

Reviewing sports sciences students' perceived freedom levels in leisure in terms of any variables (Kocaeli university case)

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Abstract. This study was executed with the aim of investigating whether the perceived freedom levels of students who study in the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Sciences vary by any variables. The target population of the study composed of 240 voluntary students who study at Kocaeli University, the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, 132 (55%) of whom was female and 108 (45%) of whom were male. Perceived Freedom in Leisure Scale, which was developed by Witt and Ellis (1985) and adopted into Turkish by [21] was used as the data collection tool of the study. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test analyzed whether the data showed normal distribution and it was observed that data do not display a normal distribution. As a result of this, Mann Whitney U and Kruskal Wallis H tests were applied. The significance level was considered as 0,05. No significant difference was identified between perceived freedom levels in leisure by means of certain variables such as gender, department, participation in social activities, approximate participation in recreation activities and frequency of leisure participation ($p>0,05$). A significant difference was found between knowledge and skill – excitement and joy by means of participation in sportive activities, participation in cultural and artistic activities and competence in recreation areas ($p<0,05$). Consequently, when knowledge and skill – excitement and joy sub-dimensions of students who use their recreational areas, attend to sportive and artistic activities were evaluated, it was seen that individuals who actively participate in any activity may perceive him or herself freer when he or she is compared to the individuals who participate in an activity in a passive way. Therefore, a further activity participation sense may be created.

1. INTRODUCTION

People in modern societies need activities in leisure time besides to blow off steam beside relaxation. Leisure time is the time that person gets rid of all challenges or connections and makes an activity that he desires [2].. Moreover, leisure time is the period that is left from the things that the person is obliged to make to meet the needs (eating, sleeping, physical needs) and sustain the life [10,19]. In the light of all these expressions, the leisure time is

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accepted as the time period that has satisfactory experiences, free of charge, exciting the sense of happiness and gladness. Personal control is provided independently from the external pressures [9, 13, 14]. mentioned that the activities that people attend to value this period are the recreative activities or leisure time activities which individuals participate in to value this period. Even though the leisure time activities or recreative activities concepts mean valuing the leisure times, they also mean restful and funny activities that individual voluntarily participate in to enjoy or develop physical, social and affective behaviors [5, 6]. People want to value the leisure time by actively or passively participating in leisure time activities in open and confined spaces in urban and rural areas because of several different reason and expectations [5].

There are various dimension and reasons for people to prefer and participate in the recreative activities. Desiring a repetition of an activity after performing it is the conclusion of positive experiences and perceiving that activity process as positive. Participating in the recreative activities is important because of creating freedom perception [1].

There are several studies show that active participation constitutes positive emotions on the individuals [3, 12, 24]. The freedom concept that is perceived as one of those feelings has emerged as a significant dimension to measure the leisure time behavior. It is assumed that the perceived freedom concept provides a causative relationship between the actor and the behavior as well as underlies the behavior of the actor himself [4].

Optimal effects of participating in the leisure time activities are associated with the freedom perception and controlling the leisure time optionally. Perceived freedom is a significant dimension to understand the leisure time activities. According to Heider's definition, perceived freedom is a tool that is used to estimate the human behaviors. It is the expression of the sense of perceived freedom of a person against the acts of another person. Besides, the perceived freedom is closely related to the responsibility and intent [1].

Since perceiving the freedom in leisure time is a voluntary behavior [17] and the individuals need to have skills such as competence, controlling the experiences and participating in the activities by internal expectations[20], perceiving the freedom is a concept that is needed for attention in measuring the leisure time behavior.

The main focus of the freedom concept that is perceived in leisure time is based on Neulinger's theory (1974) called 'leisure time as a mood' [22]. Perceived freedom is expressed as a cognitive-motivational structure by [20]. It is pointed out within this scope that one of the components that leisure time behavior depends is the depth of the participation.

This research aimed to review the perceived freedom based on gender, department, participation to social, sportive, cultural and artistic activities, leisure time and recreation area adequacy variables in terms of measuring the behaviors of students towards the leisure time activities.

2 Methodology

2.1 Research Group

The population was composed of 967 students of Sports Sciences Faculty in Kocaeli University. Those students chose one of the lessons from among basketball, football, volleyball, mountaineering, handball, fitness, swimming, chess, tennis, and table-tennis in the 2016-2017 academic year. This randomized sample group consisted of 240 students whose 132 (55%) of them were male and 108 (45%) of them were females.

2.2 Data Collection Tools:

In the first stage, the personal information form that has 10 questions on age, gender, university and department, leisure time, type of leisure time activities was used. In the second stage 'Perceived Freedom Leisure Scale' that was developed by [20] to measure the competencies, perceived control and perceived internal motivation was used. This same scale was adapted to Turkish by [26]; they also performed reliability and validity works of the scale. The original form of the scale is composed of 25 items; however, there was reached 17 items at the end of the factor analysis conducted. The scale consists of 2 sub-dimensions as (1) Knowledge and skill, (2) Excitement and Entertainment. Internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found as .94 as the result of the reliability and validity studies of [26]. Internal consistency coefficient was computed as .85 for knowledge and skill sub-dimension; .83 for excitement and entertainment sub-dimension. The scale mentioned is a five-point Likert scale; the questions are answered as 1 "Strongly Disagree", 5 "Strongly Agree" [26]. Knowledge and skill sub-dimension has 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th; excitement and entertainment sub-dimension has 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 13rd, 14th, 16th, 17th.

