



A Consideration of Behavioral Abnormalities in Spectators in Iran-Based Basketball Super League

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ABSTRACT

Sport competitions shall put athletes and spectators in situations where in the conditions, rules and norms might be easily violated leading to aggressive confrontations and violence. This study tries to consider behavioral abnormalities among sports spectators in order to identify variables components through function analysis in the spectators and the most considerable variable leading to adverse behavior in them.

This research is a descriptive survey, in which the behavioral abnormalities in the spectators of super league basketball has been studied. To this end, a researcher-made questionnaire conducted for data collection. Also, Statistical population was spectators of basketball teams including the Mahram (Tehran) and Sabamhr (Qazvin). The two teams in the semi-final matches in the basketball league in 2009 were examined. Here, we used random sampling method and the number of samples was 45 and 43 fans of Mahram and Sabamhr, respectively. These questionnaires included 51 questions which the validity was confirmed by experts and its reliability was Cronbach alpha coefficient of 81%. In addition, ks, spss software and Pearson correlation tests were used for data analysis. According to the results, it was clear that the aggression rate in both teams was low -i.e aggression scores of Saba and Mahram were 12.39 and 12.11 respectively indicating that both groups had below average and low aggression. Education also was found to have nothing to do with aggression and there is no significant relationship ($r = 0.028$ and $P = 0.797$) Another hypothesis test revealed a significant relationship between sex and aggression ($r = -0.168$, $P = 0.038$). Finally the last hypothesis test showed that there was no relationship between income and aggression ($r = -0.168$, $P = 0.320$).

Interestingly, the results verified a little aggression in basketball spectators, but on the other hand there should be great endeavour to keep it low through some strict measures including police, closed circuit camera, tough law enforcement against the aggressive fans.

INTRODUCTION

Concept of abnormality was developed by Emile Durkheim, one of the founders of sociology. Durkheim concept of abnormality referred to the assumption that modern societies' traditional norms and standards are weakened without being replaced by new norms. Abnormality arises when there are no clear-cut criteria for behavior guidance in certain areas of social life. Thus, under these conditions, people feel losing a sense of orientation and concern. So, abnormality is regarded one of the social factors affecting the tendency to suicide (Kyarashgar 1983). Mvrtn's concept of abnormality implies a specific pressure exerted on individuals' behavior when the accepted norms are in conflict with social realities (Gydnr 1976).

Various theories for the definition of normal and abnormal behaviours:

Face-to-face theory:

General definitions of the concept of common sense have developed in the theory. Karl Mnyng American psychiatrist, defined common sense as the maximum compatibility with the surrounding world and other people together and being happy and any failure in this regard may end up with inconsistency and abnormal behavior [(Hashemian 1976).

Multiple traits:

In this theory, a list of common sense traits being approved by most researchers is developed.

Special criteria:

Criteria for labelling especially abnormal behavior. For example, two criteria that are frequently used are 1) distress and embarrassment such as chronic anxiety and depression and feeling of guilt, and 2) deviation from acceptable social behavior.

Nature and human behavior models:

The theory studies normal and abnormal behavior according to the model and series of concepts about the nature of human behavior (Hashemian 1976).

Behavior:

All human activities that can be seen by other people is called behavior. Behaviors are based on goals in which the most important one is to meet individual needs (Mrvsty 1968).

Abnormal behaviour:

Abnormal behaviour is a result of such damage and stress influencing growth and development and proper use of appropriate interpersonal skills (Shamlu 1968).

It seems that some people often act as a constructive and effective. Their adaptive efforts are realistic and socially fertile and personally satisfactory, while others have only partly effective methods facing issues and instead spend most of their energy in actively solving the problem using the defense mechanism and acts. There is also another group who are generally incapable of facing problems and solving them. They depend strongly on others. Such people are usually destructive for society and their personal life (Navabi Tzhad 1965, p. 25).

Six fundamental features of normal people:

1) Normal person acts realistically 2 - They are flexible 3 - They are effective

4) They are sociable 5 - They enjoy life 6- They have the necessary maturity.

Abnormal behavior symptoms can be divided into two categories namely as subjective and objective. Subjective symptoms are reported by the patients reflecting their personal discomfort and distress. (Anxiety and depression) (same, p. 30)

Objective signs can be seen by a clinical specialist. They are considered obvious and apparent cues of inadaptability and inconsistency like anger. ... Abnormality is often accompanied by any symptoms, however sometimes either happens.

The conflict between parents has strong impact on socialization process of children. So it is predicted any conflict between parents results in violent behavior in the future (thomas1996).

