other one is athletic facility structure of the country.

Sports managers bear great responsibilities in functionality and healthy implementation of sports policies. It is understood that the main problem in implementation raises from the employment policies in this field.

In the study by Özen et al. (2012), 70 percent of the academicians have stated that the staff profile of Ministry of Youth and Sports don't have the educational, socio-economic and cultural structure that will serve sports in Turkey. Another problem is the structure and understanding of institutionalization. The structure of organization and institutionalization represents an understanding which directly shapes the sports policies of the country. Independent characteristics of organizational structure will not only enlarge the area of action, but also pave the way for autonomous practices. While Kavasođlu (2011) advocates that the central organization of sports should be made autonomous; Sahin and Imamođlu (2011) have stated in their study that 82.5 percent of the academicians and 78.3 percent of members of parliament agree with the idea that management of sports should be executed by the autonomous establishments like in European countries.

Within the scope of modern sports awareness, it can be stated that the dissemination of sports to masses is the main mission of states and governments, and the same principle must be adopted in shaping sports policies. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> cabinet of Mesut Yılmaz (1997), while the emphasis was on the necessity of taking the required precautions to encourage the wide dissemination of sports and to ensure that everybody benefits from the opportunities of sports (III Government Program of Yılmaz Government 1996); Gök and Sunay (2010) have stated that the purpose of sports policies in Turkey is to organize and reinforce national sports and to shape the development of athletes.

In sports specialization commission report of the tenth development plan 2014-2018 by T.R. Ministry of Development, it has been emphasized that public institutions, local administrations and non-governmental organizations having a voice in sports management in our country

should assign well-trained staff in the field of sports, quality-based systems which is today's sense of modern management should be realized, and so sports services of higher quality should be produced (The Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, Sports Specialization Commission Report 2023, 2014).

Political approaches in formation and dissemination of modern sports awareness are highly determinative. Support on a modern sports organization far from populist approaches provided by political elements will direct the sports policies of the country.

It can be uttered that a good place of physical education and sports within the general education system and curriculum is an effective tool in formation of modern sports awareness in society. It is highly important to instill sports culture to children as of the primary school. However, 85 percent of the *Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports* state that the education of sports culture is insufficient in the educational institutions of Turkey; 95 percent of them express that basic sports education should start in primary schools in order to create modern sports awareness. And according to ANOVA results, the assessments of Provincial Directors of Youth Services and Sports concerning the education sub-dimension in terms of the service period variable differ in a way that can be considered as statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$  significance level. It is seen that the education dimension average of provincial directors working for 1-3 years ( $X = 3.38 \pm 0.59$ ) is lower than the provincial directors working for 4-6 years ( $X = 3.86 \pm 0.20$ ), 7-10 years ( $X = 3.87 \pm 0.28$ ) and 10 years and more ( $X = 3.83 \pm 0.36$ ).

In the report prepared by Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) (2000) on formation of modern sports awareness, dissemination of sports to crowds and its reflection on performance sports, the relation between educational institutions and sports is emphasized and it is stated that supporting sports as of the primary school will increase the possibility of international success in sports. Participation of masses in sports activities will enlarge the elite athlete pool and constitute an important source of person-athlete in raising athletes.

In Turkey, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Development Plan prepared by State Planning Organization (SPO) (1985), a decision is issued concerning laying an emphasis on sports education in schools but it can be uttered that this decision hasn't

become functional in practice. Moreover, in the National Youth and Sports Policy prepared by the *Ministry of Youth and Sports* (Document of National Policy for Youth and Sports 2013), it has been decided that physical education and sports lessons will be amended in accordance with the new education system in coordination and cooperation with the *Ministry of National Education* in all stages of education as of preschool period but it can be stated that a concrete application example is absent. It can also be concluded in all these works that the scope isn't determined clearly, concrete application examples can't be given, responsibilities on individuals and institutions can't be defined and it is very shallow in terms of content.

In the report prepared by United Kingdom Department for Education and Skills (2004), it is foreseen that every child should take qualified physical education and sports lesson for two hours a week at least and emphasized that this must be intra and extracurricular activity and sports clubs in addition to schools should also take responsibility. It is aimed to include sports clubs to the process, to disseminate sports with the support of school activities by clubs and to create a social awareness.

