

The status of politics in the federations and departments of sports and youth in Iran

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ABSTRACT

Background: Understanding the relationship between sports and politics by governments is clear and hence has a history to the extent of the formation of human societies. **Objective:** The main objective of this research was to provide a model for assessing the status of politics in federations and departments of sports and youth in Iran. **Materials and Methodology:** The present research is a descriptive survey. The data collection method in the qualitative section for Delphi analysis was the interview. Regarding the subject and objectives of the research, the semi-structured interview method, and in the quantitative research method, a researcher-made questionnaire was used to implement the project. The data were analyzed using SPSS, SmartPLS3, and Expert Choice software by exploratory factor analysis and path analysis methods. Among the eight components for the variable of the status of politics in sports, the highest priority was the component of poverty alleviation with an average value of 6.58 and the component of the globalization of sports had the lowest average of 2.47. The other components such sports participation, escalation of sports commitment, sports privatization, sports media, sports diplomacy, and sports for all with weights of 6.22, 5.26, 4.62, 3.91, 3.54, and 3.4 were respectively in the next ranks. **Conclusion:** It can be concluded that developed industrial countries consider sports as a very powerful tool for guiding, coordinating, and controlling citizens. Meanwhile, sports have been one of the booming economic areas for creating employment.

Keywords: Politics, Sports, Ministry of Sports, Youth.

Introduction

Unfortunately, we never live in the ideal world; sports and politics are always indirectly linked ^[1]. Federations and sports departments often face situations in which the commitment to a practical action is a fundamental condition, but it cannot produce a favorable result. Instead of considering an alternative to these situations, decision makers regularly maintain their commitment to actions with negative or disappointing results in achieving the favorable result and sometimes increase ^[2]. Hence, the fact that politics is everywhere and may harm most people, teams and organizations it has been the dominant viewpoint over the past

three decades in the management literature ^[3]. Such a deceptive viewpoint takes politics as a game in which personal interests are preferred to society costs. This has led managers to prevent the use or non-use of it equally or, when unpleasant results emerge, they eliminate it ^[4]. Therefore, politics is a set of legal, technical and administrative, monetary and financial measures and criteria that taking them will provide the necessary facilities for achieving the program's objectives. Political scholars have expressed somewhat close perceptions about politics, for example, some have argued that politics is the science of government and some have also considered politics as the science of power. Some also provide more specialized definitions and say that politics is the science of political power, and power has different aspects that politics includes of all of them, but meanwhile, what is said as the basis of politics is that the issue of power in politics plays an axial role. ^[3]. The relationship between politics and sports is beyond the legal approaches to this relationship. Based on the institutional and legal approach and at official levels, politics and sports are considered as two separate factors, and many international institutions and laws have criticized and reprimand

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direct interference of governments in sports. Despite official and legal approaches, historical evidence has shown the continuous relationship between these two factors. Global evidence shows it impossible to distinguish between politics and sports, and a historical approach should be used to understand the relationship between politics and sports. Hence, in various historical periods, the phenomenon of sports has been widely used to generate social entertainment, mass control, and nation-state issues. Organizing and performing sport competitions has become a big business all over the world, which has increased the professionalization of various sports. Therefore, Coakley (2007) has also defined sports as in this way: Institutional competitive activities that involve intense physical activities, sometimes accompanied by internal and external rewards^[5]. While this definition has been accepted that some researchers do not use a single definition, they express sports with two questions: "activities defined by individuals in a particular group or society as sports or is sports in a group or society accompanied with the necessary support and resources. These questions often encourage researchers to more accurately evaluate social, cultural, and political conditions in which ideas and beliefs related to physical activities have been formed^[6]. Sociologists consider sports as a subset of the broad field of sociology, focusing on which is placed in a wide range of socio-political activities. In this regard, Leber (2012), in addition to the social performance of sports as integrity in the process of civilization, refers to sports as a mass phenomenon that could lead to exploitation and misuse of the public^[7]. It is important to examine sports from a sociological point of view, because sports is associated with important aspects of social life, including family, economics, media, education, and ultimately politics. In addition, issues relating to political influence and control in sports include a significant proportion since sports has become more commercial and global^[6]. Considering the above-mentioned interpretations, the question of the present research is that what is the status of politics in the federations and departments of sports in Iran?

