

Analysis of Global Publications Related to Sport Management Education between 1990-2020

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Original Article Received: 13.06.2023

Accepted: 25.08.2023

DOI: 10.47778/ejsse.1313794 Online Published: 30.09.2023

Abstract

The aim of this research is to make a holistic analysis on sport management education by analysing all scientific publications between 1990-2020. Using the data obtained within the scope of the study, information graphics and descriptive bibliometric networks were created to reveal bibliometric networks. According to the results it was found that the most used keywords were sport management, education, sport and higher education. Citation analysis reveals that Lyras and Peachey are the most cited authors. There are a total of 77 journals in the data. Sport Management Education Journal, Sport Management Review and Journal of Sport Management are the most cited journals. The most cited universities are Griffith University, University of Louisville and Louisiana State University. The most cited studies in the literature focus on sexist discourse, the importance of race and ethnicity in education and socialization, the impact of sport on social change, sport participation and consumer spending, environmental sustainability in sport facilities, and how sport management affects society and managers.

Keywords: Bibliometrics analyse, Higher education, Scientometrics, Sport management education

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INTRODUCTION

As a consequence of a growing tendency towards inactiveness among people; governments, health care providers and recreationists have taken action and by means of various programs broadcasted through social media devices along with institutions, encouragement for physical activity has achieved success, even though partially (Beaton & Funk, 2008). Changes in the working life have enabled people to have more spare time and their participation in sport-based activities has significantly increased, which forced sport facilities and organisational structures to diversify and improve themselves in terms of quality and quantity. A sort of rapidly growing socio-sport environment has made the management of sport facilities a much more complicated process. There is an increasing competition in this field and special emphasis is laid on offering premium sport and recreation services. The growing interest for the professional management of sport and recreation facilities is not surprising, when the increasing level of education and demand for technological support are taken into consideration (Guerrero et al., 2008). It's the main purpose of facilities to provide people with opportunities of active recreation and free time activities (Beaton & Funk, 2008). Sportive success of a country depends mainly on its economic development along with its level of educational and technological development. Naturally, a direct relationship between developmental level and sportive success can be clearly determined.

The phenomenon of sport, which has a multinational structure, requires a management in order to continue its existence through events. Pitts and Stotlar (2002) have defined sports management as the totality of people and activities taking charge in production, facilities, advertisement and organising related with fitness and recreation. Despite the market value of sport and sportive events on a global scale, not a sufficient management theory and practice to identify the way how sports management is conducted have been put forward yet. Athletic clubs and associations are similar to other international corporations with regards to financial, tangible and intangible assets which are to be managed and marketed. However, the majority of studies on sports management have been confined to magazines on sport practicing and for full comprehension of international sports management, more international comparisons which are taking notice of other research models, such as research on entrepreneurship, are required. Owing to the need for more researches to realise how sport is adapted and integrated to different environments on a global scale, current researches and implementations on international sports management are undergoing remarkable changes (Ratten, 2011).

In this context, sport management has become indispensable for achieving certain goals considering the changing conditions. The method of managing sport directly contributes to the best use of sport's organisational structures, masses, many tools and skills, intentions and objectives with full functionality. Sports management acts as a catalyst both in organizational sport structures and in certain activities, because by creating an incentive psychosocial atmosphere, by rewarding those who give a higher performance and by determining the ones who have special talents for sport it helps to achieve maximum productivity. In addition, sports management takes active role in organising sportive events and in recruiting the staff required during this process, in

promoting this staff, in building consensus and in actualizing the suitable conditions (Neferu, 2017). To fulfil these tasks, sports management needs qualified executives. The executive is supposed to have sufficient professional qualifications and to implement these qualifications efficiently. Çiftçi and Mirzeoğlu (2014) have defined the essential traits of a sport manager as: the ability of making correct decisions, establishing good human relations, having adequate knowledge and skills. In addition, implying effective managing strategies, assuming responsibility when necessary, having high intellectual capabilities as well as having social and human relations skills are of great significance, because the success of sportive organisations is highly dependent on the skills of the executives (Yetim & Senel, 2001). Management is a combination of science and art. In the process of an organizational event, achieving success depends mainly on the skills of the organising managers as it does in business systems, in public sector, in art, in culture and in sport (Zec, 2011). Among the responsibilities of sport management are; infield management, education and supervision, implementation and surveying (Force, 1993). In view of the definitions made about the scope of sports management and managers, it's clear that they are the effective units and decision makers during the planning, application and finalization processes of an organizational event.

