

AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR OF YOUNG PEOPLE DURING SPORTS EVENTS

Tatjana Stojanoska Ivanova¹

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje
Faculty of Philosophy – Department of Sociology

ABSTRACT

Aggression, verbal and physical, occurs more and more often at sports manifestations across our country regardless of their type, meaning both at matches within a domestic championship or at international sports events. We are witnesses of continuous aggression among fans, as well as aggressive behavior among the players in sports matches. Questions that inevitably impose, which relate to problems associated with aggressive behavior, refer to seeking answers on the reasons for this behavior and the factors that largely contribute to more frequently demonstrated aggression and violence during sports events. Sport is a game, sport is an enjoyment, and sport is recreation as well as a way in which all young persons can properly and usefully fulfill their free time. However, contrary to such conception of sport and sporting events, in our country, unfortunately, there frequently occur adverse actions in sport, connected with manifestation of aggression, which destroy and desecrate the beautiful and desirable image of the sport. On the other hand, aggression and

¹ Tatjana Stojanoska, PhD, PhD, assistant professor, e-mail:

violence from sport fields transfer to other events as well as to other institutions, so therefore it is more frequently heard about aggression in schools, aggression in cafeterias, and aggression in other institutions important for socialization of youth. All aforementioned is in favor of pointing out that necessary activities should be undertaken which will contribute to decrease and channel the youth aggression and violence during sports events.

Key words: aggression, violence, sports events, youth

1. Introduction

Sport is a game, entertainment, and a way of recreation to many people, but also activity and professional orientation of a particular category of citizens. When talking about sports and sport manifestations their positive aspect is always kept in mind, i.e. sporting activities are considered a way and opportunity for the people to realize some of their needs, interests, desires and performances certainly accompanied with a positive impulse, energy and enthusiasm. Sporting events, on the other hand, imply also channeling a certain negative energy, primarily referring to the need for relaxation, pleasure and enjoyment of the people in these tumultuous times, which is of course the most flexibly and in the best way done during a sports event. Disregarding whether people are direct participants in a sporting event (players, referees, delegates) or they are indirectly involved (fans, sport devotees, audience) their goal is the event to meet their expectations and have a positive and successful outcome. This means the players to give their best, referees to mete out the justice fairly, delegates to perform their tasks honorably, the fans to cheer for their teams with songs and requisites that will exclusively have encouraging and supporting purpose, and other sports fans - audience to enjoy in mastery and skills of direct participants.

However, it is not always the case in practice, and we are often witnesses of a completely different picture than the desired one during sports events. Recently, the attention of many sport fans, and not only of them, but of

the public majority as well has been drawn by the significant increase in violent and aggressive behavior during sports events. Violence, aggression, and also destruction have become the decor of many sporting events in our country, the same as in the world, which indicates that the wave of violent, aggressive and destructive behavior is present and visible in our country, but it is also present in the region and in the whole world. Every serious country, each modern society has a serious attitude toward sports, primarily as a specific social field, because it has a range of positive and desirable effects in the social context, starting from the game in which not only the individual is strengthened, but also the collective, through unity, togetherness, creation of common value system, via improvement of the health condition of people, to entertainment and relaxed spending of leisure time. But, sports have also another dimension, or more precisely sports in a certain way imply as well the manifestation of specific elements of certain cultures and presentation of their own culture outside the home country. That is exactly why the disorder and violation regarding the positive aspects of sports mean also to present your own country and culture in a negative context.

Violence and aggression in sports are neither a product of present times, nor specifics of contemporary or modern societies. Archival materials indicate the existence of violent and aggressive activities a long time ago, and the cases of injured participants or spectators during sports events have not been rear. But, the contemporary times bring new-different trends and manifestations of violence and aggression, primarily modifying and supplementing with negative repercussions the behavior of people during sports events. In modern sports, the violence and aggression are a known social phenomenon with all sociological attributes, and wild acts during sports manifestations, but also outside of them, have often been an announcement of many top sporting events and their decor, often with tragic consequences.

Worrying is also the fact that doers of disagreeable actions in sports are mostly young people, who are very often active members of the respective fan groups. They have their own leaders-guides who conceive the course and the way of cheering their team, but they are models for identification and imitation

by other members of the cheering group. Young people are the initiators, but they also suffer from the violent acts. If you start from the fact that young people are bearers of social progress in every country, those who define and create public developments, the most active creators of social life, then they should be expected to support the activities and actions that will mean prosperity and progress both individual and social in all spheres of social life, including sports. However, the practicing of violent and aggressive behavior by young people, especially during sports events, which involve freedom, pleasure, positivity, relaxation, moves them away from the right path of their normal development. Therefore, it is necessary to highlight and find mechanisms that will contribute to establishing the real values in sport and returning the true aim and purpose of sports events, and of course, along with it, strengthening the love to sports as the highest value of sports culture.