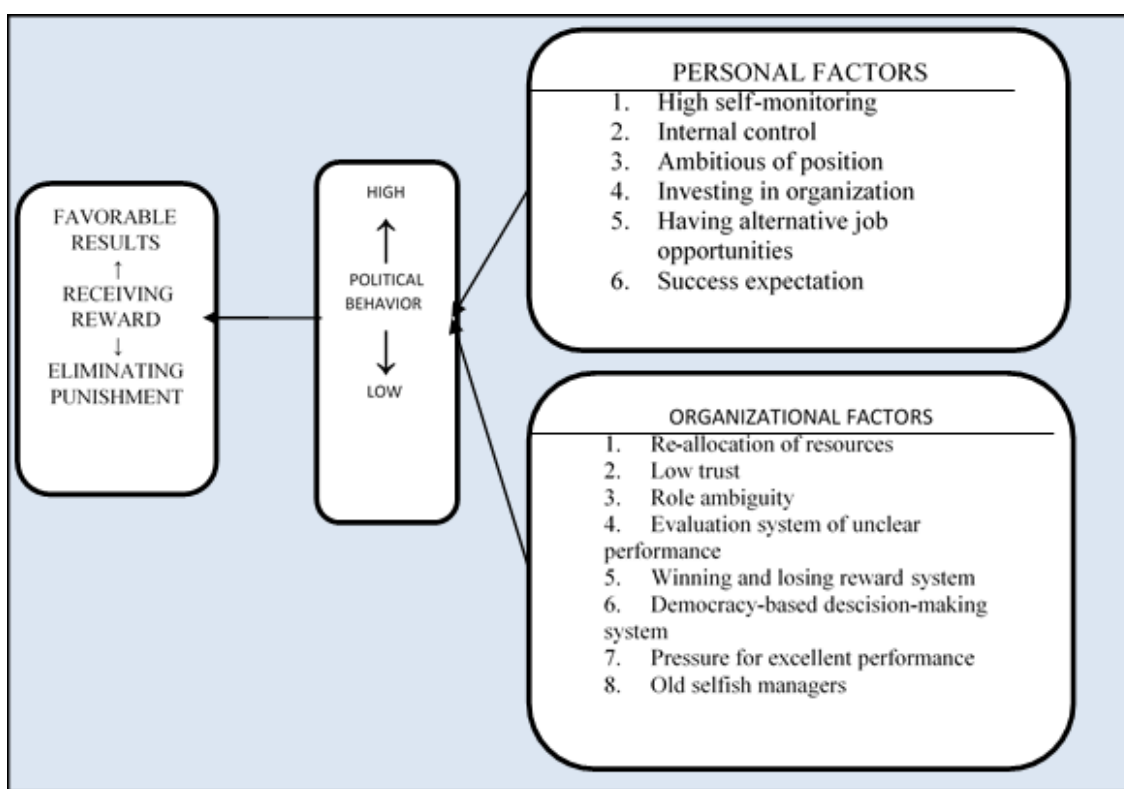
Theoretical Foundations and Conceptual Model of Research

Politics is related to decision-making processes and methods that refer to the gathering of individuals from small groups to societies that are integrated for specific purposes, while governments are formal organizations which have the ability to create and enforce laws in a particular realm or set of people. The priorities of regulations, policies and budgets set by public organizations and authorities reflect the political struggles between groups in each society. In addition, state intervention in sports usually goes back to groups with the most resources and organization and goals that support the political orientations of government officials^[5]. Organizational policy studies are divided into three major streams. The first one focuses on how political perceptions in the workplace form personal and organizational results in sports^[8]. The second examines the role of managers' political behaviors in an active or reactive manner^[9] and considers its effect on