It is important to improve the quality and quantity of education programmes that contribute to the production of academic knowledge. The first academic programme on sport management started at Ohio University in 1996 and since then many sport management departments have been established in many universities (Costa, 2005). As the sports management is an academic and an applied process, there has been much research and debate about how this process is to be carried out. The aim of this research is to analyse all scientific publications between 1990-2020 and to make a holistic analysis on sport management education. In this context, academic studies published between the years 1990-2020 were examined. During the study content process, the classification system of the United Nations was used to categorize the countries (United Nations, 2019) and the information graphics that reveal bibliometric networks were created using descriptive bibliometric networks (VOSviewer). In this context, it has been tried to contribute to the literature on the field.

METHOD

Bibliometric Analysis

Scientists contribute to the improvement of the knowledge, created by authors, researchers, pragmatists, in terms of discourse and concept. The knowledge created is transferred to the relevant literature through conference proceedings, books and journals. Hence, the created knowledge describes the field with the main lines and a universe of discourse is formed. Concept definitions and the programs, which are accepted as the common theme, constitute the basis where the field is defined. Through complement of knowledge which has been created, skills related with the field, basic concepts, terms and their scopes and curriculums involved as well are determined. This conceptual index, the outcome of a series of studies and research, is a guide for the field personnel to carry out their tasks in the best manner. Furthermore, it interactively extends the field of study and supports the creation of new knowledge. Determination of the literature concerned, limitations, shortcomings, weaknesses, and evaluation of the current situation would be quite beneficial in the field of recreation management, which is relatively new.

The term "scientometrics", which was proposed by Nalimov (1960), has been used to characterize the extension of scientific studies, to determine the structure of the field, to label the interrelationship between the writers and to illustrate the productivity (Hood & Wilson, 2001). Bibliometric analyse is an area of investigation which is based on stock-taking and through which the published books, magazines, articles and printouts of the cited texts are analysed by means of mathematical and statistical techniques (Al & Coştur, 2007; Meho, 2007; Pritchard, 1969; Yıldırım & Demir, 2019). Bibliometric analyses can be both in descriptive (determining the number of books and articles published in a certain year) and evaluative (evaluating the effects of an article via citing-analyses) forms (Kuruthan et al., 2017; Tabuk, 2022). These analyses make it possible to exhibit the general view of a certain discipline through the statistical investigations of topics, articles, cited writers and sources (Zarifmahmoudi et al., 2013). The citing data are regarded as an indicator of how often an article is referred to by other researchers and whether it is used as a source or not. The methods which have widespread usage in bibliometric analyses such as citinganalyse and citing-rate, impact factor and approval rate of the articles, can also be used in the quality evaluation process of academic journals (Lee, et al., 2002). This type of research provides an opportunity for the improvement of new methods and techniques, as well as paving the way for subsequent studies. This research was carried out using bibliometric analysis (Yersüren & Özel, 2020).

Bibliometric analyses identify the most published researchers, academic journals and commonly used keywords, enabling the creation of databases that increase interaction between authors, countries, universities or supporting institutions. It also identifies important indicators such as author-citation indices (h and q indices) that reveal performance data and productivity of authors, universities and countries. Bibliometric analyses also help to create descriptive statistical databases, enabling the qualitative evaluation of scientific publications and the creation of data that will contribute to the relevant discipline. It is believed that new scientific documents that

emerge as a result of research will shape the future of science. These documents are subjected to an examination and research process in the process of information document analysis (Bowen, 2009). Document analysis is the examination and research process necessary for the recovery and interpretation of the collected empirical data (Corbin & Strauss, 2008). Thus, maximum efficiency in resource utilization is achieved and full benefit is obtained from the efforts (Al et a1., 2012).

