

Financial Determinants of Students Sports Participation; A Managerial Perspective

Khalid Usman

Khalidusman1979@gmail.com

Government College of Management Science, Karak,

Dr. Noor Muhammad

noormuhammad@gu.edu.pk

Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education, Gomal University, Dera Imail Khan,

Irfan Ullah

Irfan.pdl@gmail.com

Government Higher Secondary School, Khanjar, Mardan,

ABSTRACT

Finance play a well significant role in any walk of life. No matter it is education, business, industry, agriculture or even in the field of sport. Sports is an arena where athletes need financial facilities in the shape of match fees, training fees and refreshment fees. In this regard, the current study examined the existing financial facilities and their effects on athletes' sports participation at college level of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan. The sample size for this study was (n=685 males= 410; females= 275) which was obtained through stratified probability random sampling technique. Two different adapted questionnaires after due course of validity and reliability were used to collect required information on existing financial facilities and students' sports participation. The collected information was processed through SPSS, version 26. Appropriate statistical tests of Pearson correlation and linear regression were used to verify the set hypotheses. A critical value of 0.05 was fixed to accept or reject the hypotheses. The analyzed data revealed that the Pearson correlation between financial facilities and athletes' sports participation was a moderate positive relationship between the variables. Additionally, regression analysis showed negative effect of existing financial facilities upon athletes' sports participation ($p > 0.05$). These findings help the college administration to recommend sufficient budget required for enhancing and increasing athletes' sports participation.

Key Words: Financial Facilities, Sports Participation, Managerial Perspective, College Students

INTRODUCTION

The term sport is highly ambiguous having different meanings. Some persons refer to sport when they are speaking of athletic competition, whereas others refer to sport when they are discussing the organizational and financial status of team. John and Loy (1968) states that sport should be considered on different planes of discourse to understand its nature. He discusses sport as game of occurrence, as an institutionalized game, as a social institution, and as a social situation. In light of the views of Morakinyo (2002) sport is a social phenomenon that has evolved from its humble beginnings as a form of leisure and recreation to a visible and prominent business phenomenon that cannot be ignored in any nation's social, political, and economic context.

In the area of education, sport has become a part of school and colleges in the nation. Physical education, intramurals, and athletic program have been created by educational institutions to give young people the opportunity to play in these activities. Sport programs in schools and colleges in recent years have been associated with improving the fitness of our youth. For this purpose, both provincial and federal government are devising sports policy for promotion and management of sports in the province. The revised national sports policy was established with the aims at promotion of sports at grass root level, enhancing public affiliation with the teams, ensuring all tournaments originate from inter-club level and culminate at the national level (Revised National Sports Policy, 2015). Likewise, provincial sports policy has been established in 2018 for establishing a clear and convenient structure to provide and increase the delivery of sport opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through systematic participative and coordinated approach at every level through government, educational institution, associations, private sector and local government to make sure maximum return (Sports Policy, 2018).

Sports facilities are buildings built to host various athletic and sporting events, such as a standard athletic track, basketball and volleyball courts, football and cricket grounds, a hockey rink, etc (Ogundario, 2010). Sport equipment, on the other hand, refers to the disposable things used by athletes in sports, such as balls, bats, horizontal bars, weightlifting equipment, volleyball nets, and basketball poles (Ogundario, 2010). Financial facilities include the daily allowance, match fees, camp fees and remuneration, as well as the payment of refreshments. Human facilities include qualified coaches, trainers, and referees/umpires (Khan, 2017).

The availability of sporting facilities is a key factor in determining athletes' motivation and involvement in domestic sport (Khan, 2017). Athletes' motivation to participate in sport and their ability to do so depend greatly on the availability of suitable facilities. Similarly, providing athletes with high-tech equipment acts as a progress engine that boosts their motivation and helps them participate effectively in a variety of sporting events. One of the key factors in the timely execution of intramural and other sports activities is the presence of suitable facilities (Ngeti, Bulinda, & Peter, 2018).

Previous research on how existing sports facilities affect athletes' engagement in sports focused on certain events, such cricket (Khan, 2017), and generational groups, including district sport (Khan, 2016), and university sport (Khan, 2017). (Arif et al., 2016; Zia-Ul-Islam, Roman, & Jabeen, 2020). However, given the rising popularity of sport among college students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the advantages of having a suitable facility, it was deemed necessary to examine the current sporting infrastructure. According to the researcher, there hasn't been much research on the state of sports facilities among college students, especially in terms of players' enthusiasm and involvement in sports. There isn't many research that examine how sport facilities affect athletes' motivation and involvement who are varied in terms of gender, athletic backgrounds, and athletic experience at the collegiate level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan.