2.3 Data Collection

Data collection process for students of Sports Sciences Faculty of Kocaeli University was actualized in the spring terms of the 2016-2017 academic year. Students were informed about the qualification before the data collection; it was also provided to be counted the volunteer participants in the research. It was asked them to deliver the surveys within the same day to avoid the data loss in survey collecting. Missing answered questionnaires were not included in the study.

2.4 Data Analysis

Data were organized in Microsoft Excel 2013 program and analyzed by using SPSS 21.0 packaged software. Percentage and frequency methods were used to determine the distribution of the personal information of participants. Kolmogrov-Smirnof test was applied to specify whether the sub-dimensions of both scales show a normal distribution. With reference to the test results, all the sub-dimension of Perceived Freedom in Leisure Scale do not show normal distribution. Mann Whitney U test was utilized for bivariate data; Kruskal Wallis test was applied for more than two variables. The significance level was accepted as $p < .05$.

3 Findings

Table1. Gender distribution of participants

Gender	n	%
Male	132	55,0
Female	108	45,0

Table2. Department distribution of participants

Department	n	%
Coaching	48	20,0
Physical Education and Sports Teaching	46	19,2
Recreation	97	40,4
Sports Management	49	20,4
Total	240	100,0

Table 3. Weekly leisure time of participants

Weekly Leisure Time	n	%
1-5 hours	27	11,2
6-10 hours	78	32,5
11-15 hours	64	26,7
16 hours and above	71	29,6
Total	240	100,0

Table 4. Types of participating in sportive activities as leisure time activity distribution of participants

Activity	Type of Participation	n	%
Sportive Activity	Aktive	208	86,7
	Pasive	32	13,3
Total		240	100,0

Table 5. Types of participating in sportive activities as leisure time activity distribution of participants

Activity	Type of Participation	n	%
Social Activity	Active	186	77,5
	Passive	54	22,5
Total		240	100,0

Table 6. Types of participating in cultural and artistic activities as leisure time activity distribution of participants

Activity	Type of Participation	n	%
Cultural and Artistic Activity	Active	69	28,7
	Passive	171	71,3
Total		240	100,0

Table 7. Recreative area adequacy of university to participants' mind

Recreative Area	n	%
Absolutely Adequate	10	4,2
Adequate	90	37,5
Partly	84	35,0
Inadequate	43	17,9
Absolutely Inadequate	13	5,4
Total	240	100,0

Table 8. Relationship of perceived freedom in leisure sub-dimension based on gender variable

	Gender	N	Rank Value Average	z	p
Knowledge and Skill sub-dimension	Male	132	121,98	-,368	,713
	Female	108	118,69		
Excitement and Entertainment sub-dimension	Male	132	121,26	-,188	,851
	Female	108	119,57		

Table 9. Relationship of perceived freedom in leisure sub-dimension based on department

	Department	n	Rank Value Average	df	p
Knowledge and Skill sub-dimension	Coaching	48	120,79	3	,950
	Physical	46	125,65		
	Education and Sports Teaching				
	Recreation	97	118,59		
	Sports	49	119,16		
Excitement and Entertainment sub-dimension	Management			3	,370
	Coaching	48	133,22		
	Physical	46	118,13		
	Education and Sports Teaching				
	Recreation	97	112,85		
	Sports	49	125,42		
	Management				
	Total	240			

Table 10. Relationship of perceived freedom in leisure sub-dimension based on leisure time period variable

	Leisure Time Period	n	Rank Value Average	df	p
Knowledge and Skill sub-dimension	1-5 hours	26	136,19	3	,474
	6-10 hours	78	123,85		
	11-15 hours	64	114,24		
	16 hours and above	71	115,03		
	Total	239			
Excitement and Entertainment sub-dimension	1-5 hours	26	131,15	3	,605
	6-10 hours	78	123,09		
	11-15 hours	64	120,70		
	16 hours and above	71	111,89		
	Total	239			

Table 11. Relationship of perceived freedom in leisure sub-dimension based on participating in social activities variable

	Participating in social activities	n	Rank value average	Average	z	p
Knowledge and Skill sub-dimension	Active	186	120,12	22343,00	-,157	,875
	Passive	54	121,80	6577,00		
	Total	240				
Excitement and Skill sub-dimension	Active	186	124,88	23228,00	-1,830	,067
	Passive	54	105,41	5692,00		
	Total	240				

Table 12. Relationship of perceived freedom in leisure sub-dimension based on participating in cultural and artistic activities variable

	Participating in Cultural and Artistic Activities	n	Rank Value Average	Average	z	p
Knowledge and Skill sub-dimension	Active	68	140,38	9546,00	-2,813	,005
	Passive	172	112,64	19374,00		
	Total	240				
Excitement and Entertainment sub-dimension	Active	68	138,11	9391,00	-2,485	,013
	Passive	172	113,54	19528,00		
	Total	240				

