

A Field Study for Enhancing and Improving Sport in Jordan: Official Personnel's Perspectives

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Abstract: The current research aims to identify the barriers facing youth or sports organizations directly related preparing youth physically. The researcher used the descriptive (survey) approach due to its suitability for this study. The researcher purposefully chose (30) persons who work as physical education teachers or sports coaches in youth centers. Results indicated that: • Youth centers play a major role in preparing young athletes for competition. - Cooperation between educational governorates and youth centers creates a good atmosphere for preparing youth socially, physically and technically for sport. - There is a lack in specialized science-based programs for preparing youth for sport. -Numbers of coaches and trainers are not sufficient for the numbers of participants. -Poor conditions and insufficient numbers of youth centers have negative effects on preparing sports talents.

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Key words: Youth Centers – Youth Sport – Barriers – Jordan

1. Introduction:

Relative weight of youth in the society and characteristics of this sector, including skills, vitality and enthusiasm, indicate the importance of considering this sector as a top priority compared to other sectors. Youth are the leaders of the future, the production and fighting powers of the society and the scientific ability of the nation. This sector is responsible for facing the development challenges in addition to responding to national threats. Major facts indicate the importance of youth care as it forms social and political units of various structure and qualities. These units require specifications qualifying for change. For example, family aspect has different basic qualities from school aspect. This requires specific directives for workers in these fields. Youth care creates a more advanced life and dedicates major effort for preparing well-qualified youth who can bear the responsibility of their society's advancement. Youth care means more than mere promotion. Instead, it means preparing youth for building their society. Therefore, it is important to indicate this significant relation among organizations and departments working in youth care for mutual support among them. (Al-Sahrawardy, N. 1997) (Mohamed, S. & Hasoun, H. 1990).

Cooperation between school and youth center is important for achieving social and physical demands of the individual in addition to respect for human values. This helps youth to achieve their desired goals. Governments usually prioritize youth and school care, regardless the details of practices. Modern trends in the field of youth are vital in the life and future of the nation. Formal education is a major issue in preparing youth. Categorization of youth is

not a sectoral categorization where youth participate in sports and artistic activities. It is not a matter of establishing clubs or centers; instead, it is a matter of building a nation. It is closely related to patriotic preparation of citizens. Nevertheless, we should recognize the fact that youth education was neglected for decades in the past and this led the capabilities of clubs and youth centers to be very weak compared with national expectations. (Mohamed, S. & Hasoun, H. 1990) (Sadek, G. & Sefar, S. 1998).

This research problem is clear in identifies the above-mentioned factors and its current status through a field study for preparing organizations of direct connection with youth and sport and youth centers so as to achieve the athletic expectations of Jordan.

Aims: The current research aims to identify the barriers facing youth or sports organizations directly related preparing youth physically through the following points:

- The role of science-based sports organizations in preparing youth athletes
- Coordination and cooperation between teaching in schools and work in youth centers
- Current status of courts, fields and equipment in sports organizations as a base for sports activity
- Current status of sports activities and events in youth centers
- Ways for improving current status of youth centers

Hypotheses:

- Physical education lessons are not sufficient for preparing youth physically as athletes

- There is a lack in coordination between physical education teachers and youth centers
- Courts, fields and equipment in sports organizations are not sufficient for effective preparation of youth athletes
- Team sports are dominant over individual sports
- Individual' fear of lack of coordination between sport and school as this is a major factor that hinders youth from sports participation.

2. Methods:

Approach:

According to Ahmed, K. (1999: 103), the researcher used the descriptive (survey) approach due to its suitability for this study. This led the researcher to design a questionnaire and to validate it through experts' opinions.

Participants:

The researcher purposefully chose (30) persons who work as physical education teachers or sports coaches in youth centers.

Fields of study:

- **Human field:** (30) persons who work as physical education teachers or sports coaches in youth centers.
- **Place:** youth centers and departments of sports activity in Jordan.
- **Time:** from 2-1-2017 to 25-2-2017.