The researcher has spent the last 15 years serving as the college's Director of Physical Education (DPE). He has been organizing sporting events and training participants for various contests. Based on his own observations and experiences, he encountered several difficulties, particularly when trying to

provide sportsmen with suitable sporting facilities and gear. Consequently, the current study was carried out to survey the responses of athletes regarding financial facilities provided to them, to ascertain the relationship between current financial facilities and athletes' participation in sport, to evaluate the effects of current financial facilities upon athletes' participation in sport, and to examine this relationship with regard to gender in this area.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Sports facilities are considered as structures constructed for administering and managing sports events. These facilities included in the shape of court, grounds, play field, track and field space (Ogundairo, 2010). In the development and promotion of sport, one must give special consideration on the provision of adequate sports facilities and equipment. Therefore, there exists significant relationship between sports facilities and standard of sport. Proper facilities have an important contribution not only in a competitive sport but, these facilities are very much important for recreational sports as well (Ekpe, 2001).

Research revealed that provision of appropriate facilities are significant determinants for students' participation in sport. Likewise, equipment in the shape of ball, bat, net, pole vault etc., serves as an engine that stimulates students towards participation in sport. Therefore, Omolawon, (2000) demonstrated that financial facilities have paramount significance in the way of students' participation in sport.

Sport and physical activity participation can be examined from a variety of socioeconomic angles (Downward, Dawson, & Dejonghe, 2009). Researchers in the past have studied the effects of several factors on the participation in sports (Zarrett, Veliz, & Sabo). Age, gender, and ethnicity have all been identified as important socioeconomic characteristics that affect how much people participate in sports (Wicker, Breuer, & Pawlowski, 2009). In addition, other researchers have pointed to income, time management, and education level as significant economic factors influencing sport participation (Kuh et al., 2011).

In addition to the aforementioned, other studies have looked at factors that influence sports participation in various competitions (Downward, 2004; Seabra et al., 2007). There are various variations, and the results of the determinants can change depending on the type of sport that the players engaged in (Downward, et al., 2009). Generally speaking, it has been documented that gender differences exist with regard to sports activity. In contrast to the fact that female athletes to compete in sports like skiing, volleyball, soccer, and golf, male athletes typically participate in sports like baseball, basketball, golf, ice hockey, and soccer (Gruneau, 2010). Males often participate in team and individual sport in addition to the aforementioned activities, whereas females are more likely to stroll and do housework.

The relationship between sports participation and infrastructure provision is of interest to researchers (Hallmann et al., 2012). The correlation between sports participation and infrastructure provision has shown conflicting results. For example, meta-analysis revealed that sports infrastructure has a beneficial effect on sports participation (Breuer, Hallmann, & Wicker, 2011). The writers of the studies mentioned above have addressed the perceived facilities and restrictions on sports participation

Further research has shown that "areas with higher household income (are) perceived to (have) poorer access to public open space and team-sports facilities, as well as better access to individual sports facilities, higher levels of aesthetics, fewer physical barriers to walking, and lower levels of crime and traffic." This leads to the conclusion that sport infrastructure is essential for participation in many sports. This finding suggests that age and financial constraints prevent the usage of public sporting facilities. The delivery method may be crucial for engaging in various sports activities (Hallmann et al., 2012).

Research Gap

Research in the area of sports facilities and their relationship with sports participation has become the focal point of debate among researchers in the area of sport management. Previous studies investigated the effects of existing sports facilities on specific event such as cricket (Khan, 2017) and generational group such as district sport (Khan, 2016), University sport (Arif et al., 2016; Zia-Ul-Islam et al., 2020), but there has been little work exploring the effect of existing financial facilities on participation in sport at college level. To fill this gap, the current study was conducted.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