This study aims to identify the positive impact of sport management research on the ground, based on the concepts of sport management, sport management education and higher education. The terms used in accordance with the keywords selected in the scanning process were specified either in the article subject, in the keywords list or in the abstract. The words used in the review were determined in line with the literature and marked on the condition of being limited to field studies.

The research design was created using the PRISMA (Page et al., 2021) method designed for systematic reviews (Figure 1). In the first stage, the main database was created by using the keyword "sport management". In the exclusion process, after narrowing the searches with the words "sport management education" and "higher education", short readings were made on the abstracts of the articles and the exclusion process was carried out in accordance with the inclusion criteria; a) studies within the scope of sport sciences, b) studies with sport management education expressions in the article titles, c) studies with higher education and sport management content. At the end of the data collection process, 191 studies were analysed by carrying out the classification process for each article.

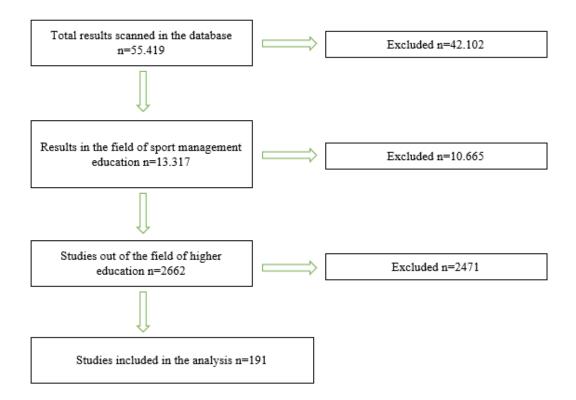


Figure 1. PRISMA process

Based on the data obtained in the literature review; the publication years of the studies, citation index changes by years, the most productive researchers, the universities and countries with the most publications were determined and classified according to Web of Science (WOS) categories. Thomson Reuters Web of Science database titled "Web of Science Core Collection" (n=191) related to sport management education was studied. For the search, sport management education keywords were scanned to include all publications between 1990 and 2020. The first publication belongs to 1993. The United Nations classification system was used to categorize countries. Knowledge graphs revealing bibliometric networks were created using VOSviewer (Eck & Waltman, 2022), which reveals bibliometric networks. Only the WOS database was included in the study. Data analysis was carried out in December 2021. The research was limited to scientific research published between 1990 and 2020. Due to rapid changes in scientific knowledge production, subsequent research is likely to yield different results (Liu et a1., 2012).

RESULTS

Science Categories, Publication Year and Article Types

A total of 191 articles published during a period of 1990-2020 is found in our basic search. Most researched areas of sport management education were found to be *Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism* and *Education Educational Research Management* (51,83%, 42,93 and 32,46 Table 1). There is an increase in the number of publications after 2015. The most publications were made in 2020 (n=32 Figure 1). The most common document types were article, proceedings paper, review, editorial material and early access (83.24%, 8.37, 4.18, 3.66 and 1.57 respectively; Table 2).

	f	%
Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism	99	51.83
Education Educational Research	82	42.93
Management	62	32.46
Sport Sciences	40	20.94
Social Sciences Interdisciplinary	9	4.71
Sociology	5	2.61
Business	4	2.09
Economics	4	2.09
Education Scientific Disciplines	3	1.57
Environmental Sciences	3	1.57

 Table 1. Web of science categories

Tabuk, M.E. (2023). Analysis of global publications related to sport management education between 1990-2020. *Eurasian Journal of Sport Sciences and Education*, 5(2), 77-94.

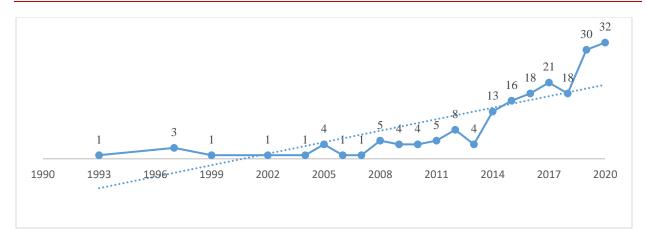


Figure 2. Total number of publications by year.