Table 13. Relationship of Perceived Freedom in Leisure Sub-Dimension Based on Participating in Sportive Activities Variable

	Participating in Sportive Activities	n	Sıra Değer Ortalama	Ortalama	z	p
Information and Skill sub-dimension	Active	208	128,57	26742,00	-4,615	,000
	Passive	32	68,06	2178,00		
Excitement and Entertainment sub-dimension	Active	208	125,56	26115,50	-2,900	,004
	Passive	32	87,64	2804,50		
	Total	240				

Table 14. Relationship of perceived freedom in leisure sub-dimension based on recreational areas adequacy variable

	Recreational Areas Adequacy	n	Rank Value Average	df	p
Information and Skill sub-dimension	Absolutely Adequate	10	120,05	4	,026
	Adequate	90	132,94		
	Partly	84	100,67		
	Inadequate	43	131,43		
	Absolutely Inadequate	13	126,65		
	Total	240			
Excitement and Entertainment sub-dimension	Absolutely Adequate	10	89,60	4	,004
	Adequate	90	119,69		
	Partly	84	106,31		
	Inadequate	43	145,57		
	Absolutely Inadequate	13	158,65		
	Total	240			

There was a significant relationship ($p < 0,05$) between sub-dimensions perceived in leisure time and participating in cultural, artistic, sportive activities and recreation areas variables

4 Discussions

This research aimed to review the perceived freedom of students study in Sports Sciences Faculty of Kocaeli University based on gender, department, participation to social, sportive, cultural and artistic activities, leisure time and recreation area adequacy variables in terms of measuring the behaviors of students towards the leisure time activities.

There was not found a significant difference between the sample group's perceived freedom levels based on gender, department, participation in social activities and leisure time. However, significant differences were observed between recreational area adequacy and participation to sportive, cultural and artistic activities.

According to another finding, there was no significant difference in ‘Knowledge and Skill’ (.713) and ‘Excitement and Entertainment’ (.851) sub-dimensions based on gender variable. Lapa and Ağyar [23] conducted a study to determine the perceived freedom levels of university students based on leisure time participation. They pointed out that the gender is not a significant factor in specifying the perceived freedom level. [27]; performed a survey towards the perceived freedom in leisure time and leisure time satisfaction levels of the employees work in catering food-drink sector. With reference to their research findings, there are significant differences in ‘Knowledge and Skill’ sub-dimension. It can be seen when viewed from this aspect that our research finding shows parallelism with their research in terms of ‘Knowledge and Skill’ sub-dimension.

There was not found a significant difference in ‘Knowledge and Skill’ (.950) and ‘Excitement and Entertainment’ (.370) sub-dimensions in terms of the perceived freedom levels based on the department. According to this outcome, even though the students study in different departments, they approach to the leisure time activities by the similar attitudes. While the students of Recreation department get excited more in comparison with the students study in Physical Education and Sports Teaching, the participants who study in Coaching and Sports Management department accept themselves as well-versed on this activity.

There was not found a significant difference in ‘Knowledge and Skill’ (.474) and ‘Excitement and Entertainment’ (.605) sub-dimensions in terms of the freedom levels perceived in leisure time.

It was observed that the participants actively participate in the sportive and social activities; they passively participate in the cultural and artistic activities. We can easily see that active participants participate to leisure time activities at a higher rate in comparison with the participants who passively attend in the same activities based on the types of participation in knowledge and skill sub-dimension. The research that was performed by [23] shows parallelism with our research findings. Moreover, our research findings have parallelism with the study that was conducted by [16] as well.

This research reviewed whether being the participation active or passive create the difference in perceived leisure times. It is seen that the perceived freedom levels of active participants are higher than the passive participants in all of the social activities. Besides, there were mostly the passive participants who attend in the cultural and artistic activities.

There was seen a significant difference in ‘Knowledge and Skill’ (.012) and ‘Excitement and Entertainment’ (.006) sub-dimensions in terms of perceived freedom levels in leisure time based on participation to the cultural and artistic activities.

[22] conducted a study and modeled the structural relationship of perceived freedom and leisure time participation; this relationship revealed a compatible model. Finding the perceived freedom is high is normal when the previous studies [3, [12], [24] on the positive feelings of the active participation to the leisure time activities on the people are considered.

There was found a significant difference in ‘Knowledge and Skill’ (.026) and ‘Excitement and Entertainment’ (.004) sub-dimensions in terms of the perceived freedom in leisure time based on the recreational area adequacy. It was observed with regard to this finding that the general run of the students finds the recreational areas as adequate. Also, the ratio of students who answered as ‘partly’ is close to the ratio of students who find those areas as adequate.

In some of the situations, the perceived freedom in leisure time has an improve effect on the leisure time participation. [11] performed a study for the high school students and emphasized that the leisure time participation is significantly higher in students with high freedom levels. [25] expressed that the perceived freedom in leisure time is a mechanism

that affects the satisfaction for leisure time needs, competence, depth of the participation and leisure time outputs in children (10-13 ages) with developmental coordination disorder.

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