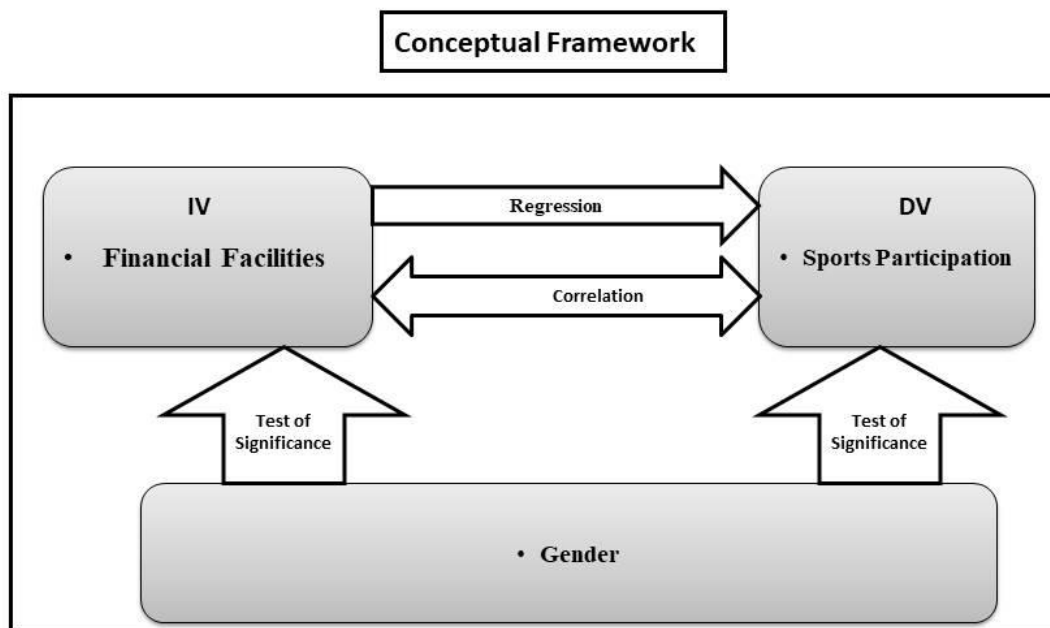
H1 There is no significant relationship between existing financial facilities and sports participation among college students.

H2 There is no significant effect of existing financial facilities on sports participation among college students.

H3 There is a significant positive effects of gender in respect of existing financial facilities for sports participation among college students.

Conceptual Framework

The following framework depict variables involved in the current study. It gives the readers a description that how these are related with each other. Their relationship is further tested in the data analysis.



METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The current research required quantitative data on existing financial facilities and athletes' participation in sport, therefore; descriptive research design from a quantitative research was used to conduct the study and to achieve the set objectives accordingly. As with a cross-sectional survey, a descriptive study may attempt to generalize findings from a representative sample to a wider target population (Akhtar, 2016).

Population and Sampling Procedure

The population of this research consisted students who participate in competitive sport activities representing their respective colleges. All the student-athletes constituted a large group of population having concern in facilities and participation in the perspective of sport. The target population of the current including of the college athletes were categorized into two strata i.e., male and female through stratified sampling technique. Each stratum was then selected by sorting out the population into sub-groups based on their distinct features, such as game participated in, sport's experience, formats of sport, level of sport, ethnic group and college name etc. The sample size for this study was (n=685 males=410; females=275) which was obtained through stratified probability random sampling technique. For this purpose, the formula suggested by Yamane (2018) was applied.

Measurement

Existing Financial Facilities

In the current study, existing financial facilities were taken as an independent variable. This variable was measured with the help of an adapted version of the questionnaire used by (Khan, 2016). The same questionnaires have been used with significant reliability by different researchers in the same culture (Khan, 2016; Arif et al., 2016). In the current study, the same questionnaire was used after making necessary modification according to the need and requirement of the study. The coding and values have been given on a five-point Likert Scale (1 for extremely not satisfied and 5 for extremely satisfied) to create more room for choices.

Sport's Participation

In the current study, sport means the event that has a governing body i.e., Director Colleges or Directorate of Sports and, is competitive having rules and regulations and under the supervision of qualified referee/umpire e.g., intercollegiate sport, inter-board sports. An adapted version of the Physical Activity Index (PAI) scale to measure the sport's participation of the participants. Several researchers have used the same scale in the Asian cultures with significant reliability (Khan, Jamil, Khan, & Kareem, 2012; Qurban, Siddique, Wang, & Morris, 2018). The Physical Activity Index (PAI) was used after corrections of the changes considering the cultural contexts.

Validity

The ability of the test to measure what the researcher is supposed to measure is said to validity (Momoh, 2014). The questionnaires were given to experienced people in the field of sports sciences and physical education to establish the face and content validity.

Reliability

The consistency of an instrument to correctly measure what it is designed to measure, with the result remaining more or less the same following administration of the test on multiple occasions in the same circumstance, is referred to as reliability (Momoh, 2014). Different reliability methods are used to measure the internal consistency of the questionnaire, however; the researchers in the current study used Cronbach's Alpha reliability method.

Reliability Statistics

	Cronbach's Alpha
Physical Sports Facilities	.767
Financial Sports Facilities	.748
Human Sports Facilities	.697
Athletes Sports Participation Questionnaire	.725

Pilot Testing

Pre-testing an instrument allowed the researcher to identify ambiguities in the questions, which could have resulted in other constraints that were not anticipated during the study. The pilot testing of the questionnaires was conducted on 30 athletes from different colleges who were not included in the actual study.