According to the change in the number of publications by years, there is a low acceleration in the increase in the number of publications from 1993 when the first publication was made to 2011. After the year, rapid periodic changes are observed. The rapid increase in the number of publications in 2014 (n=13) was similarly repeated in 2019 (n=30). It is seen in the literature that the first research was done in 1993. While the increase rate of publications was for the first 20 years (n=43), 148 publications were produced in the next 15-year period. The most publications were produced in 2022 (n=32).

Table 2.	Types	of	documents
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n=191	f	%
Article	159	83.24
Proceedings Paper	16	8.37
Review	8	4.18
Editorial Material	7	3.66
Early Access	3	1.57
Book Chapter	2	1.04
Book Review	1	0.52
Total	196	100

As seen in Table 2, there are a total of 7 publication types. It was determined that the most common type of publication was research article (n=159). The type of research that follows the articles is conference papers (n=16). The reason why the publication types have reached a higher number than the research data (n=196) is due to the fact that it is considered as a multi-publication type in the Web of Science database (Table 2). Authors can expand their conference papers and publish them as articles under the same title.

Authors Productivity, Countries, Meetings, Universities and Journals

A total of 191 research in sport management education are determined. As seen in the Table 3, it is observed that the authors named Sotiriadou (5), Pierce (4), Sauder (4), Taylor (4) and Hardin

(3) lead the research. The USA took part in the first conversation with 95 articles followed by Australia, England, Canada and Spain (95, 25, 16, 13 and 11 Figure 2). 191 studies are excluded in the results according to the WOS database count (Table 2).

Table 5. Author's productivity	0	
	f	%
Sotiriadou P.	5	2.61
Pierce D.	4	2.09
Sauder M. H.	4	2.09
Shreffler M. B.	4	2.09
Taylor E. A.	4	2.09
Hardin R.	3	1.57
López-Carril S.	3	1.57
Mudrick M.	3	1.57
Schulenkorf N.	3	1.57
Sherry E.	3	1.57

Table 3. Author's productivity

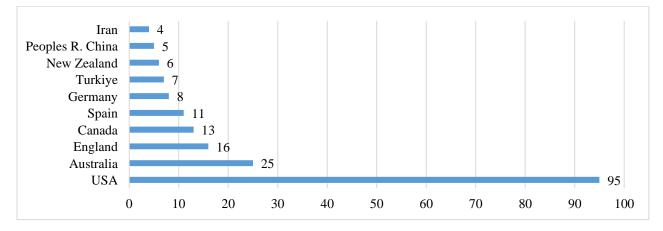


Figure 3. Number of publications by country

Consistent with the results in Figure 2, the country with the highest number of studies in sport management education research is the United States of America (n=95). Australia (n=25) and England (n=16) follow the USA with publication. As can be seen in Figure 3, the USA has established a research network with many countries. It is seen that the studies related to the research subject are in the central position in the network of countries.

n=209	f	%
Griffith University	8	4.18
University of Louisville	8	4.18
Louisiana State University	6	3.14
Temple University	6	3.14
La Trobe University	5	2.61
Texas A&M University	5	2.61
University of Technology Sydney	5	2.61
University of Tennessee	5	2.61
University of Valencia	5	2.61
Bowling Green State University	4	2.09

Table 4. U	Iniversities	with the	most	publications
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In terms of universities contributing to the literature on sport management education, Griffith University and the University of Louisville continue to lead with the same number of publications (n=16 Table 4). The USA has 6 universities in the top ten list.