In the past two decades, scholars have been concerned with reviewing violence in sport events that sometimes can be seen during national and international competitions observed.

Norms are relatively stable patterns and general rules of conduct in the community. So, individuals are supposed to adapt their behavior with them. The most important function of adherence to norms is social cohesion and consensus especially among the younger generation. Unfortunately, behavioural disorders of youth is becoming more widespread every day and the rate of their misdemeanors is constantly increasing. As a result, this problem is gaining importance due to fast growing youth population in our country. Undoubtedly, we must at first identify causes of the underlying problems, hence the present tries to do so, although briefly (Reisi 1981).

Since sports competition expose athletes and spectators to situations wherein the rules and norms might easily be violated and, consequently, leading to violent confrontations, sociology interprets such situations as a relatively unstructured term dubbed as collective behavior. As far as sports activities is considered, there are three levels of review and analysis of violence: 1 - Violence of sporting events spectators in the form of supporting sports teams against each other and damaging public properties 2 Violence of spectators and teams fans against athletes 3 - Violence among athletes themselves during matches. Of course, amongst these three levels, the first level, a pivotal focus of the present study, is more important from sociological perspective. Of course, expensive sports rioters in different parts of the world do not follow the same pattern of behavior. On the other hand, a variety of factors are involved in this phenomenon, which vary depending on different countries. For example, social class in England, religious sectarianism (Catholics and Protestants) in Scotland and Ireland, nationalism in Spain and ethnic and tribal hostilities in Africa contribute to incidence of this important factor. (Rahmati)

Hypotheses about sports violence:

Sports riots are usually short-term actions that aren't favored by public. Depending on the situation, one or more of the following cases are involved in creating turmoil in sports fields:

1 - Favorite team loses the game and the hope for success is zero

psychologists scientists believe that increased expectations for any reason - whether due to long-term recovery after a period of stagnation and inactivity and then a quick short-term recession - could cause chaos and insecurity. (James 1970)

2 - Fear or dissatisfaction of spectators or fans in terms of coaching, judgment and so on - sometimes without non-conventional performance of the coaches and irrational judgments play a role in creating chaos. Of course, because of high interest gained for a team in the course of time, fans usually demand

quick responses to questions related to failure and frustration of their team, and thus quickly blame judges, coaches or other people.

3 - False sense of power by the mob because of the presence of a group of fans of a team in one place - usually when temporarily police force aren't present in the stadium- the mob consider the time ripe for sport chaos. Effect of different types of sports media - To attract audience and sell more some; sports media spread rumors and make illogical comparisons between domestic and foreign teams, etc. so that they can in part shape thoughts of sports team fans. (Mlkvtayan 1387)

Certainly, basketball is one of the most popular sport among various sports activities. Substantial results in the international basketball tournament in the past few years has attracted athletes, especially youth to play basketball. In this study, various factors influencing behavioral abnormality of spectators such as age, education, marital status and occupation, family status, family history of tension in the family, economic status - social, leisure time, failure to achieve personal goals, environmental factors such as sanitary and service facilities in stadium and judges' judgement contributing to spectators' violent behavior were investigated.

From late 1960 until early 1980, subculture of being fan of a specific team was formed. Thus, the researchers have tended to work on this phenomenon. In recent decades, the scientific centers in Europe have focused on investigating violence and aggression (Saburi 1384).

Also, there are differing comments about the phenomenon and some expressed their concern about its prevalence in Iran.

Hemmati Nejad *et al* (1379) in a study entitled 'An investigation of aggression factors in the sport fields in terms of sports athletes, spectators and Physical education specialists' noticed that variables like judgement, match sensitivity, fans' age, population concentration, aggression learning, spectators failure in life and being the host team affect the incidence of behavioral abnormalities. Safa Bakhsh (1381) would perceive familial tensions and spectators' age as the most important factors influencing behavioral abnormality. Rahmati (1382), in research entitled 'sociological factors of violence and aggression in the spectators' found out that sensitivity of the results in the championship classification and judgment quality, mainly give rise to verbal aggression of spectators. In addition, variables like age, level of family control, social and economic status have major negative impact on the spectators tendency to the behavioral disorders Kyarashgr (1383) conducted a research on aggression in sport fields seeking the perspectives of spectators, athletes and physical education experts and noticed a significant relationship between judgment quality, failure of teams, spectators density, learning aggression and spectators' frustration and failure in life and incidence of aggression in spectators.