Analysis

One of the important steps in the research process is the selection of appropriate statistical tests which helps in drawing purposeful findings. The collected data were accordingly arranged and after data matrix, it was processed through a computer software Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), version 26. For this purpose, Pearson Correlation and Linear Regression were used in the data analysis.

DESCRIPTIVES OF FINANCIAL SPORTS FACILITIES

FINANCIAL SPORTS FACILITIES	685	2.2946
Payment of Daily allowance by the authority for the days spent during the competition is	685	2.3358
Payment of Match fee in addition to the daily allowance, by the authority for every match participated is	685	1.7343
Payment of camp fee/remuneration by the authority for attending the training camp organized for competition is	685	2.1533
Payment of refreshment by the authority during the match is	685	3.6628
Payment/arrangement for the lunch by the authority during the competition is	685	2.1241
Payment/provision of individual kitbag/rucksack (containing dress with shoes etc) to the players is	685	1.7577

The table presented responses of athletes on the existing financial sports facilities provided them. The overall mean score was found as 2.29, which means that the existing financial facilities are not satisfactory.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

H1 There is no significant relationship between existing financial facilities and sports participation among college students.

Correlations

		Financial Support	Athletes Sports Participation
Financial Support	Pearson Correlation	1	.056
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.142
	N	685	685
Athletes Sports Participation	Pearson Correlation	.056	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.142	
	N	685	685

Significant at the 0.05 (2-tailed)

The above table presented the correlation results between financial facilities and athletes sports participation. In the above table, the Pearson correlation between financial facilities and athletes' sports participation .056, which indicates that was a moderate positive relationship between the variables. The positive relationship indicates that, as financial facilities increase, athletes' participation increase.

To determine whether the correlation between financial facilities and athletes' sports participation is significant, compare the p-value with the significance level. In the above results, the p-value for the correlation between financial facilities and athletes' sports participation are less that the significance level of 0.05, which indicates that the correlations coefficients are not significant.

H2 There are no significant effects of existing financial facilities on sports participation among college students.

Table of Model Summary

Linear regression was used to examine the effects existing financial facilities on sports participation among college students. The regression results comprise three tables in addition to the 'Coefficients' table. The first table is called 'Model summary', which provides information about the regression line's ability to account for the total variation in the dependent variable. As can be seen from Table, the value of R² is 0.003, which means that .003 percent of the total variance in athletes' sports participation has been 'explained'. The R is the square root of R².

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.056 ^a	.003	.002	.76892

a. Predictors: (Constant), Financial Support

Table of ANOVA

This is the ANOVA table, that determines whether the model is significant enough to determine the outcome.

ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.279	1	1.279	2.164	.142 ^b
	Residual	403.817	683	.591		
	Total	405.096	684			

a. Dependent Variable: Athletes Sports Participation

b. Predictors: (Constant), Financial Support

In the above table, the p-value is .142, that is greater than the significant level. Therefore, the result is not significant. The F value is 2.164, which is good efficient model. As the p-value is greater than the significance level, therefore there is a possibility of rejecting the alternative hypothesis in further analysis.

Table of Coefficient

The Coefficient table presented the strength of the relationship i.e. the significance of the variables in the model. Additionally, it shows the magnitude with which it impacts the outcomes variable. This table helps in performing the hypothesis testing for a study.

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Coefficients Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.280	.107		30.742	.000
	Financial Support	.066	.045	.056	1.471	.142

a. Dependent Variable: Athletes Sports Participation

The value of Sig is important in Coefficient table. The Sig. is .142, that is greater than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, the alternative hypothesis is rejected and null hypothesis is accepted. It means that there is no positive impact of financial facilities upon athletes’ sports participation.

H3 There is a significant positive effects of gender in respect of existing financial facilities for sports participation among college students.

Gender-wise differences on Various Variables

Testing variables	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	Sig.
Existing Sports Facilities	Males	410	2.6072	.50457	-4.525	.000
	Females	275	2.7887	.52935		
Athletes Sports Participation	Males	410	3.3821	.79615	-2.052	.041
	Females	275	3.5048	.72255		

According to the table 4.16, the M= 2.6072 and 2.7887, t=4.525 and p=.000 is less than the significance level $\alpha = .05$, hence the null hypothesis is rejected, and it can be concluded that the sports facilities for male and female is significantly different. Hence, the significant difference was also found under the group of gender in relation to the athletes’ sports participation (M= 3.3821 and 3.5048 with t= 2.052 and p=.041). The findings indicated that there is a significant difference in all the variables between male and female individuals.