strategic decision-making processes^[10]. Finally, the third stream examines motives (political will), skills (political skill) and traits (personality) that employees need to tolerate the required political conditions^[11]. These cases can be also added to political behaviors (for example, influence on athletes' efforts, thought management) to provide the desired outcomes and growth in sports. Although the researchers respond to some question on how to perceive, approve, and liability for harmful political effects (with less discussion on its constructive effects), many important questions remain unanswered and require much attention theoretically and experimentally. Examples of these questions are: How do political perceptions of managers shape their political behavior? How do the distinctive viewpoints of organizational policies affect team results or organizational level? And what are the personal, cultural and situational factors determining whether the politics will lead to positive or negative results in sports? All sports organizations or groups do not act political equally. For example, in some organizations, political behaviors are very obvious, while in others, political behavior does not play a significant role in performance outcomes. On the other hand, politics and its position are closely connected with power, and basically political behavior focuses on the use of power to influence decision-making in organizations or the behavior of individuals in an organization with a personal purpose. Organizational behaviors in organization include conscious actions that are used to influence by individuals or groups in order to achieve or protect their interests when there are conflicting solutions. The "emphasis on self-interest" in this definition distinguishes political behavior from social influence. Managers are always in a challenge to maintain balance between personal interests of employees and interests of the organization. It should be noted that sometimes pursuing personal interests may also serve the interests of the organization. When pursuing individual interests causes erosion or failure of organizational interests, political behavior becomes a deterrent force. For example, researchers have recently shown the political tactic of refining and distorting information that should be given to boss that this self-service would put the employees who were obliged to give the information in the best possible condition. Some researchers refer political behavior in organization to activities that is not part of the official role of an individual, but to influence or attempt to influence the distribution of benefits or harm in the organization. This definition includes the key factors most people consider when discussing politics in organization: 1) political behavior is beyond the description of a particular job of a person; 2) political behavior demands the person to use power bases. This definition includes attempts made to influence the goals, indicators, or decision-making processes in an organization. Meanwhile, this definition has sufficient comprehensiveness and various political behaviors such as hiding key information from decision makers, trumpeting, spreading rumors, leakage of confidential information about organizational activities to mass media, trade-off in the organization, for the benefit of the two parties, propaganda on the behalf of a particular person or against a particular person or propaganda for a specific option in decision

making. Some others define political behavior as an unauthorized use of power that sustains or maintains one's own interests or personal interests of one's own group (. Some also consider political behavior as activities to acquire and use power in unauthorized manners to achieve organizational goals or to lead organizational results in individual interests. Also, political behavior has been defined as influence management for achieving unauthorized purposes or for achieving authorized purposes through unauthorized influence means. In recent studies and observations, factors encouraging political behavior have been identified. Some of these factors are individual characteristics and others are the result of organizational culture with the internal environment of organizations and groups. Chart (1) shows individual and organizational factors that can increase political

behavior. These behaviors can have desirable results (increasing rewards and eliminating punishment) for individuals and groups in the organization. A person who has high self-monitoring shows more sensitivity to social stimuli, exhibits high social compatibility and has more skill in political behavior than someone who has less self-monitoring. Those who consider themselves responsible for their behaviors, because they believe they can also control their environment, get more tempted to take an active role and orientate environmental conditions to the benefit of themselves, and it is not surprising that people who are ambitious of position and thirsty for power make attempts for political-working easier and use more tools for gaining personal interests .



Graph 1. Factors affecting political behavior

In addition to the above, the amount of one's investment in an organization and his perception of other organizations that can transfer themselves to those organizations and his expectation of the success in the current organization affect the extent to which he goes for illegitimate political means.

According to theoretical foundations, research hypotheses are presented as follows:

- The main hypothesis

Regarding the level of political influence of the government in Iran's sport, there is a comprehensive model.

- Sub-hypotheses
 1. The causal conditions of politics affect Iranian sports.
 2. Various phenomena of politics affect Iranian sports.
 3. There are intervening conditions of politics on Iranian sports.
 4. There are effective strategies of politics on Iranian sports.

5. There are various consequences of politics on Iranian sport.
6. Regarding the status of politics, there is a desirable model in terms of the level of political influence of the government in Iranian sports.
7. The desirable model for the status of politics in terms of the level of political influence of the government in Iranian sports is valid.

In this section, based on the theoretical foundations developed, the conceptual model of the research is provided graphically in Chart 2 to better understand the number and types of the research indicators, the nature and functions of the indicators, and to evaluate the relationship between them and finally, and how to achieve the research final.