International researches have also examined the phenomenon. Vky's Butcher⁵ (1981) warned about the prevalence of the phenomenon of violence in sports spectators in communities and necessitated carrying out numerous studies as for prevention of the phenomenon of violence among sports fans. (Roberts and Benjamyn⁶ (2000) referred to behavioral abnormalities in the spectators concerning sport security forces surrounding them to. Van (2005) believed that environmental conditions such as air condition in stadium and copying players' violent reactions as the most important cause of behavioral abnormalities. James Dymvk Vgrv (2005) believed that highly zealous fans can't take control of themselves. Simons⁹ (2007) holds that Factors that could cause behavioral abnormalities in spectators shall directly be associated with their players' incompetence in the sport fields. Also when ticket price increases, spectators' behavior toward their own team can be more unpleasant. Hennessy *et al*¹⁰ (2007) pointed out that personality and status of the spectators are two determinants of their violence and violent aggression. Madnson *et al* (2008) referred to typical situation of a match in which factors including spectators' excitement, lack of security forces, dense crowds, noisy fans and expensive ticket affect the incidence of behavioral abnormalities. Vlaqh (2008) argues that high dependence and zeal toward a specific team might be an important factor conducive to abnormal behaviors. Manu (2008) considers sports organizations' teams and mass media as important factors of maladaptive behavior. Tyvrakys *et al* (2008) refers to service rendering quality in the stadium such that if not fully satisfied with the services, the spectators exhibit behavioral abnormalities particularly in a form of challenging verbal words.

This study tries to explore the causes of behavioral abnormalities among sports spectators through function analysis in order to identify which variables components are the main cause of adverse behavior. Given that, to date, no research has been conducted on the behavioral abnormality of

basketball spectators , the aim of this study is to recognize the factors resulting in behavioral abnormalities among basketball fans in Iran and suggest some guidelines in this regard .

In this study, we seek to answer these questions:

Whether there is aggression among basketball spectators ?

Whether Education of fans is a determining factor for behavioral abnormalities ?

Will the economic status of spectators influence behavioral abnormalities?

Is there a relationship between sex and aggression?

Research methodology

This research is a of descriptive survey type in which the behavioral abnormalities of fans in Iran-based super league basketball has been studied. A researcher-conducted questionnaire was used for data collection. In addition, statistical population was basketball teams including fans of Mahram – Tehran and Sabamehr- Qazvin.To that end, they were studied during matches between the two teams in the semi-final basketball tournament (2009). The samples, taken via random sampling ,were 45 spectators including 20 and 25 female and male spectators,respectively.Similarly, as far as Sbamhr Qazvin team was concerned, 43 samples included 23 (female) and 21(male) spectators were selected on random basis. The questionnaire encompassed 51 questions whoase validity was confirmed by the experts and its reliability was Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0 /81.

Research findings

In this study, there were 46 male subjects (51.7%) and 43 females (48.3%) . Since basketball is very popular and welcomed among women and they are allowed to watch it in gym ,approximately half the study population were women .Hence, 43 (48.3%) were Sabamehr`fans and 46 were (51.7%) Mahram`s fans for whom we still tried to equally distribute the questionnaires .

The age range of subjects was between 13 to 48 years and mean age of them was 23.5 years. Of course, there were both younger and older fans. There was also a questionnaire to older people who unfortunately didn`t return them.

Moreover,57.1 of subjects were born in Qazvin, because Saba team as well as Mahram factory were located in Qazvin. Also, 26.1% and 73.8% of spectators were in Tehran and other cities, respectively. Of these subjects ,28.2% lived in Tehran and 78.1% of people living in cities other than Tehran of whom 64.7% were living in Qazvin. .

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their education

	Education	No	Percent
1	Guidance	7	8
2	Secondary	18	20.5
3	Diploma	24	27.3
4	Associate Degree	8	9
5	B.S	27	30.7
6	M.Sc and higher	4	4.5
Total		88	

22.4% of respondents were employed, 10.6% were seeking jobs as well as 67.1% were students .

The question concerning their income sometimes brought about their unwillingness to respond, but ultimately it was found 28.9% of them had an income of under 200 dollars, 52.6% had 200 to 400 dollars, 08.15% had400 to 600 dollars and 2.6% of individuals had over a million dollar as their monthly income.

Among the subjects ,78.4% and 21.6% were single and married, respectively.

Furthermore,88.8% and 92.1% of subjects `fathers and mothers, respectively, were alive,while and 11.2% and 7.9% subjects `fathers and mothers,respectively, had died.

