

Investigation of the Football Fanaticism Levels of Physical Education Teachers

Kemal Kurakⁱ

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University

Abstract

The aim of this study is to investigate fanaticism activities and fanaticism levels of physical education teachers as football supporters. The sample of the study consists of a total of 1292 teachers, 754 males and 538 females, who were working as physical education teachers in the cities of Gaziantep, Malatya, Elazığ and Kahramanmaraş in the 2017-2018 education period. Within the scope of this study, the “Football Supporter Fanaticism Scale” (FSFS), which includes 13-items, was used. The data obtained in the data collection period were analyzed using SPSS software. The physical education teachers in the study were investigated for their fanaticism, age, gender, marital status and years of professional experience. It was determined that the participants consisted of 17.6% of fanatics, 35.8% of team supporters and 46.6% of football spectators.

Keywords: Physical Education Teacher, Football, Fanaticism, Supporter

DOI: 10.29329/ijpe.2019.203.5

ⁱ **Kemal Kurak**, Assoc. Prof. Dr., Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Sports Science Faculty.

Correspondence: kemalkurak@hotmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Football, which has increasingly grown in recent years, has become a giant entertainment industry and it is seen in every platform as an important part of popular culture (Toşur and Kılıç, 2018). In the literature, it is observed that football frequently includes terms such as spectators (sports fans), fanatics, supporters etc. Individuals who watch a sportive activity directly or through the media are called spectators while those who are connected to their team, who follows the team or the athletes and support them with positive feelings are called supporters (Arslanoğlu, 2005) and those who are connected to their teams with extreme passion are called fanatics (Koruç, 2004).

Fanaticism is defined as an extreme devotion to something with enthusiasm and passion, that drives people to extremes, blind partisanship, bigotry and conservatism, in other words, a devotion or addiction that disables people's mind and reasoning (Püsküllüoğlu, 2001). Fanaticism or fanatic behaviors have been investigated for more than a decade (Dwyer et al., 2018). According to previous studies, fanaticism refers to the character of the belief between the supporters and their teams. Through football, individuals experience identity formation and sense of belonging as well as discharging by losing themselves with passion football (Murphy, Williams & Dunning, 1990).

In terms of football spectators, fanaticism covers the type of spectators who exhibits behavioral characteristics such as viewing every way necessary to win as legitimate, not being interested in the aesthetics and the beauty of sports, only paying attention to the result, and sickly caring about the colors and anthems of their teams (Arıkan, 2007). The most significant difference between a fanatic and a supporter is that a fanatic is connected more to their teams than a supporter. According to Poyraz (2007), this connection in fanaticism turns into an addiction and supporters connect to their teams in a blind and bigoted way (Poyraz, 2007).

It has been deemed important to reveal how to objectively measure the behaviors of individuals who exhibit violent fanatic behaviors, which progressively stand out in the concepts of spectators and supporters as widely seen in the community (Özğüven, 1994). These types of groups centralize their own identities rather than any type of connection and they can easily exhibit antisocial behavior or assume a violent attitude (Dalpian et al., 2014).

Such a type of tendency to fanaticism in physical education teachers can set a bad example for the students, who take them as examples. Therefore, in this study, it was aimed to determine the connection levels of physical education teachers to football, which is one of the professional experience or professional practices of them and to reveal their fanaticism tendencies. It is believed that this study will contribute to the field and the results of the study will inspire future studies.

METHOD

Population and Sample

The sample of the study consists of a total of 1292 teachers, 754 males and 538 females, who were working as physical education teachers in the cities of Gaziantep, Malatya, Elazığ and Kahramanmaraş in the 2017-2018 education period.

Data Collection Process

The data in this study was collected in the 2017-2018 Education period. After obtaining the necessary permissions from the related institutions, physical education teachers were contacted and explained the aims of the study and about how to answer the questions on the scale. The questionnaires were handed out to physical education teachers, who participated in the study voluntarily. The physical education teachers who did not support any teams were excluded from the questionnaire.

