

# Examining the expectations of local people about sports services in local governments on different variables

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**Abstract.** According to Articles 58 and 59 of the 1982 Constitution, "The State protects young people, keeps them away from bad habits and encourages them to sports" and "Local governments are responsible for meeting the needs of local people". In line with these articles, in our research, it was aimed to examine the expectations of local people about sports services in local governments on different variables. 460 (Female; N=268, 58.3%, Male; N=192, 41.7%) individuals who voluntarily agreed to participate in our research residing in Siirt province in 2024 constitute the sample group of our research. "Scale of People's Expectations from Municipalities on Sports Services" developed by Çoban [5] was used. The research data were analyzed in SPSS, 25 package program. As a result of the normality analysis of the scale, it was seen that the significance values were greater than 0.05 and it was decided to use nonparametric analyses (Man Witney U, Kruskal Wallis H) in the analysis. According to the results of the analyses, no statistically significant difference was found in the variables of gender, educational status, and monthly income ( $p>0.05$ ), while a statistical difference was found in the variables of marital status and occupation ( $p<0.05$ ).

## 1 Introduction

Globally, local governments are described as the first state unit responsible for meeting the needs of the people. All organizations within the public sector operate under the administrative service approach of the central government. Regional conditions, the needs of the region, improving service efficiency, satisfying the local population, and promptly addressing the desires and needs of individuals are described as the fundamental duties of local governments [1].

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With the 1982 Constitution, Turkey has gained significant momentum in the field of local governance, particularly in terms of sports, from the past to the present. The inclusion of new recreational areas and the increase in sports facilities under local governance highlight the importance of Turkey's geographical position and the nation's interest in sports. Meeting the desires and expectations of the public and making significant contributions to national sports have become the fundamental principles of local governments [2].

Following the 1982 Constitution and in the field of local governance, the Metropolitan Municipality Law and the Provincial Special Administration Law No. 5302 were adopted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, and the Municipal Law No. 5393 was enacted. This marked a turning point for sports in Turkey within the scope of local governance. Today, in many countries, it has been stated that local governments not only organize sports events but also provide recreational open and closed spaces where many performance athletes are discovered, contributing significantly to national sports [3].

As a result of the Municipalities Law, various responsibilities have been assigned to municipalities. One of the primary duties is for municipalities to meet the demands of the local population regarding recreational and sports facilities. In this context, the study aims to examine the expectations of the local population regarding sports services in local governance. The purpose of this research is to contribute to the literature by analyzing the level of sports and municipal practices in terms of different variables.

## **2 Method**

### **2.1 Research Model**

The descriptive survey model was used in our research as part of the survey model. Research aimed at identifying a particular topic is referred to as descriptive research [4].

### **2.2 Study Group**

The sample group of our research consists of 460 individuals (Women; N=268, 58.3%, Men; N=192, 41.7%) residing in the province of Siirt in 2024 who voluntarily agreed to participate in our study.

### **2.3 Data Collection Tools**

A total of 460 participants residing in the province of Siirt who voluntarily participated in our research were reached. The data collection process in our research consists of two parts. In the first part, a personal information form developed by the researchers was used, and in the second part, the 'Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services' developed by Çoban [5] was applied.

#### **2.3.1 Personal Information Form**

The personal information form, created by the researchers to determine the participants' information, consists of 5 questions covering gender, education level, monthly income, marital status, and type of occupation.

### 2.3.2 Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

The 'Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services,' developed by Çoban [5], is a 26-item, 5-point scale. In Çoban's [5] study, the Cronbach's Alpha value was found to be 0.83. In our study, the Cronbach's Alpha value for the 'Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services' was determined to be 0.76.

## 2.4 Data Analysis

In the data analysis of our research, the data were evaluated using the SPSS program at a significance level of 0.05 with a 95% confidence interval. To determine whether the data showed normality, skewness and kurtosis values were examined, and it was found that the values were within the range of -2 to +2, and the p-value of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was greater than 0.05. Therefore, it was decided to apply non-parametric tests. Statistically, the Kruskal-Wallis H test, Mann-Whitney U test, reliability coefficients, and percentage and frequency calculations were performed.