Also, information as for subjects `fathers education was gathered including 8.1% illiterate, 19.8% elementary, 17.4% guidance, 5.8% secondary, 24.4% diploma, 3.5% associate degree, 11.6% B.S and 9.3% of them were M.Sc and higher.

The education of subjects` mothers was as follows: 11.5% were illiterate, 24.1% had elementary, 10.3% had guidance, 10.3% had secondary, 21.8% had diploma, 8% had associate degree, 8% had BA and 5.7% had MA degrees.

Income of subjects` fathers was as follows: 4.5% earned under 200 dollars, 31.3% between 200 to 400 dollars, 23.9% from 400 to 600 dollars, 17.9% between 600 and 800 dollars, 7.5% 800 to between

1000 dollars, and 14.9% earned more than a million . It is worth noting that the problem with unwillingness of subjects about revealing their income amount also existed about their parents' income .

Income of subjects` mothers: 25% under 200 dollars, 7.1% between 200 to 400 dollars, 35.7% from 400 to 600 dollars, 21.4% between 600 and 800 dollars, 3.6% between 800 to 1000 dollars and 7.1% more than a million .

In addition,62.1% of subjects homes of their own, 21.8% lived at least homes, 6.9% lived home at mortgaged homes, 1.1% lived at institutional homes and 7.1% lived in a heritage homes.

Besides,92.7% of parents lived together and 7.3% were separated, all these people said their parents because of misunderstandings.

Inferential statistics

According to the results ,it became clear that the aggression of both teams was low in a way that the test scores obtained about both groups` aggression were 12.399(sabamehr) and 12.11(Mahram) In other words, both groups had below average and low aggression .

According to the level of below the mean aggression obtained, we, accordingly, got to see if our other assumptions in were significant or not.

For other hypothesis testing, the relationship between education and aggression was examined in which these results were obtained:

Variable	R value	Significant level	Conclusion
Education and Aggression	0.028	0.797	Null hypothesis confirmation

Considering the results obtained, we confirmed zero hypothesis-i-e- there was no significant relationship between education and aggression.

Another hypothesis test showed that there was a significant relationship between gender and level of aggression.

Variable	R value	Significance level	Conclusion
Sex and aggression	0.222	0.038	Null hypothesis rejection

The results showed that with 95% confidence ,we would reject the null hypothesis-i-e-there was significant relationship between sex and aggression .

And finally, the last hypothesis test showed that no significant relationship existed between income and aggression.

Variable	R value	Significance level	Conclusion
Income and aggression	0.168	0.320	Null hypothesis confirmation

The results showed that based on the obtained level of significance ,we confirmed the null hypothesis. In other words, there was an significant relationship between income and aggression.

CONCLUSION

Based on role theory, socioeconomic status is an effective element in explaining individuals` roles in different circumstances. Accordingly, aggression or violent behaviour results from those who have unimportant education and socioeconomic status. Nevertheless, here, we found no significant relationship between education and income levels and aggression.

Unlike many countries, compared to other sport fields; there has been no notoriously violent cases on behalf of the basketball spectators in basketball matches in Iran .Considering this research findings, it can be concluded that education level and socioeconomic status have nothing to do with abnormal behaviour of the spectators. So, the research results are in line with research results of Rahmati (1382) entitled "reviews of sociological components of violence of spectators" .However, our findings don`t comply with results of other research in this field such as those of Hemmati Nejad et al(1379) in a study of aggression in the fields of sports from the perspectives of athletes, spectators and physical education experts "and research of Safabkhsh (1381) and Kyarashgr (1383) entitled " A review of aggression based on the perspectives of spectators, athletes and physical education experts" .

As far as sex is concerned,it also can be noted that the domestic investigation conducted on aggression has been about soccer ,since women can't go to stadiums to watch soccer.As a result,there is no

literature in this regard. Nonetheless, some foreign researchers have acknowledged that there is a relationship between individual traits and aggression.

Although, basketball has witnessed below the average aggression on basketball fans part in Iran, we must also keep in mind that a series of measures should be employed to control it in the future. The following procedures and controls are also effective for prevention of aggression in basketball and other sports:

1 - The more controlling procedures such as the presence of the police force and closed circuit cameras, the less the amount and intensity of aggression may be.

2 - If social prestige and dignity of those cause disturbance is threatened, fewer people will be willing to participate in such incidents.

3- Due to their relationship with governmental organizations, sport teams can ask officials to persuade fans to preserve and protect public property and to maintain calmness throughout sport events.

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