Data Collection Tools

As the data collection tool, the “Football Supporter Fanaticism Scale (FSFS)”, which was developed by Taşmektepligil, Çankaya & Tunç (2015), was used. The scale was prepared a Likert-type scale and it contains 13 items. The answers in FSFS contains four options as “a) Completely Agree” (1), “b) Agree” (2), “c)Disagree” (3)” and “d) Completely Disagree” (4).

The form consists of two sections. The first section includes questions for the socio-demographic characteristics of physical education teachers, which includes fanaticism, age, gender, marital status and years of professional experience. In the second section, the first 8 items of the scale (the first factor) covers the “tendency to violent thoughts and activities” and the last 5 items of the scale (the second factor) covers the items expressing the attitudes about the feeling of “corporate belonging”. The minimum obtainable score of FSFS was calculated as 13 while the maximum was 52. In the study conducted by Taşmektepligil et al. (2015), it was determined that the internal consistency coefficient, which reveals the reliability, was determined as 0.875 while in this study the internal consistency coefficient was determined as 0.724.

Data Analysis

The statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS software. The data were subjected to normality analysis to determined appropriate test methods. In the analyses, the t-test was used for two sample comparisons while one-way variance analysis (ANOVA) and Kruskal Wallis tests were used for multiple sample comparisons. In order to determine the sources of the differences observed in the analysis results, LSD and Scheffe tests were used for parametric data while Mann Whitney U test was used for non-parametric data. The level of statistical significance was determined as alpha $p < 0.05$.

FINDINGS

The participant physical education teachers in this study were investigated in terms of fanaticism, age, gender, marital status, years of professional experience as well as whether they buy merchandise of their teams and how they follow the matches of their teams. The obtained findings were presented in tables.

Table 1. Distribution of the Related Status of the Study group

Spectatorship State	Points	n	%
Fanatic	13-21	227	% 17.6
Team Supporter	22-30	462	% 35.8
Spectator	31-52	603	% 46.6
Total		1292	% 100

It was determined that the participants consisted of 17.6% of fanatics, 35.8% of team supporters and 46.6% of football spectators.

Table 2. Analysis Results of the Study Group According to the Variable of Gender

Gender		n	Mean	Sd	t	p
Tendency to Violence	Male	754	13.14	4.27	-6.448	,000*
	Female	538	23.36	4.75		
Corporate Belonging	Male	754	16.22	4.65	-7.023	,003*
	Female	538	12.68	3.38		
Total Score	Male	754	29.36	7.35	-6.924	,000*
	Female	538	36.04	5.25		

* $p < 0.05$

According to Table 2, it was determined that there were statistically significant differences in the tendency to violence and corporate belonging subscales, and total scores in the attitudes of supporters in the study group according to the variable of gender.

Table 3. Analysis Results of the Study Group According to the Variable of Age

Age	n	Mean	Sd	F	p	Difference Scheffe
Tendency to Violence	22-27 years old	211	13.38	9.837	,000*	1<3.4.5 2<3.4.5
	28-33 years old	301	14.31			
	34-39 years old	243	15.81			
	40-45 years old	294	15.90			
	45-... years old	243	16.26			
Corporate Belonging	22-27 years old	211	14.35	7.538	.004*	1>3.4.5 2>3.4.5
	28-33 years old	301	14.45			
	34-39 years old	243	12.69			
	40-45 years old	294	12.17			
	45-... years old	243	12.36			
Total Score	22-27 years old	211	27.77	9.004	,024*	1<2.3.4.5
	28-33 years old	301	28.76			
	34-39 years old	243	28.50			
	40-45 years old	294	28.07			
	45-... years old	243	28.62			

*p<0.05

According to Table 3, it was determined that there were statistically significant differences in the tendency to violence and corporate belonging subscales, and total scores in the attitudes of supporters in the study group according to the variable of age.