Siedentop (1994) states that giving place to sports education in the curriculum will raise educated athletes that constitute a wider sports culture (Wallhead and O'sullivan 2005); Holroyd (2003) utters that sports activities based on physical education will express an understanding of elite sports culture (Kirk 2004). Elite sports culture can be interpreted as adoption of modern sports by the society. Providing sports education to students in educational institutions with the anticipated values and content will serve formation and dissemination of modern sports awareness. Giving sufficient place to physical education and sports in schools will ensure the creation of athletic culture from the basis and help it become a field of occupation in the whole society. Regarding this matter, Kirk (2004) suggests that sports education in schools expresses an important understanding in social practice of sports.

Formation of modern sports awareness can be accepted as a process related to the approach of educational institutions towards physical education and sports. In this regard, raising qualified individuals within sports and reflections of mass sports understanding on performance

sports via these individuals can be observed. Therefore, the objective to practice sports widely in the society can be realized and a sports understanding having voice in national and international media can emerge.

### CONCLUSION

Modern sports awareness can be considered as the participation of individuals and the society in modern sports, changing sports into a lifestyle, ensuring the participation of people as many as possible in sports and taking the necessary measures.

Utilization of sports opportunities by individuals from every segment of the society coincides with the realism of institutionalization efforts. It can be suggested that current institutionalization understanding should be modernized to form modern sports awareness, an approach that will make mass participation possible should be adopted. Preparing a modern government policy about sports and complete implementation of this policy by governments with a modern institutionalization is essential. It is expected that institutionalization activities foreseen to be in a government policy that will be prepared in parallel to the updates and global developments will mediate the development and dissemination of modern sports awareness each passing day.

Educational institutions can undertake the mediator role in development of cultural, artistic and athletic activities as a wealth factor. Formation of modern sports awareness seems to be possible by making children adopt the sports culture in schools. Raising a generation that adopts sports as a philosophy of life will make great contributions to the process of formation of this sports awareness. In this sense, preparing a physical education and sports curriculum emphasizing the relation between adopting the athletic culture and modern sports awareness and giving enough places to sports in schools is the most important step needed to be taken for modernization of participation in sports and dissemination of mass sports.

Spurting this education process particularly with extracurricular sports activities, dissemination of sports clubs and improvement of current activities will contribute a lot to the formation of modern sports awareness. 63 percent of the par-

ticipants are of the opinion that the activities of sports clubs in the country are insufficient.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering sports as a public service and public units' offering these services have been guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey. In this regard, local governments- as public administrative units- are the determinant institutions by their perspective for sports information and dissemination of modern sports awareness. Determining the needs, demands and expectations of people especially at local level and conducting relevant studies will strengthen the close contact between local governments and modern sports awareness, and contribute to the sports in the country a lot. In order to maintain good management of institutionalization which is one of the most important deficiencies in the process of formation of modern sports awareness, local administrative units may play significant roles in increasing the efficiency of public investments and supports and realizing the ascertained athletic purposes by specifying correct demands and deficiencies.

In conclusion, it is understood that modern sports awareness hasn't been formed in Turkey; such main factors as incapability of institutionalization and club activities, insufficient responsibility taken by local governments, lack of a functional sports policy and modern sports legislation, inability to form athletic culture in educational institutions are effective in this matter.

In line with the opinions of the participants, it is concluded that modern sports awareness hasn't been formed in Turkey (82.1%), insufficient institutionalization (53.1%), attaching less importance to physical education and sports in educational institutions (85.1%), inadequate activities of youth and sports club (63%), insufficient responsibility of local governments are effective factors for this.

In order to form and disseminate modern sports awareness in Turkey;

- Institutionalization policies must be modernized,
- Club establishment should be encouraged, areas of activity must be enlarged and monitored,
- Curriculum of physical education and sports lessons should contribute to sports culture,

- Local governments should take more responsibility in dissemination of sports,
- Legal arrangements that will encourage participation in sports must be made,
- And most importantly, a modern state policy must be prepared and governments should be ensured to acts as operator.

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