Surveying the Incidence of Committed Crimes among the Male Audience of Sports Competitions in Golestan Province

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of this study was surveying the Incidence of Committed Crimes among the Male Audience of Sports Competitions in Golestan Province. The population of the study consisted all of the legal experts, sports experts and the audience of Golestan Province. 220 samples were chosen randomly based on Morgan table. Ultimately, 147 people participated in this research. Data were collected through questionnaire. The content validity of the questionnaire was approved by ten professors of law and sports management. The reliability of the questionnaire for the target population were estimated and approved as α=0.05. Subsequently, descriptive statistics including Mean, Std. Deviation and tables was used to organize, summarize. One-sample t-test was used to verify and analyze the hypotheses. The acceptance criterion was decided to be the equivalence of means with number 3 (the option "medium" on the questionnaire). In surveying the amount of incidence of crimes among the sports audience, four kinds of crimes (special, public, ethical and political security) were used. Results showed that the amount of incidence of crime among the audiences is less than what was expected, and in between, the specific crimes and ethical crimes are more and the political and security crimes are less.

Key Words: Special crimes, Public crimes, Ethical crimes, Political and security crime, Sports audience

INTRODUCTION

From the social perspective, sports are not considered as a profession or occupation in our country, and sports clubs and associations have not found that much authority and integrity in order to create a new order in sports. Our people still think of sports as an ethical virtue and they consider it as a kind of beneficial fun and recreation and they expect it to be a tool for training and also physical and mental health of human beings. This ethical perspective is not a lightweight and low motivation for handling efforts for formulation and development of sports rights, but this fact should be considered that professional and occupational rights require development of necessary preparing and appearance of sports units as large economic and professional institutes in the context of social life.

Athletes do not compete or play in social vacuum. When we enter the stadium this issue is realized. Thousands of audience bring immediate social encourage whether positive or negative. Even one can claim that the modern sports will not be alive without audience or sports lovers. If the audience is absent from the sports event how many athletes will be willing to continue the training and competition? The presence of audience based on the social facilitating hypothesis has a positive effect on the sports competitions, especially group sports and it improves the athletes’ performance (Akbari, 2006).

Presence of criminal phenomenon in each and every society the same as other social phenomena is caused by individuals’ interactions with each other (Nourbaha, 2009). In recent decades sports as a social phenomenon and as one of the necessities of life, has outspreaded significantly all over the world. In between, in our country which is an Islamic society, sports is considered as one of the most important tools for reaching higher goals of human beings and it can be reached through sayings and narratives of great people.

There are lots of disagreements among the sociologists and researchers of sports sciences about the definition and description of sports as a sociological phenomenon, because most of them consider it impossible to
provide a single definition of sports with this reasoning that sports as a part of the cultural and social context of different societies is affected by national and regional variables. Experience has shown that in sports competitions the individual’s performance is not only affected by the social interaction happening between him/her and his/her teammates but also his/her performance is affected when he/she feels that he/she is in presence of a few people or when he/she is at the center of attention of audience, although there is no interaction between them. In fact the modern sports will not be alive without the presence of audience and sports lovers, and the structure of sports is meaningless without the presence of audience.

Sports is a reflection of society and it could be expected that the same as many other social gatherings, some of the inappropriate features of human beings such as violence, bribery, discrimination, wickedness, crime, excessive nationalism, fraud, theft, vandalism and gangster hood could be seen in it. Although these negative aspects of sports are very little against the potential positive benefits of it, what matters is that sports is constructive by itself and it is not destructive, and sports is one of the human beings’ productions. People who made it are engaged in it and they organize it. Thus, the tendency of sports toward the constructive or destructive aspect is in the hands of people who lived with it and satisfy their physical and mental needs with it. This issue that sports requires a friendly spirit in a competition free of violence and any other deviancy or perversion or it requires deviancy, perversion and violence are basically depended on the virtues, quality of sociability, and personality patterns of participants in sports activities. Conducted researches strictly indicate that the level and amount of deviancy and specially violence in sports depend on the level and amount of deviancy and violence in the society. In a violent society the public level of violence is reflected in its sports activities. Increasing commercialization, commodification, display, and globalization of sports bring about different kinds of deviancy, and perversion into the sports fields (Ghasemi and et al., 2009).

Nowadays in the same amount spent on sports, in some sports in short-term and in some sports in long-term it could increases the return on investment directly or indirectly and along with that it could increase the possibility of income attraction through international competitions, attracting tourists and increase of physical and mental health of society. The economic potentiality of sports is indicated by economic sports. Fanatical fans spent the most cost for buying the competitions’ tickets and other stadium products, thus they are considered as the most important group of gaining revenue for the club.

When we enter the stadium, this is tangible that we encounter a low, high and sometimes very high crowd of audiences coming to watch the sports competition. Apart from the positive factors of presence of these people, existence of negative factors and undesirable phenomena are inevitable. Appearance of criminal phenomena such as intentional and unintentional assaults, obscenity, persons violating, theft and pickpocketing, destruction of public and private property could be some of the examples. Since a long time ago, detecting the environmental and spatial factors of crime and efforts for removing these factors and/or decrease of its effects were known as the most important solution for increasing the security and preventing from abnormalities, because the social abnormalities emerging from human being in any way has a context of time and place which distinguishes these behaviors from each other.