2. Defining and specifying the violence and aggression

When speaking of violence, we can justifiably say that there is no country, regardless of the degree of its development, nor society to which violence is unknown. Images of violent acts, photographs of persons who have committed violence can be seen in media (printed and electronic); we are witnesses of scenes and violent acts in schools, in some homes, in institutions, and in sports facilities. It is right to say that the violence is increasing and the facts show that every year thousands of people all over the world lose their lives as a result of violence. If we look back for years, we can see and conclude that the twentieth century, besides remembered for the series of inventions and progress of different social segments, will also be remembered for violence, being the period in which mass destruction and violence happened in enormous volume.

When talking about violence, the argument is usually mentioned that violence is born and survives in countries where democracy has been ruined, i.e. where the principles of democracy have been violated, in countries where the

basic democratic and human rights and freedoms are insufficiently respected. A part of the scientific elite that examines the violence points out certain common characteristics of violence as a pathological phenomenon, stressing that the violence is expressed in unplanned, uncontrolled or intentional use of force, social disease that knows no religions, countries, ethnicities, cultures.

One of the scientists within the Macedonian scientific elite who studies violence is Mr. Kambovski, who speaking about violence places the emphasis on crime, which means that for him the violence represents a specific form of violence criminality, pointing out that the violence is a part of the classic criminality as the richest group with multiple types of criminal acts, with the same or similar criminally-relevant features (Kambovski 1997).

Galtung introduces the concepts of direct, cultural and structural violence. According to him, the direct or personal violence is when we recognize the perpetrator, whereas if there is no recognizable perpetrator in the violence, then it is a structural violence. He also points out that cultural violence includes all those aspects of culture that are used to justify or legitimize the direct or structural violence, underlying that there are no violent cultures (those which would include violence in all their aspects), but there are cultures of violence (oppression through ideology, through religion) (Galtung 1974).

When talking about violence, we should also mention the scientific theories that give explanation on the origin of violent behavior, theories that explain the genesis of violence, such as: biological, psychological and sociological. From all of them, the most acceptable is the sociological one which puts emphasis on the cultural environment in which the violence occurs and exists, or to be precise the main point of this theory is that the social environment is essential depending on it whether the violence will be tolerated, stimulated or it will be condemned and prevented.

We should also mention the forms and types of violence. According to some authors, there are multiple forms of violence, such as:

- brutal physical force or power of compulsion;
- second form of violence is a form of rewarding a certain behavior;
- violence of opinion or manipulation of ideas;

- form for controlling the behavior of social norms, either in the form of law or in the form of ethical standards. These norms are incorporated into the human consciousness and the human subconscious, so people often accept them without knowing their true values;
- violence often imposed by a charismatic leader on an individual or a group (Anastasovski, Stojanoska 2010:30).

-

Aggression is also a specific phenomenon for which there is no unified definition, namely those who define and study it emphasize different specifics primarily in terms of its essence. Certain persons consider the aggression a synonym of violence, but the scientific elite removes the equation sign and indicates to the specific features of aggressive behavior. According Murdzheva-Shkarich, aggression means behavior that harms the body or the soul of another person, and seeks personal egotistical benefit or benefit for his/her group. Aggression can also aim at competition for funds, food or defense. According to her, the aggression in humans is only a functional potential, which is characteristic only for human kind and which does not occur in the absence of relevant epigenetic information necessary for its final development and determination (Murdzheva-Shkarich 2007).

Kuvachich explains the aggressive acts as violation of certain norms, because they need to be studied within the concept of social disorganization and anomia, when there is a violation of boundaries in the existing social systems (Kuvačič, 1979).

Arnaudovski defines the aggression as a reaction to social frustrations, that is to situations related to frustration of meeting the needs of the individual and hence as much the needs show higher degree of vain the aggression is stronger and vice versa. For him, the aggressiveness would be pathological only when causing destruction in the social life (Arnaudovski 1982).

Aggressive behavior has much been studied by Lorenz, and for him the human aggression is an instinct that draws strength from a vibrant source of energy, which is not necessary to be a result of reaction to external stimuli.