Chart 2. Conceptual model of the research (source: researcher-made)

Research background

Rahmani and Shamsini, in research, (2016) explored sports and politics. According to the research, sports, and especially football, have been combined with all aspects of the lives of people and governments in the era of globalization [12]. For this reason, sport is considered to be a national interest of countries because, in addition to providing health and vitality in society, they use sports to advance other national interests of society. Sports, including football, has found dual functions in the age of information. With the explanation that ethnic, religious, and racial gaps have increased in the age of media, this has been widely manifested in football. In fact, sports, including football, can affect ethnic and racial gaps.

Mohammadi Moghani *et al.* (2016) investigated the role of the government in implementing the policy of privatization of the sports industry through factor analysis [13]. This study is hybrid of exploratory mixed design. Comparison of variables showed that the effect of components of political-social cohesion, rule of law and government power on the privatization of Iranian sports was significant, but the component of political participation was not significant with a value of $\alpha=0.128$. The component of socio-political cohesion with a regression coefficient of 0.187 had the highest effect and at the following ranks there were the rule of law (0.156), government power (0.103), and political participation (0.04).

Yousefi (2018) studied the role of sports diplomacy in foreign policy diplomacy of the country [14]. Today, the function of sports has gone beyond physical activity or the recreational role, and it has become important and worthy of attention from various social, cultural, economic and political aspects in the domestic field and more importantly in international communications. The internationalization of many sports fields has made international sports competitions a platform for advancing and underlying and realizing of countries' political goals and foreign policy. Sports policy is in fact laws, strategies and terms specific to any sport organization or field that take place regardless of political intentions. Considering the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and regional and global conditions and, on the other hand, the existence of capacity and talents in the field of sports, this sports diplomacy, along with foreign politics diplomacy, can be the most important component of world-wide communication. Vandermeersch and Scheerder (2017) investigated the viewpoints of sport managers about poverty and sports: the role of sports politics [15]. Poverty and social isolation are controversial issues that require a common approach from a wide range of political structures. Based on qualitative information obtained from semi-structured interviews from 20 local sports officials in Flanders (Belgium), the goal of this study is to achieve experiences of local sports officials with poor people and identify barriers and facilitators of investment in including this social group in the society context.

D'agati (2018) studied the effect of politics in sports and society. States are looking for ways for international conflicts to meet domestic and foreign policy goals in an anarchist global system. Conflict methods have changed from the twentieth century to consider various methods for achieving governmental goals. Today, in terms of interests at the international level there is less disagreement on traditional state conflicts, such as sports events and technological development. Existing theories regarding international relations have expanded their scope to include weapons, economic sanctions, Internet wars, and other new methods of inter-state conflicts. While applications are very broad, the study shows reliable records in international sports policies and social policies have replaced war to illustrate the application of relationships through alternative sports.

Kumar *et al.* (2018) investigated sports participation: from politics, through opportunities, to health, welfare and social capital. Sports providing systems, with the aim of facilitating sports participation, represent the cooperation among organizations and sectors. Researchers, with emphasis on the effect of different levels of sports taking care of politics, are limited through facilities and to end-users. The authors focus on this gap in knowledge by a mixed approach on order to examine sports participation from the perspective of the whole providing system. Specifically, by focusing on a sports area in the UK, authors study sports from politics (macro), facilities (meso), and end-user level (micro). Regional managers responsible for the development and provision of sports participated in semi-structured interviews, and managers of various levels completed a survey and participated end-users in centralized groups through public, private and foreign facilities.

Ruth Jeanes *et al.* (2019) investigated the management of informal sports participation: tension and political opportunities [16]. Informal sports is a concept that government and nongovernmental organizations face. In this research, the focus is on self-organized participation, not based on the club. Research has shown that currently policymakers are not seriously paying attention to how informal sports may be seen as a central figure in an effort to meet the goals of participation and programs related to health and social policies. Findings indicate that current practices limit the informal sports abilities. Changes in culture and various practices in sports development systems are essential so that stakeholders can use informal participation opportunities.