Crime or misdemeanor has some standards and specifications determining the criminal law, because we cannot name any act or omission of act as a crime. What is determined as crime in the criminal law and in specific criminal law is put in the framework of criminology. Of course, the criminal phenomenon is not solely criminal or legal, which means that it includes both crime and deviancy and perversion (Jalali, 2009). In terms of criminology, the issue of type and amount of offenses, and also side effects and their amount of effect on the occurrence of crimes such as the construction of sports halls, effect of players’ behavior, referee decision makings, presence of opportunities for criminal acts of prepared individuals and performance of security people for controlling the atmosphere of the stadium are important, and it seems necessary to be aware of the amount of prevalence and diversity of felonious behaviors in the gamut that can be considered as the preventing category in criminal context among the youth from the criminology perspective, and directing their emotions toward the positive route. Thus, the researchers of this research seek to compare these perspectives while they survey the amount of incidence of crimes among the sports audience from the perspective of sports experts, legal experts and the audience itself.

**METHODOLOGY**

The method of the research is descriptive and theoretical, which is conducted as a field study. The population of the study consisted of all the legal, sports experts and the audience of Golestan Province. 220 samples were chosen randomly based on Morgan table. Ultimately, 147 people participated in this research. Data were collected through questionnaire. The content validity of the questionnaire was approved by ten professors of law and sports management. The reliability of the questionnaire for the target population were estimated and
approved as α=0.05. Subsequently, descriptive statistics including Mean, Std. Deviation and tables was used to organize, summarize. One-sample t-test was used to verify and analyze the hypotheses. The acceptance criterion was decided to be the equivalence of means with number 3 (the option "medium" on the questionnaire).

**Findings**

In surveying the amount of incidence of crimes among the sports audience, four kinds of crimes (special, public, ethical and political security) were used, and the details by dividing the legal, sports experts and the audience and all of the examinees are shown in table 1.

**Table 1.** Description of incidence of crime among the audience from the perspective of three groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Mean ± Std. Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>legal experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special crimes</td>
<td>2.36±0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public crimes</td>
<td>2.32±0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical crimes</td>
<td>2.25±0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political and Security crimes</td>
<td>1.74±0.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The research hypothesis was that the amount of incidence of crime from the perspective of three groups of examinees is moderate. For surveying the above mentioned hypothesis, one-sample t-test was used. The expected level of acceptance of equivalence of means was number 3 (moderate item in questionnaire).

**Table 2.** Result of one-sample test related to the examinees’ perspective.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>Mean ± S.D</th>
<th>Test Value</th>
<th>Mean difference</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special crimes</td>
<td>2.23±0.71</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-.76714</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>-14.18</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public crimes</td>
<td>2.09±0.72</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-.91000</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>-16.54</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical crimes</td>
<td>2.21±0.76</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-.78143</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>-13.43</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political and Security crimes</td>
<td>1.77±0.67</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-1.22429</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>-23.82</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant at the 0.05 level

Regarding table 2 and the gathered results it was concluded that test is significant at the desired level. Thus the hypothesis of equivalence of mean with number 3 is rejected, and because the mean difference is on the negative it can be concluded that it is less than the expected level, and it could be said that the amount of incidence of crimes among the sports audience is less than the expected level.

**DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION**

Research results showed that the amount of incidence of crime among the audiences is less than what was expected, and in between, the specific crimes and ethical crimes are more and the political and security crimes are less. What exists about the background and also the similar cases in this context are in fact the subjects considering violence and its cause in the players and sports audiences, and these cases revolve around the centrality of soccer game which is more popular and it has more audiences due to its attraction and excitement. For example in a research named sociological factors of violence and aggression of soccer match audiences, Rahmati and et al., (2003) concluded that visible violence among the sports audiences conform their normal life patterns., and it put the audience in situations resulting in violation of rules, norms and division of actions and confronting violence and aggression.

Among different sports activities, soccer has more violent and aggressive behaviors, especially among the fans of different teams. The most visible example of violent behavior among the soccer fans is a phenomenon called gangster hood which is relatively organized in famous countries and especially in Europe. In a research named violence and aggression in soccer and its controlling methods, Mohseni (2009) indicate that behavioral abnormalities such as aggression, violence, gangster hood, hooliganism, vandalism, explosive character, and mess making are frequently seen.

The aim of this research was to detect different types of crime and their committing situations, and it is hoped that the resulted information not only prevent the accidental crimes, but also increase the security for audiences in sports halls and stadiums. Also surveying and comparing the committed crimes from different perspectives help to detect the crime creation situation being left out from the perspective of authorities and practitioners and it helps the safe storage of sports halls and increase of safety for presence of individuals, audiences, players and event holders to have happy hours together away from stressful concerns.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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