DISCUSSION

While assessing the viewpoint of college athletes on the availability of financial facilities, a meager portion of the population ($M=1.73$) agreed that payment of match fee in addition to the daily allowance is given, by the authority for every match participated in. Likewise, a mean score of 2.12 was noticed against the statement that payment/arrangement for the lunch by the authority during the competition is ensured. To examine the relationship between existing financial facilities and students' sports participation, Pearson correlation was used and the results indicated a moderate positive relationship between the variables. The positive relationship means that college student-athletes understand the significance of an adequate financial facilities for the enhancement of sports participation ratio. Additionally, the alternative hypothesis that existing financial sports facilities did significantly effects athletes' participation in sport in Government Colleges of KP was rejected. This indicates that the financial resources, such as match fees, daily fees, training fees, and other incentives, were not adequate. The previous study's findings revealed a substantial and advantageous association between motivation and monetary benefits as well as support rate of involvement. This suggests that the more inspiration and motivation students have, the more involved they are in extracurricular activities and athletics (Khan, 2016). The availability of suitable incentives, such as payment of a daily allowance, payment of a match fee in addition to the daily allowance, and payment by the authority for attending a training camp organised for competition, was demonstrated in other studies to be one of the factors influencing support for encouraging athletes to participate in sports (Khan, 2017). Arif et al. (2001) discovered two positive and notable relationships between the lack of financial support on the part of the players and the rate of participation in sport activities, contrary to Zia-Ul-Islam et al. (2020) who asserted that the more financial incentives offered to the players, the more investment they make.

This implied that existing financial facilities have no significant influence on students' participation in sport. The findings of the current study are corroborated with the findings obtained by Mwhaki (2007) who reported that existing financial facilities and equipment were significantly correlated with students' participation in sport. Another study indicated that proper maintenance of sports facilities has paramount significance for students' sports participation (Kabunge, 2012). However, Oyeniyi (2002) stated that required sports facilities and sports participation have harmonious relationship. Research demonstrated that availability of required sports facilities, financial incentives and time are considered significant constraints in the way of students' participation in sport (Jowett & Felton, 2013).

Females reported a higher mean score on the availability of financial facilities and their influence on participation among collegiate athletes when comparing the group mean differences on several variables. These results suggested that gender had a favourable effect on altering athletes' mean scores on research factors. According to Muthoni (2015), female teachers were able to work past the restrictions on availability and access to facilities, therefore this was not a crucial problem for their involvement. When examining how girls respond to the availability of sports facilities and equipment, Xhakaza (2005) made the same discovery. So, depending on whether the respondent is a male athlete, as shown by the current study, or a female athlete/student, as shown by Muthoni (2015) and Xhakaza (2015) studies, the notion of facilities and equipment as well as participation in sports may alter (2005). Regardless of the results, the issue of sports facilities and equipment is crucial for both competitive and school sports, especially in developing nations where enough funding for such infrastructure is inadequate.

CONCLUSION

The study on the effects of existing financial facilities on students' participation in sport at college level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan has established that financial facilities like match

fees, daily fees and camp fees have paramount significance in stimulating students towards sports participation. The inadequacy of financial assistance may have made it challenging for athletes to participate in sport with zeal and zest. Thus, athletes would avoid being participated in sport since they will be unable to satisfy the educational demands. Therefore, colleges administration needs to provide sufficient financial facilities to attract more and more students to be participated in sport. This need to be factored in the college budget since sports is considered as a co-curricular activity and need to be adequately funded like any other learning activity. The findings obtained through this study can be perceived an advance especially in the perspective of managing sport events in Pakistan, by providing information pertaining to the relationship between financial facilities and sports participation. Another implication of the present study is that these results helps in organizing and administering the sports participation of athletes at college level in KP, Pakistan. The findings of the present study can also be used among physical education teachers, coaches, managers and athletes for planning, administering and organizing sport at college level.

Based on the results obtained, the following recommendations have been laid down for the purpose of improvement in students' sports participation. Findings of the study indicated positive relationship between financial facilities and sports participation, therefore; it is recommended that concerned sports persons make sure the adequate provision of financial incentives for athletes. It is suggested that colleges administration needs to provide sufficient financial facilities to attract more and more students to be participated in sport.

Limitations It was not possible to include other provinces in the poll due to academic obligations. As a result, it becomes a study constraint. The fact that only collegiate athletes were chosen and included in the study was another drawback. The second limitation of the study is the generalizability of the results to other educational institutions like schools and universities.

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