Research Methodology

This research is a hybrid research of sequential exploratory type and instrument development model that has been implemented in two qualitative and quantitative stages. The place and time domain of the current research is related to the federations and departments of sport and youth in Iran in 2018. The present research is descriptive-survey and data collection instrument is questionnaire; the data collection method in the qualitative section for Delphi analysis is often interview. Regarding the subject and objectives of the research, the semi-structured interview method and in the quantitative research method, a

researcher-made questionnaire was used to implement the project. The data were analyzed using SPSS, SmartPLS3 and Expert Choice software by exploratory factor analysis and path analysis methods. The research sample and statistical population is consisted of two groups:

Group 1: The statistical population in the first stage, which will be conducted in order to localize and validate the model for the implementation of the research, consists of experts including university professors and top managers of sports federations in the country. Regarding collecting information from experts, the number of statistical population is limited to 50 people. The first part was evaluated for questionnaires on the identification of the research variables and the second part was evaluated in the stage of validity and reliability of the final model presented.

Group 2: The statistical population in the second stage consists of 31 general managers, 429 city managers, 50 federations and 1550 provincial boards and sports minister, 6 deputies and 7 headquarter general managers and 5 national Olympic Committee members. The total statistical population is 2,079 people.

In this research, a targeted approach is used to select the qualitative research sample. In the preparatory phase, 44 interviews were conducted in order to know the experts' opinions. Multi-stage sampling method through random sampling method is used to select the appropriate research sample. The statistical population is 2079 people. The sample size is 324 according to Morgan's table, the same number of questionnaires were sent. After collecting the questionnaires, 310 questionnaires were collected, return rate of questionnaires was 96%. Although, in validating the conceptual models, large samples are recommended, the major constraints and case study being of the research have led to considering the minimum necessary in this research.

In order to evaluate the reliability of the measure, the Cronbach's alpha coefficients calculated for the preliminary sample indicated that the variables and their indicators were reliable. Also, in this research, composite reliability has been used to evaluate the reliability of the measurement model. Convergent validity and divergent reliability have been used to evaluate the validity test of the measurement model (Table 2). The results are as follows:

Table 1. Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the research (qualitative section)

| | Round one | Round two |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cronbach's alpha | 0.940 | 0.941 |

Table 2. Validity and reliability values of the variables

| Dimensions | Cronbach's alpha | Composite reliability (P Delvin-Goldstein) | Average variance extracted (AVE) |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Escalation of sports commitments | 0.589 | 0.785 | 0.55 |
| Status of politics in sports | 0.936 | 0.941 | 0.223 |
| Globalization of Sports | 0.856 | 0.733 | 0.394 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sports privatization | 0.744 | 0.838 | 0.565 |
| Sports diplomacy | 0.719 | 0.842 | 0.64 |
| Sports media | 0.766 | 0.85 | 0.586 |
| Sports poverty alleviation | 0.671 | 0.858 | 0.752 |
| Sports participation | 0.47 | 0.789 | 0.652 |
| sports for all | 0.77 | 0.853 | 0.592 |

Given that all values are higher than 0.7, the Cronbach Alpha of the research variables is confirmed. Considering that the composite reliability of the research variables is higher than 0.7, it can be said that all the variables of the research have a suitable and acceptable status in terms of composite reliability. The AVE index (average variance extracted) was used to investigate the convergent validity of the research variables. The minimum acceptable value for convergent validity is 0.50. The results showed that convergent validity was acceptable for all variables.

Research Findings

Since in this research, for testing the hypotheses, the structural equations with partial least squares (PLS) ¹ approach (using Smart-PLS software) has been used, this approach is not sensitive to normal or non-normal being of data, but for being aware of the research normal data and also more certainty, the distribution of the research data was investigated. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S) test was used to evaluate the data normality. The results of these tests were calculated using SPSS-22 software and reported in Table 3.