Data collection instruments:

- Review of literature
- Direct observation
- The questionnaire
- Assistants
- Youth centers in Jordan
- Experts in physical education

3. Results and Discussion:

Table (1), concerning contribution of youth centers in preparing athletes according to specific plans, indicated that (60%) responded with (yes) while (40%) responded with (no). this means that planning and programming for youth training in sport are under the expectation of creating an athletic base with good level in Jordan.

Table (1): Responses to the item concerning preparation of youth according to specific plans and programs

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
18	60%	12	40%	30

Table (2), concerning cooperation between general directorate of education in Amman and youth centers, indicated that (90%) responded with (yes) while (10%) responded with (no). this indicates good cooperation between general directorate of education in Amman and youth centers in mutual exchange of training, teaching and technical experience in preparing youth for different activities. This cooperation includes martials, facilities, data and instruments required for this purpose.

Table (2): Cooperation general directorate of education in Amman and youth centers

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
27	90%	3	10%	30

Table (3), concerning tests for evaluating physical fitness levels of youth in youth centers, indicated that (10%) responded with (yes) while (90%) responded with (no). this indicates that training process is not based on scientific research. Instead, it is merely held as a recreational, uncontrolled activity that may harm youth. Therefore, this process should be initiated according to sound scientific principles to improve youth sports levels.

Table (3): Tests for evaluating physical fitness levels of youth in youth centers

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
27	90%	3	10%	30

Table (4), concerning availability of coaches and trainers working in youth centers for different sports activities, indicated that (75%) responded with (yes) while (25%) responded with (no). this indicates that youth centers need more coaches and workers to supervise sports activities and to teach and train young athletes such activities.

Table (4): Needs of Youth Centers

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
24	75%	6	25%	30

Table (5), concerning participation in team and individual sports, indicated that (70%) responded with (yes) while (30%) responded with (no). this indicates that team sports are practiced more than individual sports. This requires more attention to balance between these two types of sport in numbers of coaches and availability of facilities required for both types.

Table (5): Participation in team and individual sports

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
21	70%	9	30%	30

Table (6), concerning instruments and equipment in youth centers, indicated that (95%) responded with (yes) while (5%) responded with (no). this indicates that instruments and equipment are not sufficient and this is reflected in poor attendance to youth centers. This lack of instruments and facilities require quick response from governing bodies.

Table (6): Instruments and equipment in youth centers

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
28	95%	2	5%	30

Table (7), concerning sufficiency of number of youth centers, indicated that (100%) responded with (yes) while (0%) responded with (no). this indicates that number of youth centers is more than sufficient but it requires support with instruments, equipment and man power to achieve its objectives.

Table (7): Number of youth centers and its capacity

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
30	100%	-	-	30

Table (8), concerning competitions among youth centers, indicated that (90%) responded with (yes) while (10%) responded with (no). this indicates that competitions are held among youth centers according to a pre-prepared plan but this plan needs more attention to be improved.

Table (8): Competitions among youth centers

Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage	Votes
27	90%	3	10%	30

4. Conclusions:

- Youth centers play a major role in preparing young athletes for competition.
- Cooperation between educational governorates and youth centers creates a good

atmosphere for preparing youth socially, physically and technically for sport.

- There is a lack in specialized science-based programs for preparing youth for sport.
- Numbers of coaches and trainers are not sufficient for the numbers of participants.

- Poor conditions and insufficient numbers of youth centers have negative effects on preparing sports talents.

Recommendations:

- Numbers of youth centers and specialized coaches should be increased.
- Providing youth centers with required instruments and facilities according to youth expectations and available resources.
- Paying more attention to individual and team sports equally.
- Increasing cooperation among educational governorates and youth centers.
- Schools should include specific areas for girls' sports.
- Youth centers boards should include representatives of educational governorates.

- Establishing specialized, integrated and multi-use youth centers.
- Recruiting qualified coaches and trainers for work in youth centers to supervise sports activities

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