

The Role of Parents in the Implementation of the Character of Young Football Athletes

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Abstract:

Enhancing young player's performance at "Gulistan" local children's team faces a significant challenge due to the lack of moral character among its young athletes. Notably, young athletes of "Gulistan" local children's team exhibit undesirable traits, including an undisciplined demeanor during both practice sessions and matches, engaging in derisive behavior towards opposing teams. Moreover, internal conflicts and mutual blame are prevalent among "Gulistan" local children's team young athletes following match losses. It is evident that an athlete's character, whether positive or negative, is shaped by parental influences at home.

This research adopts a qualitative approach, involving 12 parents of young athletes as information sources. The study focuses on "Gulistan" local children's team athletes aged 10 to 16 years. Interviews serve as the primary instrument for data collection. The objective is to assess character education within football coaching at "Gulistan" local children's team. Recognizing the pivotal role of parents, the study underscores the need for their active involvement in fostering positive environments. Emphasizing the incorporation of character values is deemed crucial for nurturing a high-quality generation while concurrently improving football achievements in young athletes.

Keywords: Parental Role, Character, Football, Athlete's behavior.

Introduction

In line with the relational developmental systems metatheory. [4], development is construed as the outcome of reciprocal interactions between young individuals and their environments, depicted as the relations between the individual and their context.

Engaging in sports activities serves as a mechanism for refining one's personality. The definition of personality encompasses a set of traits identified as "broad, enduring, relatively stable characteristics used to assess and explain behavior". [5]. Consequently, student excellence extends

beyond cognitive or intellectual dimensions to include the development of character. Children who exhibit outstanding character traits are better equipped to confront life's challenges.

Football matches, as sporting events, inherently instill values that contribute to indirect learning, encompassing qualities such as hard work, team spirit, fairness, and respect for diverse values. [3]. However, the emergence of aggression among football players during matches can result in significant losses to opponents, spectators, officials, and, most notably, referees—potentially leading to severe consequences, including loss of human life.

The issue of unsportsmanlike behavior, particularly exhibited by young football players, warrants attention from stakeholders, particularly parents of the young football players. Efforts should be directed towards minimizing unsportsmanlike conduct while concurrently fostering and implementing sportsmanship in the dynamics of sports competitions. Balyi [1] emphasizes that the development of young athletes should encompass not only technical skills but also character traits. The cultivation of positive characters, including sportsmanship, necessitates thoughtful planning and strategic implementation supported by the overall environment. [8]. Not only coaches, but parents and all parties involved in the coaching process must collaborate to instill positive characters among athletes. [10].

In the context of the Football School, the application of character education in the coaching process becomes crucial. This step is essential to cultivate outstanding athletes who not only achieve commendable sporting feats but also exhibit commendable behavior. Collaborative efforts between coaches and parents are indispensable for instilling character values among athletes, representing a tangible approach in sports activities and daily life. [11].

“Gulistan” local children's team, situated in Gulistan, Uzbekistan, is a football coaching institution that has produced numerous outstanding athletes, some of whom have represented the Uzbekistan's youth national football team. Presently, it nurtures junior athletes aged 10-16 years, aiming to enhance their talents and prepare them for regional and national football events.

Despite its noteworthy background, “Gulistan” local children's team football achievements have faced challenges in sustainability. The decline in achievements is attributed to negative behaviors exhibited by the athletes, including undisciplined attitudes during practice and matches, taunting rival teams, and internal conflicts with blame-shifting after match losses.

Motivated by this backdrop, this research seeks to conduct a case study to verify the impact of parental influence on young athletes at “Gulistan” local children's team. This study focuses on specific character values, including discipline, peace-loving demeanor, friendly communication, hard work, and nationalism (patriotism). The intention is to explore how parental guidance influences athletes of various ages and their achievements within the context “Gulistan” local children's team.

Methods

This study adopts a qualitative research approach, focusing on young athletes within the age range of 10 to 16 years affiliated with this team. The selection of informants parents of “Gulistan” local children's team athletes, totaling 12 parents. Data collection employs the interview method, and data analysis follows a process involving data collection, reduction, display, verification, and triangulation.

Results

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers, researchers conducted an interview process with 12 parents of the football team's athletes. Research results are described based on character variables that have been determined by researchers, including the character of discipline, pacifism and friendly/communicative, cooperation and the sense of nationalism (love for the

country). The determination of these character values is adjusted to the problems that often occur in young athletes of the current football school, such as being late in training, fights among friends and disrespect (both with elders, peers, opponents and seniors in the field). The results of the research that has been conducted, among others, are as follows:

1. Implementation of Discipline Character:

Parental involvement in instilling disciplinary character is a crucial aspect of enhancing an athlete's overall personality. Insights from interviews with 12 parents reveal a varied approach to applying disciplinary attitudes toward their children, emphasizing the firmness of these approaches. The implementation is evident in specific guidelines set by parents, such as designated hours for daily activities. For instance, parents educate athletes on when to sleep, play, handle household chores, and engage in football practice.