Table 3. Test results of normal distribution of data

| Research variable | Kolmogorov-Smirnov | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| | Statistic | Significance | Result |
| Escalation of sports commitments | 2.025 | 0.001 | Not normal |
| Sports participation | 3.524 | 0.001 | Not normal |
| Sports diplomacy | 1.228 | 0.098 | Not normal |
| Sports poverty alleviation | 2.924 | 0.001 | Not normal |
| Sports media | 1.38 | 0.044 | Not normal |
| Sports for all | 0.66 | 0.777 | Not normal |
| Sports privatization | 1.1 | 0.178 | Not normal |
| Globalization of Sports | 1.45 | 0.03 | Not normal |

According to the results of Table (3), because the values for the significance level of all model variables are not higher than the error value of 0.05, only the variables of sports diplomacy, sports for all, and sports privatization have normal distribution. However, due to the significance level of sports participation, sports poverty alleviation, sports media and globalization of

sports, Smart-PLS structural equation software is used to analyze the research model and hypotheses.

Goodness of fit criterion

Table 4: Community and coefficients determination

| Dimensions | Coefficients of determination (R ²) | Community |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Escalation of sports commitments | 0.491 | 0.55 |
| Status of politics in sports | 0 | 0.223 |
| Globalization of Sports | 0.327 | 0.394 |
| Sports privatization | 0.75 | 0.565 |
| Sports diplomacy | 0.671 | 0.64 |
| Sports media | 0.719 | 0.586 |
| Sports poverty alleviation | 0.381 | 0.752 |
| Sports participation | 0.181 | 0.652 |
| sports for all | 0.774 | 0.592 |

In the formula below, R² is the mean value of the determination coefficients for endogenous structures of the model, which is calculated 0.95 for the present model. Finally, GOF of the present model was 0.416.

$$GOF = \sqrt{\text{communality} \times R^2} = 0.416$$

Wetzels *et al.* (2009) introduced three values of 0.01, 0.25 and 0.36 as weak, moderate and strong values for GOF. Since the GOF value for the current model was calculated to be 0.416, it shows a very strong overall fit of the research overall model.

Testing the causal relationships of the model

After examining the fit of measurement, structural and overall models, the researcher is allowed to examine and test the relationships between research variables based on the proposed model. In the following, a research overall model is presented. In order to investigate the relationships between the variables of the research, the path coefficients of the relationships should first be calculated. Hence, Figure 1 shows the output of the path coefficients of the structural equation model to test the relationships between the research variables that have been approved in the previous stages of fitting. The standard parameter values for each of the factors indicate their factor load on the latent variable, their $t > 2$ corresponding values indicate the significance of their contribution to measurement of the latent variable. Therefore, based on the t value obtained for each question, it can be stated that all the indicators play a significant and important role in measuring the components and dimensions. The analysis of the quantitative phase and the path coefficients obtained in response to the research hypotheses are as follows:

¹ Covariance – based Structural Equation Modeling

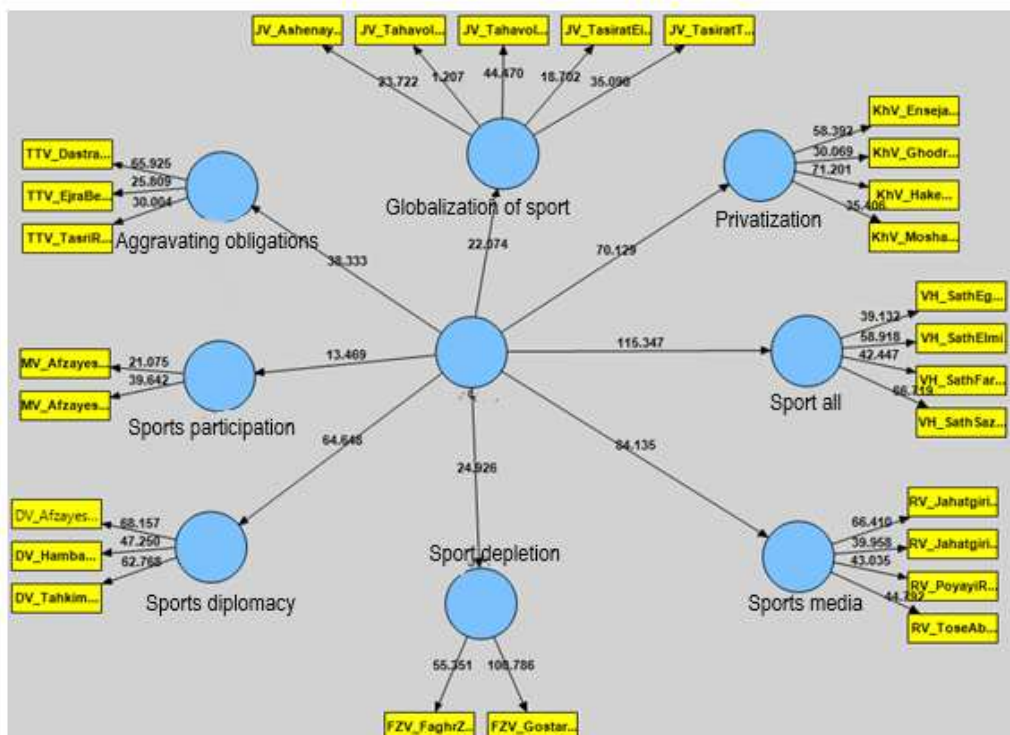


Figure 1. Standard path coefficient

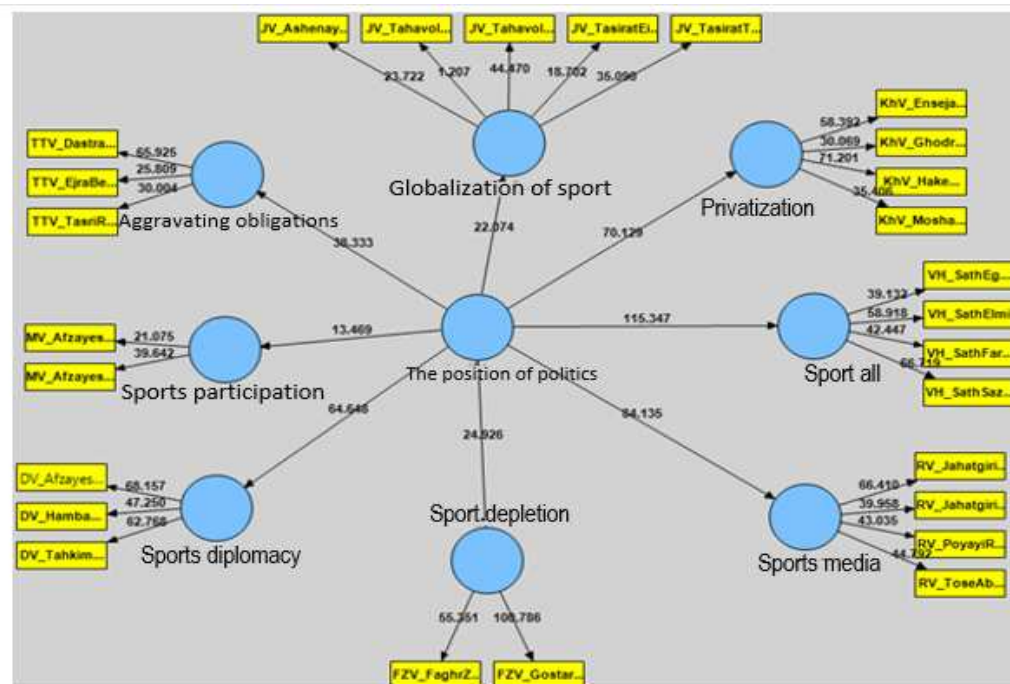


Figure 2. Significance path coefficient of the research overall model

Since one cannot comment on significance of the coefficient through large or small coefficients of the standard estimation model, to measure the significance of the path coefficients, T-value model is used. And if significance values are larger than the absolute value of 1.96 in the model, these relationships are significant at 95% confidence level.

One sample t test

One sample t test was used to study the research hypotheses. One sample t test is a method in which the average can be

compared with a constant number, the result of this test indicates whether the average has a significant difference with that constant number or not? Since the questionnaire was based on the Likert spectrum (five-level), and given that in the 5-level spectrum the number "3" is equivalent to the mean of each question, it is possible to calculate the mean score for each of the research variables. Therefore, getting a score higher than three in that dimension would mean obtaining a score higher than the mean and obtaining a lower score would mean obtaining a score lower

than the mean. In this way, the possibility of comparing the average of each dimension with the mean score in that dimension was provided.