According to him, the aggression is not a reaction to external stimulus, but to the built-in internal irritation that requires relief and it will be demonstrated regardless of the existence of an appropriate external stimulus (Lorenz in Lazarovski1997).

In relation to aggression are also specific the forms and types in which it occurs, and as most frequent can be mentioned the following:

- benign and malignant aggression (malignant aggression is when the aggressive behavior is intended to inflict harm or damage to others, whereas benign aggression is when aggressive behavior is based on different motives such as self-defense);
- frustration aggression and instrumental aggression (instrumental aggression is when the aggression is used for achieving an external goal, meaning that the aggression here does not occur by itself, but it represents an instrument through which the individual tries to achieve the target, while the frustration aggression occurs in frustrating situations and its only goal is to reduce the emotional tension that occurs due to the effect of frustration);
- latent and overt aggression (extent to which the aggression is externally demonstrated and the extent to which the emotional tension will exert influence on people to manifest immediately or gradually aggressive behavior) (Fromm, 1975).

3. Violent and aggressive behavior of the young during sports events

Youth in Macedonia spend their free time in various ways, some of them visit cultural institutions, some of them associate and make friendships at the busiest places for youth (cafeterias, discos, secondary schools and dormitories), some are members of certain ensembles or youth theaters, and some attend sporting events as active or passive participants. Those young people who are well-developed with regard to values and morality behave in accordance with their value-moral discourse, namely, basic principles both in communication and

activities in every facet of their behavior and action are responsibility, honesty, fairness, tolerance, virtuousness. But, the problem is with those who have not built up a stable moral code, and therefore verbal and physical violence, intolerance, pressure, disobedience dominate in their behavior and actions.

Young people who are active participants in sporting events aim to recreate, to have a good leisure time, to relax, to socialize, and to cheer their supporting team. It is proper and desirable that they do it in a socially and morally appropriate way, i.e. through positive practices, positive activities and songs showing their passion and love for the sport and the club whose fans they are. But unfortunately, in our country, especially in the last two decades, we have witnessed a different behavior of the youth at sporting events, behavior which is far from nice, proper, desirable and correct. It is not rare to witness caused incidents and manifestations of violence and aggression on sports fields and between the groups of fans (which consist mostly of young people).

Violence exists as long as the mankind, with a difference between the former and modern violence. Also striking is the fact that violence and aggression in sports are not a product of the 21st century or of the previous century. Namely, violence and aggression in sports arenas and at sporting events existed long time ago, and evidence on that are the ancient games where there were brutal activities which caused bloody fights ending in serious injury and sometimes death. However, specific for both types of violence is the discourse that is common and it is the binding of violence to the honor and revenge.

Just the frequent violent and aggressive acts practiced by young people at sports manifestations are the reason for frequent interest of the scientific elite that deals with this issue. There are several aspects and reasons for increased interest in scientific study and research on violent behavior in sports, and they are:

- gaining new scientific knowledge within the sociology of social deviations and sociology of sports on manifestation of violence during sports events, thus obtaining new results and scientific knowledge that

will contribute to the promotion of this issue and establishment of new theories as basis for new scientific researches;

- study and detection of specific rules and norms of fans, behavior of audience, and interaction between audience and players;
- opportunity for studying and understanding the collective behavior.

By studying this issue, Mr. Anastasovski points out that many matches represent outpouring or training of hate, and at such matches both competitors and audience turn into power and become participants in an activity that governs them as much as they govern it (Anastasovski 1988).

Many scientists dealing with violence in sports ascertain that during the whole history of sports and sporting events straight proportional impact of violence is showed during the whole history of sports and sporting events by increasing the unsportsmanlike and non-play moments such as chauvinism, nationalism, racism, intolerance. Their general conclusion is that in the last two decades violent behavior at sporting events has escalated and become one of the more serious and primary problems for the society. Their message is to engage more experts from the scientific field in order to find solutions for preventing and reducing the violence at sports facilities.

4. Conclusion

The twenty-first century has brought us a series of changes and arguable processes that reflect on the overall social life. Not only in the world, but in our country as well the violence has upward trend (in the family, in school, in sports, in the street, in institutions), social deviations increase, economic changes happen, and economic problems escalate, there is a growing impatience among people, between generations, we have unemployment problems, social uncertainty, an increasing gap between rich and poor, intolerance, racism and nationalism inundate the world, and all of it is also reflected in the segment of sports, where the violence with its forms and features creates its own place.