Table 4. Analysis Results According to the Variable of Marital Status

Marital Status	N	Mean	SD	F	p
Tendency to Violence	1. Married	623	16.18	,582	,493
	2. Single	528	16.49		
	3. Divorced	141	16.42		
Corporate Belonging	1. Married	623	12.92	,481	,614
	2. Single	528	12.43		
	3. Divorced	141	12.27		
Total Score	1. Married	623	29.01	,963	,486
	2. Single	528	28.92		
	3. Divorced	141	26.69		

According to Table 4, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference between the attitudes of supporters in the study group according to the variable of marital status.

Table 5. Analysis Results According to the Variable of Years of Professional Experience

Years of Professional Experience	n	Mean	Sd	X ²	P	Difference U test
Tendency to Violence	1-5	322	14.31	3.46	3.714	.062
	6-10	285	14.54	3.91		
	11-15	183	14.65	3.37		
	16-20	216	15.71	4.52		
	21+...	286	15.58	4.25		
Corporate Belonging	1-5	322	13.34	3.30	18.467	.000*
	6-10	285	13.95	4.47		
	11-15	183	13.35	3.59		
	16-20	216	13.47	3.12		
	21+...	286	15.02	4.42		
Total Score	1-5	322	27.65	7.50	11.233	.026*
	6-10	285	28.49	8.22		
	11-15	183	28	7.52		
	16-20	216	29.18	10.12		
	21+...	286	30.6	8.93		

*p<0.05

According to Table 5, it was determined that there were statistically significant differences in both the corporate belonging subscale and the total scores in the attitudes of supporters in the study group according to the variable of years of professional experience.

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

It was determined that the participants consisted of 17.6% of fanatics, 35.8% of team supporters and 46.6% of football spectators. In a study conducted by Altungul and Karahüseyinoğlu (2017) to determine love of football in university students, it was determined that they perceived 48.2% of themselves as football spectators followed by 27.6% of fanatics and 24.2% of team supporters. In a study of Karahüseyinoğlu et al. (2016) investigating the levels of following football in convicts and prisoners, convicts and prisoners defined 35.6% of themselves as supporters followed by 33.7% spectators and 30.7% fanatics (Karahüseyinoğlu et al., 2016). In a study conducted by Açak et al. (2018) for football supporters, it was determined that the participants, who were all males, included 14.6% of fanatics, 29.4% team supporters and 56% of football spectators (Açak et al., 2018). In a study conducted by Yıldız and Açak (2018) with high school students, it was determined that the participants included 2.5% of fanatics, 13.8% of team supporters and 83.7% of football spectators (Yıldız and Açak, 2018). It is believed that the reason for the diversity of the results is due to the sample group of the study.

According to the variable of gender in the study, it was determined that there were statistically significant differences between the supporter attitudes in the subscales of the tendency to violence and total scores. Contrary to our study, Kural (2017) reported that there was no significant difference in football supporters' subscales of the tendency to violent thought and activity and corporate belonging subscales according to gender (Kural, 2017). In a study conducted by Dimmco & Grove (2005), no significant difference was observed (Dimmco & Grove, 2005).

According to the variable age, it was determined that there were statistically significant differences between the supporter attitudes in tendency to violence and corporate belonging subscales and total scores. In the investigation of the literature, it was observed that Açak et al. (2018) found similar results in their study.

According to the variable of marital status, it was determined that there was no statistically significant difference between the supporter attitudes. This result was not in parallel with the studies of Aak et al. (2018) and Tařmektepligil (2015). While I conducted this study with physical education teachers, Aak and Tařmektepligil conducted their studies with supporter communities. I believe that this is the reason for the difference.

According to the variable of years of professional experience, it was determined that there were statistically significant differences in both the corporate belonging subscale and the total scores in the attitudes of supporters. It is believed that physical education teachers who started their professional lives recently did not develop their formation sufficiently and for this reason, their fanaticism levels are high while with increased professional experience, they give up this tendency to fanaticism.