Table 5. Journals with the most publications

n=77	f	%
Sport Management Education Journal	36	18.84
Sport Management Review	29	15.18
Journal of Sport Management	28	14.66
Journal of Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism Education	18	9.42
European Sport Management Quarterly	4	2.09
Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences	3	1.57
South African Journal for Research in Sport Physical Education and Recreation	3	1.57
5th International Scientific Conference on Kinesiology Proceedings Book	2	1.04
Anthropologist	2	1.04
Energy Education Science and Technology Part B Social and Educational Studies	2	1.04
International Conference on New Horizons in Education Inte 2014	2	1.04
International Review For The Sociology of Sport	2	1.04
Journal of Applied Sport Management	2	1.04
Physical Culture and Sport Studies and Research	2	1.04
Podium Sport Leisure and Tourism Review	2	1.04

Using the keywords selected for the research, 77 journals were identified in the search made in the Web of Science database. It is seen that these journals are the journals in which the most publications (n=99) are made in the field of study of the academic journals called sports management. A total of 111 academic publications were made in the first four journals in Table 5. In this issue the most contributing journals are *Sport Management Education Journal, Sport Management Review, Journal of Sport Management, Journal of Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism Education and European Sport Management Quarterly* (n=36, 29, 28, 18 and 4 respectively Table 5).

Citation Analyses

The h-index of sport management education is 17. The average number of citations per article is 6.74. A total of 1003 citations were found for 191 articles, which were separated from the citations of the authors themselves. It was found that there is a systematic increase in publication, citation and h-index values according to publication periods. The most publications are published in the III. period (Table 6). The most cited document was an original article titled "Integrating sport-for-development theory and praxis" written by Lyras and Peachey. This article is published in 2011 and received citations 117 times (10,64 times per year; Table 7).

WOS Databese	n	h-index	Average citation	Sum of citation	Sum of citing articles
I. 1990-1999	5	4	7	35	35
II.2000-2009	21	11	18,57	384	346
III. 2010-2020	169	14	5,34	800	722
IV. 1990-2020	191	17	6,74	1135	1003

Table 6. h-index and citation changes in the field of sport management

Title	Authors	PY	TC*	ACPY **
Integrating sport-for-development theory and praxis	Lyras, Alexis; Peachey, Jon Welty	2011	117	10,64
Can gender equity be more equitable?: Promoting an alternative frame for sport management research, education, and practice	Shaw, Sally; Frisby, Wendy	2006	85	5,31
eSport management: Embracing eSport education and research opportunities	Funk, Daniel C.; Pizzo, Anthony D.; Baker, Bradley J.	2018	55	13,75
The demand for sport: Sport consumption and participation models	Lera-Lopez, Fernando; Rapún- Gárate, Manuel	2007	54	3,6
Addressing epistemological racism in sport management research	Singer, JN	2005	48	2,82
Managing sport for social change: The state of play	Sherry, Emma; Schulenkorf, Nico; Chalip, Laurence	2015	41	5,86
Perceptions of African American faculty in kinesiology-based programs at predominantly white American institutions of higher education	Burden, JW; Harrison, L; Hodge, SR	2005	29	1,71
Research about efficiency level of physical education and sports academy students in Turkey on ability about studying a lesson	Sahan, Hasan	2012	28	2,8
Experiencing sport management: The use of personal narrative in sport management studies	Rinehart, RE	2005	28	1,65
Environmental Sustainability in Sport Facility Management: A Delphi Study	Mallen, Cheryl; Adams, Lorne; Stevens, Julie;	2010	27	2,25

Note: PY= Publication Year, TC=Total Citations, ACPY= Average Citations Per Year, *= The most cited publications and **= Documents with the highest citation average by year

Keyword and Bibliometric Network Analyses

The keyword analysis shows that 'sport management', 'education', 'sport', 'higher education' and 'social media' (n=34, 15, 13, 11 and 9 respectively, Table 8) are the most frequently used terms. We performed a holistic bibliometric network analysis and created infographics using VOSviewer. The results show us that there are three keyword centres in the literature. These are "sport management", "sport" and "higher education. As a main keyword sport management is located in the centre of the network, linked to the other keywords (Figure 4).