## 2.5 Research Ethics

Ethics committee approval was obtained from the relevant institute, and the study was conducted with female football fans who voluntarily agreed to participate in our research. Female football fans who did not wish to participate voluntarily were not included in the study.

## 3 Results

**Table 1.** Demographic Variables

Variables	f	%
Gender	Male	192
	Female	268
	Total	460
Education Level	Associate Degree	12
	Bachelor's Degree	409
	Postgraduate	39
	Total	460
Marital Status	Married	41
	Single	409
	Total	460
Occupation	Civil Servant	13
	Private Sector	35
	Student	382
	Academic	5
	Healthcare Personnel	18
	Total	460

Monthly Income	Below Minimum Wage	58	12,6
	Minimum Wage	171	37,2
	Above Minimum Wage	231	50,2
	Total	460	100

In Table 1, it can be observed that the majority of participants are female (58.3%). When examining the highest variables within their categories, participants with a bachelor's degree make up the largest group in the education level variable (88.9%), single participants dominate the marital status variable (88.9%), and students constitute the majority in the occupation variable (83.0%).

**Table 2.** Descriptive Values Related to the Scale

Variables	Minimum	Maksimum	$\bar{x}$	SD	Cronbach alpha
SoPEfMrSS	1,583	56,239	68,0261	8,62151	,076

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

According to the descriptive statistical results related to the scales in Table 2, the expectations of the local population regarding sports services from municipalities are at a high level ( $\bar{x}$  = 72.8634).

**Table 3.** Results of the Scale Normality Analysis

Scale	Kolmogorov-Smirnova		
	Statistic	df	Sig.
SoPEfMrSS	,049	460	,090

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

In Table 3, it can be observed that the significance values from the normality analysis related to the scale are greater than 0.05, and it was decided to use non-parametric analyses in the evaluation.

**Table 4.** Results of the Mann-Whitney U Test Conducted Between Participants' Gender and the Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

Scale	Gender	n	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	U Value	z	p
SHKHBBÖ	Male	192	41,7	224,29	24535,000	-849	,396
	Female	268	58,3	234,95			

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

In Table 4, the results of the Mann-Whitney U analysis conducted between the overall scale and the gender variable show that there is no statistically significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ). We can conclude that the lack of difference is due to the fact that the expectations of the local population regarding sports services are at the same level.

**Table 5.** Results of the Mann-Whitney U Test Conducted Between Participants' Marital Status and the Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

Scale	Marital Status	n	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	U Value	z	p	Difference
SoPEfMrSS	Married	41	11,1	182,34	6330,500	-2,131	,033	<b>2&gt;1</b>
	Single	409	88,9	228,52				

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

In Table 5, the results of the Mann-Whitney U analysis conducted between the overall scale and the marital status variable show that there is a statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). It can be stated that, in terms of the marital status variable, single individuals have higher expectations regarding sports services.

**Table 6.** Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Conducted Between Participants' Education Level and the Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

Scale	Education Level	n	Mean Rank	Chi-Square Value	df	p
SoPEfMrSS	Associate Degree	12	2,6	4,061	2	,131
	Bachelor's Degree	409	88,9			
	Postgraduate	39	8,5			

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

In Table 6, the results of the Kruskal-Wallis H test conducted between the overall scale and the education level variable indicate that there is no statistically significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ). This result may suggest that the similarity in expectations regarding sports services among the public is due to comparable situations across different education levels.

**Table 7.** Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Conducted Between Participants' Occupation and the Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

Scale	Occupation	n	Mean Rank	Chi-Square Value	df	p	Difference
SoPEfMrSS	(1)Civil Servant	13	2,8	37,164	4	<b>,001</b>	<b>3,2,&gt;5,4,1</b>
	(2)Private Sector	35	7,6				
	(3)Student	382	83,0				
	(4)Academic	5	1,1				
	(5)Healthcare Personnel	18	6,6				

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

In Table 7, the results of the Kruskal-Wallis H test conducted between the overall scale and the occupation variable indicate a statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). Based on the statistical results, we can state that economic factors, such as the cost of services and tickets, may vary among occupation groups. Additionally, individuals' psychological states can differ

based on their profession, and occupational preferences, as well as the availability of recreational and indoor sports facilities in local governance areas, may vary depending on individuals' job situations.

