

Approach to the sport's participation motives in school boxers Aproximación a los motivos de participación deportiva en boxeadores escolares

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ABSTRACT

The article presents the results of the research aimed at characterizing the sports participation motives of boxers at school category participating in a national pioneer championship, based on the need of trainers for this knowledge and the scarce studies in Cuba. Theoretically, it covers the definition of the object of study for the research. The sample consisted of 117 boxers from the population. Theoretical, empirical and mathematical statistical methods were used. The results revealed the sports participation motives in the western, central and eastern regions of Cuba, concluding on their predominance and the characteristic regularities expressed by the sample.

Keywords: Boxing; School sport; Sports motivation; Sports participation motives

RESUMEN

El artículo expone resultados de la investigación dirigida a caracterizar los motivos de participación deportiva de boxeadores de la categoría escolar participantes en un campeonato nacional pioneril, desde la necesidad de entrenadores de este conocimiento y los escasos estudios en Cuba. Teóricamente abarca la definición del objeto de estudio para la investigación. Integraron la muestra 117 deportistas y 48 entrenadores. Se utilizaron métodos de nivel teórico, empírico y estadísticos matemáticos. Los resultados revelaron los motivos de participación deportiva distintivos en las regiones occidental, central y oriental de Cuba concluyéndose

sobre su predominio y las regularidades características expresadas en la muestra.

Palabras clave: Boxeo; Deporte escolar; Motivación deportiva; Motivos de participación deportiva

INTRODUCTION

The impact of the practice of sport on the integral development of the human being and on society is recognized in the sustainable development objectives of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations General Assembly, by stating in objective 37 its role in tolerance, inclusion, the promotion of peace, respect, in health and education (UN, 2015).

In the world, sport has increasingly become a lucrative commercial medium where individuality is weighted more than human development. In Cuba, from the social transformations that have occurred since 1959, the conception of the training of the high-performance athlete was re-dimensioned by conceiving the "Pyramid of Sports Performance" based on school sports, which ranges from sports initiation to education physical up to the national teams, aspect recognized by Cañizares, et. to. the in Muñoz, et. to. (2019).

The relationship between physical education, sports initiation and school sports reveals the existence of a continuum based on motivation, specifically on the reasons for sports participation, an idea supported by what Cañizares (2020) stated when stating that in all stages of development of the athlete are present the reasons for sports participation. This perspective requires characterizing the reasons for sports participation in the school stage with a scientific character and satisfying the needs referred by coaches, for the sake of their development and consolidation during sports practice.

The work is part of the result of the research leading to the obtaining of the Master's degree in Sports Psychology, belonging to the research project "Influence of psychological and psychosocial aspects in school sports" of the research line: "Studies of aspects psychological tests in sports teams" of the Center for the Study of Psychology of Physical Activity and Sport (CEPAFD) of the University of Physical Culture and Sport Sciences "Manuel Fajardo.

The theoretical analysis reveals important contributions from studies on the reasons for sports participation in various sports and countries, becoming essential references for research. The works of Cecchini, Méndez et. to. (2002, 2003), Cecchini, Echevarría, et. to. (2003); Sinovas (2016), Rodríguez and Guillén (2017), Fradejas y Espada (2018) and González, H., et. to. (2019). Their results express the following reasons as regularities: development or learning of skills, physical fitness, social recognition/status, health, friendship, fun, affiliation and entertainment. The results offer valuable indicators, some of which are directly assumed and others due to their content require integration into more comprehensive categories, as they constitute accurate data on the same motivational aspect. However, the dynamics and complexity of the reasons for sports participation are not fully appreciated, as well as their structural components in an integral way, an aspect to be taken into account in the justification of a scientific investigation, as indicated by Addine and Miranda (2018). In addition to not referring to a conceptual or operational definition of the category.

The contributions of these authors are also valued, who highlight the essential role of motivation in sports activity, including in the acquisition of motor skills, the identification and characterization of the reasons for sports participation to draw strategies that promote the incorporation and participation of children in a sport, as well as the design of training plans that encompass the interests and motives of sport participation to avoid abandoning this activity. From the position of the Cultural Historical Approach assumed, the analysis of the reasons for sports participation covers the relationship between experiences, interests, the sense and meaning that reality acquires for the child and the interrelation with others in the process of their development. In this regard, Nieva (2019) points out the essential role of motivation, the sense and meaning that practical activity acquires and its subjective re-significance in the interaction with the specific situations of the sociocultural context to which it belongs. Based on the previous analyzes, an operational definition of motives for sports participation is elaborated for the purposes of the research that reflects its structure (needs, interests and experiences) and functioning, the conscious level and the role in the sports activity

that enables its Characterization of school-age boxing children in the Cuban context.

It is understood for reasons of sports participation: the functional interrelation of internal and external contents that includes primary psychological units (needs, interests and experiences), acquires meaning for the practitioner through interaction with the conditions of the specific socio-historical cultural context in which it is develops, integrates the affective cognitive unit as an essential component of sports motivation and induces, guides and directs its performance towards the systematic practice of sports activity.

On the other hand, in the literature studied, it is appreciated that there are few studies in Cuba on reasons for sports participation in boxing and in sports in general that make it possible to characterize them in schoolchildren in order to influence their development, transformation or consolidation, for which the objective of the work was directed to characterize the reasons for sports participation of school boxers participating in a pioneering national championship and to determine the particularities by regions of the country. In relation to the objective of the research, it should be noted that the characterization of the motives for sports participation is the basis for determining and promoting a posteriori the potentialities of future development in sports activity.