1	Sport Management (34)	<u>11</u>	Teaching (5)
1	1 0 0 1		8
2	Education (15)	12	Career Development (4)
3	Sport (13)	13	Doping (4)
4	Higher Education (11)	14	Student Engagement (4)
5	Social Media (9)	15	Case Study (3)
6	Curriculum (6)	16	Disability (3)
7	Experiential Learning (6)	17	Employability (3)
8	Sport Management Education (6)	18	Gender (3)
9	Online Learning (5)	19	Human Resource Management (3)
10	Physical Education (5)	20	Management (3)

Table 8. The most frequently used 30 keywords in sport management education

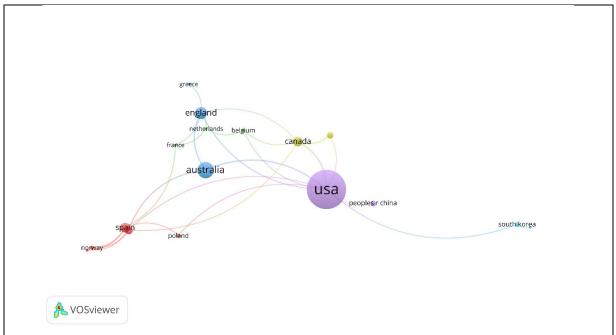


Figure 4. Countries network

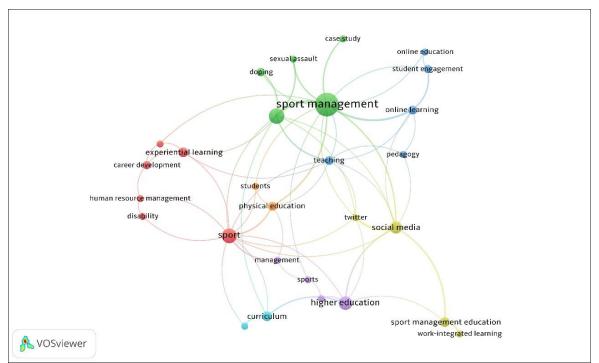


Figure 5. Keywords network

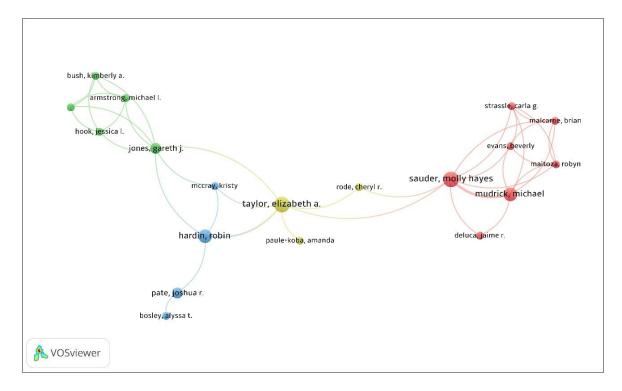


Figure 6. Authors network

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study aims to conduct a bibliometric analysis in order to reveal the relationships between the concepts in keywords and abstracts, the most cited authors, the most cited journals and the most cited countries in sport management education studies. With a total of 1135 citations, the h-index of this number was found to be 17. There was a strong correlation between the keywords sport management education.

The findings indicated that the most used keywords were "sport management", "education", "sport" and "higher education". The least used keywords were determined as disability, employability, gender, human resource management and management. Based on the keywords, information about the direction of the research can be given. The fact that the studies have been cited more may be related to the rarity of the subject. 47 studies conducted between 2015-2020 still have not received any citations. The citation analysis reveals that Lyras and Peachey are the most cited authors. There are a total of 77 journals in the data. "Sport Management Education Journal", "Sport Management Review" and "Journal of Sport Management" are the most cited journals. Top publishing institutes are "Griffith University", "University of Louisville" and "Louisiana State University" and the most researched country is the USA.

According to all our results and based on the literature discussion, recommendations for the authors are suggested below:

The most cited works in the literature are as follows: The impact of sports on social changes (Lyras & Peachey, 2011), dominating gendered discourse in sport organizations (Shaw & Frisby, 2006), the standing of e-sport in sports management (Funk et al., 2018), participation in sport and consumer expenditures for sport (Lera-Lopez & Rapún-Gárate, 2007), the importance of race and ethnicity in sports management research and training (Singer, 2005), relation between sport and social change (Sherry et al., 2015), race-based organizational socialization (Burden et al., 2005), study skills of students at sport science institutes (Şahan, 2012), the influence of sports management on society and managers (Rinehart, 2005), environmental sustainability in the sport facilities management (Mallen et al., 2010).

