



Prospective study of the state of student sports in the cities of Khuzestan province

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Abstract

Background and Objective Today, the use of the future research approach has been proposed as a necessity in the field of sports and especially educational sports in educational and sports institutions. Despite the long history of student sports and physical education in the country's schools, the management of student sports is still facing many issues and problems, and especially at the level of Khuzestan province, the development of student sports and planning for its future has received little attention. In this regard, the purpose of the current research is to evaluate the state of student sports in Khuzestan province, which is practical in terms of its purpose and exploratory in terms of its nature and analytical method.

Methodology: A questionnaire, Delphi technique, and documentary-library studies were used to collect data. The Delphi method and the cross-effects matrix (MicMac) were used to analyze the data.

Results and Findings: The findings of the research showed that among the 15 main factors affecting the state of student sports in Khuzestan province, 9 variables are known as key and influential. These variables have the most influence and the least influence on the future development of student sports in Khuzestan province. Also, the results showed that in terms of the direct influence of variables such as social networks with a score of 860, infrastructure and sports facilities and students' attitude towards sports with a score of 835 and 810, they are located in the first to third positions, respectively. On the other hand, the variables that have an indirect effect on the state of student sports are social networks with a score of 876, infrastructure and sports facilities, and students' attitude towards sports with a score of 872 and 796, respectively, they are located in the first to third positions.

Keywords: Sports, student sports, future research, Khuzestan province.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction:

Today's world is changing and evolving rapidly, and the major challenge of contemporary man with the future and planning for it is its unpredictability. In this regard, the science of foresight arises from the need to prepare for the future, that is, to use resources in the best possible way to achieve competitive advantage, improve the quality of life, and sustainable development; it is also a tool for influencing society and pushing it in the desired direction. Physical education, sports, and contemporary sports sciences are also dynamic domains that are changing rapidly and are affected by this environmental uncertainty. Therefore, planning for the development of youth and student sports requires planning and foresight because man is always thinking and planning, and planning is an action directed towards the future, and correct planning and goal setting arise from man's correct understanding of the future and identifying the factors affecting its development. Therefore, what should be considered is that today organizations are forced to constantly monitor internal and external events in order to be able to adapt to changes at the right time and as needed. Organizations must systematically identify these changes and effective factors and adapt to them. In fact, planning for the development of sports, especially student sports, is one of the important tasks of government organizations and institutions, and planning for the development of sports is influenced by macro trends, actions, events, and various elements that are often associated with uncertainty and cannot be accurately predicted. Regarding the importance of student sports and planning for the future of this field, it can be said that educational and basic sports are considered as one of the fields that play a role in educating the young generation. Educational sports are in line with the correct education of the generation, and educating the generation in any society is one of the main axes of sustainable development. Which requires the existence of an efficient and dynamic educational and welfare system, and since sports as a large industry have a high potential in creating public health and vitality, job creation and international reputation for countries, for this reason it is considered one of the main fields of participation among adolescents and young people. Therefore, the common fields between the sports system and the education system are known as educational and basic sports. Therefore, it is necessary to change the types of sports according to the needs and desires of education and students, and all these programs should be considered in the form of strategic programs and future studies. In this regard, the present study seeks to answer the question: What will be the status of student sports in the cities of Khuzestan in the future?

Methodology:

The present study is applied in terms of its purpose and is analytical and exploratory in terms of its nature and method, based on new methods of futures studies. A questionnaire and Delphi technique, as well as documentary and library studies, were used to collect the required data. Questionnaires were prepared in two stages to apply the Delphi technique and analyze cross-effects; the first stage includes 50 open-ended questionnaires in which the most important factors affecting the future status of student sports in Khuzestan province were provided to experts in key topics, taking into account various and comprehensive areas of student sports, which led to the extraction of the overall factors affecting the future status of student sports in Khuzestan province.

Results and Discussion:

Based on the Delphi method, 15 factors in 4 areas (economic, managerial, fan, socio-cultural, and services and facilities) were identified by expert experts as factors affecting the future status of school student sports in Khuzestan province, and these factors were entered into the

interaction analysis matrix. Then, experts measured the degree of influence of each of these factors on other factors affecting the future status of the system. The degree of this influence is measured with numbers between zero and three. The number zero indicates "no influence", the number one indicates "weak influence", the number two indicates "medium influence", and the number three indicates "high influence". The variables in the rows affect the variables in the columns. The total score of the variables in the rows indicates the degree of influence, and the total score of the variables in the columns indicates the degree of influence of the variables. After determining the degree of influence of factors on each other, using the interaction analysis method in the Mic-Mac software, the key factors affecting the future state of the system were extracted, analyzed and examined. The dimensions of the matrix are 15x15 and the variables are arranged in five different sections. The results obtained from the Mic-Mac software above, based on the analysis of cross-effects, show that the filling index for existing trends is about 87.11 percent, which indicates that nearly 90 percent of the factors have influenced each other. Of the 196 evaluable relationships in this matrix, 29 relationships were zero (no effect), 43 relationships were one (weak effect), 107 relationships were two (medium effect) and 46 relationships were three (high effect). The matrix had 100 percent desirability and optimization based on statistical indicators with two data rotations, which indicates a high validity of the questionnaire.

Conclusion:

The results showed that in terms of direct influence, variables such as social networks with a score of 860, sports infrastructure and venues, and students' attitude towards sports with scores of 835 and 810 were ranked first to third, respectively. On the other hand, variables that have an indirect impact on the state of student sports are social networks with a score of 876, sports infrastructure and venues, and students' attitude towards sports with scores of 872 and 796, respectively. In addition, according to this table, it can be said that the key factors affecting the future state of the system have been exactly repeated in both direct and indirect influence, and this repetition has been accompanied by a shift in rank.

Declarations

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