Table 5. One sample t test for components of status of politics in sports

| Variable | Sample number | Mean | Average | Standard deviation | T value | Degree of freedom | p-value |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Escalation of sports commitments | 310 | 3 | 3.86 | 0.52 | 29.36 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Sports participation | 310 | 3 | 4.11 | 0.6 | 32.4 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Sports diplomacy | 310 | 3 | 3.54 | 0.54 | 17.23 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Sports poverty alleviation | 310 | 3 | 4.21 | 0.67 | 31.91 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Sports media | 310 | 3 | 3.62 | 0.58 | 18.56 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Sports for all | 310 | 3 | 3.51 | 0.46 | 19.07 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Sports privatization | 310 | 3 | 3.72 | 0.48 | 26.3 | 309 | 0.001 |
| Globalization of Sports | 310 | 3 | 3.17 | 0.63 | 4.77 | 309 | 0.001 |

According to Table 5, the average score of the respondents in the components of the status of politics in sports is significantly higher than the mean score of this component (3). The finding means that the average of all components of the status of politics in sports is higher than the medium.

Ranking components for the variable of the status of politics in sports

Table 6. Friedman test for components of the status of politics in sports

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Number | 310 |
| Chi 2 | 759.474 |
| Degree of freedom | 7 |
| P-value | 0.001 |
| Items | Average of ranks |
| Escalation of sports commitments | 5.26 |
| Sports participation | 6.22 |
| Sports diplomacy | 3.54 |
| Sports poverty alleviation | 6.58 |
| Sports media | 3.91 |
| Sports for all | 3.4 |
| Sports privatization | 4.62 |
| Globalization of Sports | 2.47 |

As can be seen, the level of significance is smaller than the error value, which indicates the difference between the averages of the components of the status of politics in sports. As it is seen, among the eight components for the variable of the status of politics in sports, the highest priority was the component of poverty alleviation with an average value of 6.58 and the component of globalization of sports had the lowest average of 2.47 and the other components sports participation, escalation of sports commitment, sports privatization, sports media, sports diplomacy, and sports for all with weights of 6.22, 5.26, 4.62,

3.91, 3.54, and 3.4, respectively were respectively in the next ranks

Discussion and Conclusion

Governmental logic of interference and use of sports, although in each historical period has varied with elements and demands, but it seems that understanding of the relationship between sports and politics by governments is clear and hence has a history to the extent of the formation of human societies. In fact, modern sport is rarely considered to be separate from politics, and in other words, sports must be a priority for the government, and this can be seen in most societies. There are many explanations about the government interests in sports, the first of which is the attempt to use sport as a means of controlling social relationships, and recently, trying to control youth's behaviors - and boosting the economy. From the middle of the twentieth century to the present, motivation for social control continues to be one of the goals for intervention of governments in sports. Governments that use sport as a means of controlling unrest also use this means to improve the educational situation, and curricula are implemented for this purpose. Of course, one should not ignore governments' attempts to adjust views and values to cover their moral improvement. Today, sport is considered as the most important tool for education. Political institutions like governments and parties and social institutions such as nongovernmental, educational, cultural and religious organizations in the West use sports as a guidance tool of public. According to the findings of the research, eight components of sports poverty alleviation, sports participation, escalation of sports commitments, sports privatization, sport media, sports diplomacy, sports for all and the component of globalization of sport were identified, the most important of which was the sports poverty alleviation. Thus, governments have discovered that they can have more accompanying citizens with the help of sports. This way of considering sports is a new appearance. Developed industrial countries consider sports as a very powerful tool for guiding, coordinating and controlling citizens. Meanwhile,

sports have been one of the booming economic areas for creating employment. With the increase in people's welcoming sports, a chain of direct and indirect demands emerges in various economic sectors. In fact, due to increased demand for sports, the national economy increases, and a coefficient is created which can be used to find determine how much the economic unit in sports has a direct or indirect effect on the national economy. Therefore, it seems that results of the present research are consistent with the research of Mohammadi Moghani *et al.* (2016), Vandermeerschen and Scheerder (2017) ^[15], D'agati (2018), Kumar *et al.* (2018) and Ruth Jeanes (2019).

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