Ever since it was set as a target to make sports management an autonomous discipline, emphasis has been laid on the quality of curriculums and course training programs. Within this framework, over the last 35 years theoretical and applied (empirical) research into the following topics have been carried out: Curriculum and knowledge; job training, experiential learning and service education; employability; pedagogy; social gender; technology and e-education; globalisation and internationalization; accreditation process (Miragaia & Soares, 2017).

Suggesting that sports is not always a job and that sports management is not always a profession, Corlett (1997) considered the boom in career-wise university departments in parallel to sports management in the later twentieth century, to be a response to the conception of sport and

organization. Sports management programs are to be improved according to the necessities of time, emerging trends and in harmony with internationalization. Kelley et al. (1994) proposed that sports management programs should constantly be identified and restructured in terms of curriculum to be accepted as an academic discipline. The development of curricula and the conduct of research in a more globalized way can be very helpful to keep pace with rapidly changing commercial, economic and cultural environments (Masteralexis & McDonald, 1997). In his study focusing on what to do for the improvement of sports management as an increasingly popularity gaining discipline, Mahony (2008) mentioned the lack of qualified lecturers and researching students. He also underlined the significance of cooperation with the sector and the need for faculties of sports management. The students are to be provided with more eligibility options to obtain a job in the sector after graduation. Volunteering in the sector, taking part in training courses and participating in government-sponsored entrepreneurship projects can improve their qualifications. Mahony also stated that sports management is quite a new discipline, adding that the number of academic members in departments such as psychology and sociology is almost 15-20 times greater than that of sports management, which is still on the way to development. In addition to Mahony, Chelladurai (1992) showed at Zeigler conference that he was holding the same views, saying that "We don't have the labour to specialize in our sub-fields", whereby he confirmed the situation.

On the basis of these consequences, doing research on the following issues could make substantial contributions to the field:

- a) Determining the sub-disciplines of sports management
- b) Sports management applications and apprenticeship programs
- c) Sports management and cooperation with the sector
- d) Career opportunities in sports management
- e) Curriculums
- f) Cooperation with local and national sport organizations
- g) Cooperation with local administrations

Additionally, in consideration of the diversity of sports management; offering sport policies to governments regarding the health care aspects, developing new technical applications for every level of sports administration, diversifying the programs for the purpose of adaptation of sports to social life and participation in sports, observing the outcomes of flourishing sport industry, creating ways of applied training in sports management and organising student events within this scope are all of great importance.

Education of sports management is a discipline which is exerting academic effort to extend the use of principal and conceptual methods and applications as activities based on an international structure are carried out in cooperation with national organizations and many other partners. So, improvement of local dynamics should be focussed on. Finally, conducting researches to develop qualified programs that would promote national achievement and international participation in sports, could contribute to the improvement of sports management discipline.

Limitations

In this study only the WOS database was used. Further studies including more databases such as Russian Science Citation Index, Scopus, SciELO Citation Index, PubMed, Index Copernicus or DOAJ can be performed in the future. Researchers should be encouraged and supported to carry out more articles in sport management education area.

Conflict of Interest: Any personal and financial conflicts of interest within the scope of the study not available.

Authors' Contribution: Study design; Study design, data collection, statistical analysis, data interpretation, article preparation, literature review processes were carried out by the author (MET). The author has read and accepted the published version of the article.

Research Publication Ethics: This research was conducted using the document review method and includes studies published at https://www.webofscience.com. During the writing process of the current study, the scientific, ethical and citation rules within the scope of the "Directive on Scientific Research and Publication Ethics of Higher Education Institutions" were followed; no falsification was made on the collected data and this study was not sent to any other academic publication environment for evaluation.

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