METHODS

The research worked with the 117 children between the ages of nine and ten who participated in the 2018 National Pioneer Boxing Championship in the province of Santiago de Cuba. The 42 coaches participating in said event also participated, and they were asked their criteria about the motivational sphere and the reasons for sports participation of their athletes, through the application of the methods and techniques conceived in the methodological strategy followed.

All the participants in the championship, members of the population studied, represented the 15 provinces of the country and the special municipality Youth's island (Isla de la Juventud). The teams were made up of eight childrens (8) except the provinces of Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Camagüey and Guantánamo made

up of seven (7) and Granma made up of nine (9) childrens. The teams were made up of two coaches from each of the provinces.

The study also included 10 coaches from the host provinces (Sancti Spiritus and Santiago de Cuba), according to the years of the championships (2017 and 2018) who were present at the National Methodological Seminars developed within the framework of both championships.

The study used methods of the theoretical and empirical level, as well as mathematical statistical procedures. The methods and techniques applied made it possible to assess contributions from previous research on the object of study, as well as to determine the reasons for sports participation and their characteristics in the population studied.

The research had two stages, one exploratory and the other descriptive. In the examination, the state of the sports participation motives of the studied population was preliminarily diagnosed. It was evidenced that 82% have a medium or higher level in physical culture and sports; 65% have limited knowledge about the characteristics of the evolutionary period of the athletes, their interests, needs and motives. The main limitations in children are: loss of concentration in combat, poor initiative to change the combat pattern and that they are anxious; but these psychological aspects are not related to the motivational affective sphere. In addition, the need to know the characteristics of the children's participation motives to develop them was manifested, confirming the need for the study.

RESULTS

The main reasons for sports participation of the boxers participating in the National Pioneer Boxing Championship of the western region of the country are, on a first level, direct intrinsic reasons, development of skills and physical fitness, self-realization, future projection, as well as indirect extrinsic ones.

At a second hierarchical level, extrinsic motives of material interest are regulating the behavior of school boxers in the sample studied. In this region, the Internal Contents dimension appears as the predominant dimension.

In boxers from the central region, the direct intrinsic motives and future projection self-realization stand out at a first hierarchical level, as well as the indirect extrinsic

motives. At a second hierarchical level, the extrinsic motives of material interest and affiliation are revealed. In this region the External Contents dimension predominates.

In the eastern region of the country, direct intrinsic motives and future projection self-realization predominate, while in a second hierarchical level there are indirect extrinsic motives, of material interest and perspective to the ego. In this region the External Contents dimension predominates.

From the integration of the data and results of the methods, as well as the applied techniques, the main reasons for sports participation of the school boxers studied are evidenced as the direct intrinsic, development of skills and physical form, self-realization, projection future, as well as indirect extrinsic and material interest. Likewise, the extrinsic ego affiliation and perspective are manifested at a second hierarchical level. In the same way, it is clear that the External Contents dimension predominates in the population studied.

DISCUSSION

The results revealed firstly that intrinsic motives predominate in the western region, while extrinsic motives predominate in the central and eastern regions, which may be related to experiences, needs and interests according to the sense that socio-cultural conditions specific development and sports practice itself.

Second, in the three regions of the country direct motives predominate, an aspect that is consistent with the characteristics of motivation in sports initiation indicated by Suárez, et. to. (2018), who state that in this stage extrinsic sports participation reasons predominate with intrinsic reasons related to liking for the sport that is practiced, from which positive experiences are inferred that show their coexistence and functioning. The same authors state that in sports initiation the reasons for fun are essential, an aspect pointed out in the same way by Navas and Soriano (2016), results that contrast with those obtained in the research.

On the other hand, the results agree in self-realization, development of skills, physical form, direct, affiliation, socialization with those obtained in previous studies by Cecchini, Méndez et. to. (2003); Cecchini, Echevarría et. to. (2003); Rodríguez, M. and Guillén (2017); Fradejas and Espada (2018); González, H., et.

to. (2019); Del Monte (2020), among others, but they contrast in material interest, fun, health, ego perspective with: Cecchini, Méndez et. to. (2003); Cecchini, Echevarría et. to. (2003); Del Monte (2020); Sinovas (2016); Fradejas and Espada (2018), Rodríguez, et. to. (2020), among others.

In another order and from the operational definition carried out, the need to characterize the reasons for sports participation of the sample is appreciated considering the indicators of the sample, for which the existence of: interests towards sports, personal, of obtaining success, material needs, recognition, affective, self-affirmation and appreciation, self-satisfaction, socialization, as well as experiences related to sport, coexisting internal and external reasons, although at different hierarchical levels from each other according to the regions and in general in the participants.

From this analysis and assessment supported by the results, it is concluded that the reasons for sports participation are characterized by the predominance, at a first hierarchical level, of the reasons with internal content over those of external content, although when extrinsic reasons are expressed in a second hierarchical level generally predominate these over the intrinsic ones. In particular, there are similarities in the characteristics of the motives of the athletes of the central and eastern region, not so with those of the western region, where internal contents predominate, differences that could be related to the conditions of the specific socio-historical development.

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