In conclusion, according to the findings of the study, it is believed that physical education teachers, whom the students take as examples the most, should be rather careful about their states and behaviors. Therefore, vocational training should be conducted and practices for eliminating fanaticism behavior should be taught. Physical education teachers should inform their students in the physical education lesson about the harms of fanaticism and hooligan behavior.

REFERENCES

- Aak, M., Düz, S., Karatař, Ö., Karademir, T., Kurak, K., & Bayer, R. (2018). Türkiye futbol federasyonu 1. ligindeki taraftarlarının fanatiklik durumlarının incelenmesi. *Beden Eđitimi ve Spor Bilimleri Dergisi*, 20(3), 7-22.
- Altungul, O. & Karahüseyinođlu, M. F. (2017). Determining the level of fanaticism and football fanship to university athletes. *Journal of Education and Training Studies*. Vol. 5. No. 11. s: 171-176.
- Arıkan, Y. (2007). Futbolda řiddet ve polis. *Polis Bilimleri Dergisi*.;9: 1-4.
- Arslanođlu K. (2005). *Futbolun Psikiyatrisi*. İthaki Yayınları. İstanbul.
- Dalpian, P.R.C., Zylbersztejn, V.S., Batistella, Z., & Rossi, V.A.V. (2014). Fanatical Women and Soccer: An Exploratory Study. *Soccer&Society*. 15(4). 564-577.
- Dwyer, B., Le Crom, C., Greenhalgh, GP. (2018). Exploring and Measuring Spectator Sport Fanaticism. *Communication & Sport*. 6(1).58-85.
- Karahüseyinođlu, M.F., Kırtepe, A., Gacar, A. & Karahüseyinođlu, F. (2016). Tutuklu Ve Hükümlülerin Futbol Takip Düzeyleri. *Spor ve Performans Arařtırmaları*. 7(2). 121-126.
- Koru Z, Bayar P, Arslan F. (2004) Türkiye’de futbol fanatikleri: Sosyal kimlik ve řiddet. Türkiye Futbol adamları Derneđi Ankara řubesi ve Spor Toto Genel Müdürlüđü Futbol Müsabakalarında Terörün Nedenleri ve Önleme Yolları Bilimsel Arařtırma Yarışması. Ankara.
- Kural S. (2017). Futbol Süper Lig Takım Taraftarlarının Sporda Fanatizm Ve řiddete İliřkin Görüşleri. Ankara Üniversitesi. Sađlık Bilimleri Enstitüsü. Yüksek Lisans Tezi. Ankara.
- Murphy P. Williams J. Dunning E. (1990). Football on Trial. Spectator Violence And Development İn The Football World. Routledge. London.
- Özğüven, İ.E. (1994). *Psikolojik testler*. Yeni Dođuř Matbaası. Ankara.
- Poyraz, H. (2007). Fanatizm, bađlanma ve ahlak. *Cogito Ü Aylık Düşünce Dergisi*.;53: 27-36.

- Püsküllüoğlu, A. (2001) *Türkçedeki yabancı sözcükler sözlüğü. 2. Basım.* Arkadaş Yayınları. Ankara.
- Taşmektepligil MY. Çankaya S. Tunç T. (2015). Futbol taraftarı fanatiklik ölçeği. *Journal of Sports and Performance Researches.* 6(1). s: 41-49.
- Toşur A., Kılıç T., 2018 (2018), A Comparison of Some Parameters of Football Players According to the Leagues They Play In, *Journal of Education and Trainin Studies;* 6 (11), 135-142.
- Yıldız H, Açak M. (2018). Lise Öğrencilerinin Futbol Fanatiklik Düzeylerinin İncelenmesi. *İnönü Üniversitesi Eğitim Fakültesi Dergisi,* 19(3), 738-748.