This structured routine cultivates a disciplined lifestyle for athletes at home. One parent highlights the importance of assigning responsibilities for household chores as a method to shape the character of discipline in their children. Notably, there is diversity in the disciplinary methods employed by parents. While some enforce specific rules, others prioritize obedience to given orders. The overarching emphasis is on the children obeying instructions and understanding when to engage in play and tasks, highlighting the varied yet effective approaches parents take to instill discipline in their young athletes.

2. Implementation of the Pacifist Character

Cultivating sportsmanship stands as the cornerstone in shaping an exceptional sports generation. Insights from parental interviews underscore the importance of teaching children to handle failure without emotional turmoil. The principle of "losing is part of the game" is emphasized by all the interviewed parents, contributing to the understanding that both victory and defeat are inherent aspects of sports.

Sportsmanship in football matches is achieved through fostering mutual respect and embracing defeat with reconciliation. Parents play a vital role in building a culture of peace in football by consistently advising their children. Their ongoing guidance serves as a preventive measure against potential anarchist and radical actions among football athletes. The hope is that children, equipped with emotional control and a commitment to peace, can evolve into dependable football players, excelling not only in achievements but also in character on the field. This emphasis on the love of peace character reflects a holistic approach to developing both the athletic and personal dimensions of young football players.

3. Implementation of Friendly Character and Communication

Interviews with parents of "Gulistan" local children's team's athletes reveal that there are no specific actions outlined for cultivating attitudes of friendliness or proper communication. However, an interesting observation from the gathered information is that athletes tend to be more obedient and respectful when communicating with their coach compared to their interactions with their parents. This underscores the influential role of the coach in shaping athlete behavior, particularly in fostering positive attitudes, especially in communication with older individuals.

While there may not be explicit measures in place for promoting friendliness and effective communication, the strong rapport between athletes and their coaches implies that the coach's influence goes beyond the technical aspects of the sport. This insight highlights the significance of the coach's role in shaping not only athletic skills but also interpersonal behaviors, contributing to a positive and respectful attitude, especially in interactions with older figures..

4. Implementation of Hard Work Character:

Insights from interviews with parents of “Gulistan” local children's team's athletes highlight the connection between the implementation of the hard work character and the cultivation of disciplined habits. Parents emphasize that instilling the essence of hard work in children necessitates habits associated with discipline. Some parents stress that achieving success as a football player demands dedicated and rigorous training.

The concept of "maximum training" is defined as consistent, serious, and routine training. Parents, in their role, primarily provide advice and motivation, encouraging their children (athletes) to persist and never give up. Notably, there are no explicitly outlined actions or methods for implementing the character of hard work. Instead, the emphasis is on fostering a mindset of perseverance and diligence, illustrating that the foundation of hard work is laid through consistent effort, dedication, and a resilient attitude toward challenges.

5. Implementation of the Character of Nationalism (Love for the Country):

Information gathered from researchers indicates that parents implement or teach a sense of nationalism by actively supporting activities aimed at enhancing the region's reputation. Encouraging their children to participate in local community activities and offering unwavering support in every football match they engage in exemplifies the practical implementation of the character of nationalism. It's noteworthy that this support extends beyond the athletes directly participating in activities designed to bolster the region's standing.

Discussion

The research discussion consists of several sub-variables, while the explanation of each sub-variable is as follows:

1. Implementation of Discipline Character:

Discipline emerges as a pivotal factor influencing athletes' success, instilling regularity and time appreciation in their lives. [12]. This quality proves indispensable for athletes, teaching them responsibility for time management, both in training sessions and during matches. The discipline maintained during training enhances the effectiveness of the training process, ensuring that goals are achieved effectively. Similarly, discipline in matches manifests as an attitude of respect for the opposing team and adherence to the rules of the game.

Sheldon and Epstein [6] assert that active parental engagement is a successful strategy for cultivating disciplinary behaviors, implying that the involvement of parents can effectively foster the development of various other attitudes in addition to discipline. Recognizing the significance of parents as primary figures at home, their commitment to instilling disciplinary values significantly shapes the discipline of athletes on the football field, influencing their conduct during both training sessions and competitive matches.

2. Implementation of the Character of Pacifism:

The “win at all cost” sport mentality [7] leads some athletes to feel increased stress during matches. Promoting a pacifist attitude in football serves as a crucial measure to mitigate such stress. Peace and love, integral components of sportsmanship and fair play, are vital attitudes in the sporting arena. Recognizing football as a challenging competition, susceptible to emotional influences, underscores the importance of cultivating a sense of peace and love among athletes.

Initiating the teaching of a peace-loving attitude from a young age yields positive impacts on an athlete's mental competitiveness. The character of pacifism not only encourages respect among athletes but also equips them with emotional control, enabling them to gracefully accept defeat. The cultivation of a sense of pacifism significantly shapes an athlete's mentality and behavior, contributing to their ability to navigate challenges and conflicts within the context of a match. This

emphasis on peace and love character underscores the holistic development of athletes, encompassing both their sporting prowess and emotional resilience.