It can justifiably be said that there is basis for existence of violent and aggressive behavior in Macedonia, especially at sports manifestations. The perpetrators of this specific type of criminality are mainly recruited from among the young population. Harmful consequences of these groups of criminal acts are unquestionable and refer to causing a sense of insecurity, disgust or fear in the public, damage to the property of citizens and the like. Hence, the need arises for studying the violent and aggressive behavior of youth at sports fields, because it is definitely a social danger which imposes the need for a well thought-out and strategically oriented prevention of any violent and aggressive behavior.

Young people are the future of every society and exactly for that reason a special attention should be paid to upgrade their morals and values, because if it does not happen, there is a risk the deviant behavior to continue, which is unfortunately always with negative consequences. Sport should also return the true glory which belongs to it, and the country and institutions in charge of it should primarily find mechanisms for the smooth conduct of sporting events, as well as specific measures to prevent any violence on sports fields, because it is the only way to return the true sport fans into the stands.

References

- Анастасовски, А. 1988. Основи на социологија на физичката култура. Куманово:Просвета
- Анастасовски, И. Стојаноска, Т. 2010. Насилство, агресија и спорт. Куманово:Флексограф
- Арнаудовски, Љ. 1982. Предавања по социјална патологија. Скопје:Студентски збор
- Vrcan, S. 2003. Nogomet-politika-nasilje, Ogledi iz sociologije nogometa. Zagreb: Jesenski i Turk, HSD
- Galtung, J. 1974. Peace, violence and imperialism. London: Cambridge
- Камбовски, В. 1997. казнено право, посебен дел. Скопје: Просветно дело.

- Кепеска, Ј. 2000. Теми од социологијата на спортот. Скопје:Дата Понс
- Kokovič, D. 1990. Doba nasilje i sporta. Novi Sad: Sports World
- Kuvačić, I. 1979. Obilje i nasilje. Zagreb: Naprijed
- Лазаревски, Ј. 1997. Алтруистичко и агресивно однесување. Скопје и Мелбурн: Матица Македонска
- Lorenc, K. 1970. O agresivnosti. Beograd: vuk Karadžić
- Мурџева-Шкарич, О. 2007. Ненасилна трансформација на конфликтите. Скопје: Филозофски факултет
- Fromm, E. 1975. Anatomija ljudske destruktivnosti. Zagreb: Naprijed
- Šeparović, Z. 1981. Kriminologija i socijalna patologija. Zagreb: Naprijed
- Štakič, Đ. 2000. Sociologija sporta. Beograd: Univerzitet u Beogradu
- Žužulj, M. 1989. Agresivno ponašanje. Zagreb: Naprijed

АГРЕСИВНОТО ОДНЕСУВАЊЕ НА МЛАДИТЕ ЗА ВРЕМЕ НА СПОРТСКИТЕ МАНИФЕСТАЦИИ

Татјана Стојаноска Иванова

АПСТРАКТ

Агресијата, вербална и физичка, е сè поприсутна на спортските манифестации ширум нашата држава, без оглед дали станува збор за натпревар во рамките на некое домашно првенство или за меѓународна спортска манифестација. Сведоци сме на континуирана агресија меѓу навивачите, но и на агресивно однесување меѓу самите актери во спортската игра. Прашањата кои неминовно се наметнуваат, а кои се однесуваат на проблемите врзани со агресивното однесување, се однесуваат на барањето одговори за причините за ваквото однесување и факторите кои во најголема мера придонесуваат се почесто да се исполува агресија и насилство за време

на спортски манифестации. Спортот е игра, спортот е уживање, спортот е рекреација и начин секој млад човек правилно и полезно да си го пополни своето слободно време. Но, наспроти ваквото поимање на спортот и спортските манифестации, кај нас, за жал, сè почесто се случуваат негативни дејанија во спортот, врзани со манифестирање на агресија, кои ја рушат и сквернават убавата и посакувана слика за спортот. Од друга страна, агресијата и насилството, од спортските терени се преточуваат и на други манифестации и во други институции, и токму поради тоа сè почесто ќе чуеме за агресија во училишта, агресија во кафетерии, агресија во други институции значајни за социјализација на младите. Сето ова ни оди во прилог да потенцираме дека неопходни се мерки кои ќе придонесат за намалување и каналзирање на агресијата и насилството на младите за време на спортски манифестации.

Клучни зборови: агресија, насилство, спортски манифестации, млади