**Table 8.** Results of the Kruskal-Wallis H Test Conducted Between Participants' Monthly Income and the Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

Scale	Monthly Income Status	n	Mean Rank	Chi-Square Value	df	p
SoPEfMrSS	Below Minimum Wage	58	12,6	2,295	2	,317
	Minimum Wage	171	37,2			
	Above Minimum Wage	231	50,2			

SoPEfMrSS= Scale of Public Expectations from Municipalities Regarding Sports Services

In Table 8, the results of the Kruskal-Wallis H test conducted between the overall scale and monthly income status indicate that there is no statistically significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ). Although monthly income is of great importance to individuals economically, we can state that, as a social being, people generally shape their social and sports life based on their income level, and this may have an effect on their monthly income status.

## 4 Conclusion

Local governments are responsible for providing an environment where the local population can meet their leisure needs. These areas should include recreational spaces in addition to sports facilities to ensure the creation of a healthy environment for the public. People's attitudes toward recreational activities and sports areas vary depending on factors such as individual preferences, socioeconomic status, and cultural differences. To attract the attention of the local population, local governments implement various strategies. Among these strategies are events, as well as various sports and artistic activities [6].

In our study, the aim was to examine the expectations of the local population regarding sports services provided by local governments, and the research findings have been discussed and concluded below in sequence.

In our study, when the gender variable was examined, it was observed that the majority of participants were women (N=268, 58.3%), and no significant difference was found in the statistical analysis conducted on the same variable (Table 4). Based on this result, we can conclude that gender does not have an effect on the local population's expectations regarding sports services provided by local governments, and that there may be an egalitarian approach in the gender variable. Additionally, it suggests that spaces tailored to both genders should be created. When reviewing the literature, it is evident that studies supporting and yielding similar results to our research are present [7-11]. In contrast, Yeniçeri [12] indicated in his research that the majority of participants were male.

When the education level variable was examined in our study, it was found that the majority of participants were undergraduate students (N=409, 88.9%), and no significant difference was identified in the statistical analysis conducted on the same variable (Table 6). This could suggest that education level does not lead to varying expectations regarding sports services, likely due to similar expectations across different educational groups. In contrast, Örs [7] found a significant statistical difference regarding education level in his study. Koçak et al. [13] similarly found no statistical difference in the education level variable, a result that

aligns with our findings. Avcılar [14] also reported that the statistical difference in education level between undergraduate and high school students stemmed from their usage of municipal sports facilities. Furthermore, our findings are consistent with other studies in the literature on the education level variable [15-18].

When the occupation variable was examined in our study, it was found that the majority of participants were students (N=382, 83.0%), and a significant difference was identified in the statistical analysis conducted on the same variable (Table 7). Based on these statistical results, we can infer that occupational groups may exhibit different preferences for services, which could be influenced by economic factors. Additionally, the psychological states of individuals based on their professions should be considered, as occupational tastes and the demand for recreational and indoor sports facilities provided by local governments might vary according to people's work situations. Avcılar [14] also noted that the majority of participants in his study were from the private sector. Furthermore, our research findings align with other studies in the literature, especially regarding the education level variable [5,11,16,19].

In our study, when the variable of monthly income was examined, it was found that the majority of participants earned above the minimum wage (N=231, 50.2%), and no significant difference was identified in the statistical analysis of the same variable (Table 8). We can note that although monthly income is economically significant for individuals, shaping their social and sports life according to their income level, this situation does not appear to have a statistically significant effect on expectations regarding local government services in our study. Tekin [11], however, found a significant statistical difference regarding the income variable in his research. Similarly, Avcılar [14] observed statistical differences in income levels concerning the operation of sports facilities in his study.

In our study, when the marital status variable was examined, it was found that the majority of participants were single (N=409, 88.9%), and no significant difference was observed in the statistical analysis of this variable (Table 5). Based on this result, we can infer that singles may have higher expectations regarding sports services provided by municipalities. In conclusion, while no statistically significant differences were observed for the variables of gender, education level, or monthly income, statistical differences were identified in the variables of marital status and occupation.

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