3. Implementation of Friendly and Communicative Characters:

Demonstrating a friendly and communicative demeanor is a fundamental aspect of an athlete's behavior, reflecting a sense of enjoyment in interacting, connecting, and cooperating with others. [13]. Young athletes, still navigating emotional vulnerability, particularly in communication with peers and older individuals, benefit significantly from fostering these traits.

The aversion to losing can be a triggering factor for athletes, leading to conflicts over seemingly trivial issues. Coaches play a pivotal role in guiding athletes to cultivate mutual respect, laying the foundation for effective communication among team members. Effective interpersonal communication, as highlighted by Vierimaa et al. [9], serves as a linchpin in strengthening the relationship between coaches and athletes, fostering an environment of trust, respect, and care.

Parents, as the initial figures athletes encounter at home, bear a responsibility to collaborate with coaches on the field to cultivate a cohesive team through friendly character and effective communication. The formative years of youth represent a critical period for athletes to shape their identity, with behavior, both positive and negative, often influenced by their surroundings. The implementation of speech and communication by parents serves as a declarative means, involving instructions imbued with honest character values, imperative words, and actions. This concerted effort aims to express and instill friendly and communicative character values, contributing to the development of well-rounded individuals both on and off the field.

4. Implementation of the Character of Love for the Country (Nationalism):

A sense of nationalism serves as tangible evidence of a commitment to upholding the reputation of a region through sporting achievements in football. This patriotic sentiment finds expression through simple yet impactful actions, such as engaging in local community activities and contributing to the positive image of one's hometown in football matches. These efforts collectively aim to steer athletes away from negative behavior that could detrimentally impact the nation's future.

Nationalism, characterized by behaviors and actions that honor the name of a club, region, or country, manifests in various forms. One significant avenue for the expression of love for one's country is through sports achievements. Accomplishments in sports not only showcase an athlete's dedication but also serve as a means of boasting and honoring the nation's name. This multifaceted approach to instilling a sense of love for the country underscores the integral role of athletes in contributing positively to the broader community and national identity.

5. The Impact of Negative Behavior in the Gulistan environment on the Character of Young Athletes of “Gulistan” local children's team's

The socio-economic landscape in the city environment poses challenges that impact the character development of young athletes associated with “Gulistan” local children's team. Economic growth, often associated with urban development, contributes to various issues, including an increase in crimes like theft, particularly involving teenagers. Negative behaviors within the living environment can significantly influence young athletes, with economic factors being a prominent contributor. Adolescence, a phase of exploration and new experiences, can be positively channeled through sports. Sports not only aid in personal development by enhancing social skills and academic performance but also play a role in reducing negative behaviors, including criminal tendencies. [2].

Engagement in unhealthy habits like smoking, prevalent among adolescents, poses risks to the health of young athletes associated with “Gulistan” local children's team's. Smoking, often pursued for social recognition, can escalate to more severe issues, including the use of illegal drugs.

Consequently, creating forums such as Football schools becomes imperative in fostering positive character and behavior among athletes.

Football schools, led by coaches who play a multifaceted role, act as environments to deter criminal activities and instill positive values. Coaches, resembling top managers in organizations, must not only focus on training but also exhibit leadership qualities that motivate athletes to behave responsibly. However, the effectiveness of the coach's role hinges on parental support at home. Parents contribute by providing attention, affection, and security, positively influencing motivation and character development in young athletes.

In this collaborative effort, community support, including that of parents, and coaches, is instrumental in shaping the character of young athletes. By integrating character values into everyday life, especially within a character education environment, a preventive approach is established, mitigating negative behaviors in young, impressionable athletes. This ensures that the pursuit of achievements in Football sports aligns with proper character development.

Conclusions

Drawing from the findings and discussions, several conclusions can be derived:

1. **Implementation of Character by Parents:** The research indicates that parents of “Gulistan” local children's team's athletes have demonstrated a commitment to instilling positive character traits in their children. This includes the promotion of discipline, sportsmanship, friendly communication, a strong work ethic, and a sense of nationalism.
2. **Discrepancy Between Perceptions:** Despite parents' efforts, there appears to be a gap between the described character of “Gulistan” local children's team's athletes by parents and the observed behavior. This suggests that the idealized character traits envisioned by parents may not entirely align with the actual behavior of the athletes in the “Gulistan” local children's team's
3. **Need for Intense Communication:** Given the observed disparity, the research recommends the necessity for intensified communication between parents and the coaches. This communication should aim to bridge the gap between perceived character values and the actual behavior of the athletes. It could involve regular meetings, progress reports, or workshops to enhance understanding.
4. **Cooperation for Character Development:** The success of character development relies again on effective collaboration between parents and the coaches. Establishing a strong communication channel fosters a cooperative environment where both parties contribute to shaping athletes' characters consistently.

In conclusion, while parents have made commendable efforts in character development, acknowledging the reality of the athletes' behavior and fostering open communication between parents and coaches is crucial. This collaborative approach ensures a more accurate understanding of athletes' character development and facilitates a comprehensive strategy for instilling positive values in the everyday lives of “Gulistan” local children's team's athletes.

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