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## IMPACT OF AGE AS A FACTOR OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR OF VISITORS IN THE SPORTS EVENTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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### **Abstract**

Every advanced and modern society has a serious attitude towards the sport as a social area which beside the game also manifests specific elements of certain cultures and their mutual influence. In terms of local, regional and national rivalry or complete identification of fans of the club, cultural conflict is going to turn into a conflict between two opposing cultures. Outpouring of human frustration in such situations causes deviant behaviour that gets elements of violent and aggressive behaviour that is sanctioned by law. Deviant behaviour at sports events has long been known as a social phenomenon of modern sport with all the sociological attributes. Rampage at sports events and out of them in the world is a mandatory notice of top sporting event like a decoration with frequent tragic consequences. Stands become a picture of society, with well-defined range of opportunities for fan selection. In the Republic of Macedonia there are rudiments and serious grounds for existence of deviant behaviour by visitors before, during and after sports events. Spirit of deviant behaviour is easily sensed during maintenance of important sports events in Republic of Macedonia.

**Key words:** *deviant behaviour, sports events, visitors, sport.*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In any relatively developed country great importance is given to the problem related to the deviant behaviour of visitors in public places, manifested by individuals and the crowds. This social problem has drawn attention of sociologists, psychologists, pedagogue criminologists, lawyers etc. All of them start from their basic scientific interest and treat violence from different aspects (bullying, hooliganism) and aggressiveness that appears during sports events. Deviant behaviour, as separate emerging form of criminality causes feeling of unsafety, fear or disgust in public, personal vulnerability of the citizens.

This paper directly examines age as a factor of deviant behaviour at sports events in the Republic of Macedonia. The Republic of Macedonia has a rudiments and serious grounds for existence of deviant behaviour by visitors before, during and after sports events (Anastasovski, I. 2010).

Spirit of deviant behaviour is easily sensed

during maintenance of important sports events in the Republic of Macedonia, especially when it comes to social status of athletes and professionals who are an example of behaviour in sport that is research by J. Bryant (Bryant J. Cratty, 1978). Our country has still not created a picture of deviant behaviour and its presence at sports events. However, there is a tendency for correction of this condition indicating that lately there are more often organized debate shows for this phenomenon, as radio and television shows.

We must conclude with regret that the research so far has not gone very far in addressing the question of what deviant behaviour means in general. Even now there is no generally accepted definition for it. Thus, for example, Supek defines aggressive behaviour as the use of violent means over living beings in order to achieve certain goal (Supek, R. 1992).

## METHODOLOGY STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH

### *Subject of the research*

The subject of this paper will be exploring the age as a possible factor for deviant behaviour at sports events in the Republic of Macedonia.

### *Aim of research*

The aims of this research are divided into major and specific purpose.

The main objective of the paper is to increase the corpus of scientific knowledge about the impact of a particular group of socio-demographic factors (age) as a potential instigator of deviant behaviour at sports events in the Republic of Macedonia.

Special purpose of this research is to investigate and determine how deviant behaviour at sports events, as a form of public event in the Republic of Macedonia is a result of the impact age as part of a group of socio-demographic factors.

### *Hypothesis of the research*

Deviant behaviour at sports events, as a form of public event in the Republic of Macedonia is a result of the influence of the age as a part of a group of socio-demographic factors.

### *Methods of research*

Based on the subject, objectives and hypothesis of the study, we use a survey (questionnaire) as a method of research.

The method applied in this study corresponds to the subject of research, primarily because it is a scientific research paper that will primarily be based on empirical data obtained by use of a questionnaire.

Survey data are processed in the statistical package SPSS 17.0.

### *Respondents in the research*

This research surveyed 409 respondents by random choice - visitors of sports events in the Republic of Macedonia.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION IN THIS RESEARCH

The influence of the group of peers on deviant behaviour of adolescents in sports events is investigated by determining differences in terms of impact on thinking and behaviour of others,

whether the leader imposes a way of winding way that cheer the way of reaction during the winding of sporting events. Many of these features are necessary for successful overcoming of the humanities and natural sciences. (Robet, L. Sajmon 2004). The analysis took into account three categories of impact: no impact, there is impact but it is not crucial and there is strong influence. The significances obtained are shown in the tables that follow. From Table. No.1 it can be noticed that there is no statistically significant difference at 0.01 ( $p < 0.01$ ). The largest percentage of 68.18% of adolescents who had been under strong influence of others, say they regularly follow the winding way that poses the group leader of sports events. On the other side, 52.77% of adolescents who have influence from others, but it is not crucial, sometimes accepted ways of winding which poses the leader of the group.

Graph No. 1 shows the influence of behaviour and thinking of others as compared with whether the leader imposes a way of winding adolescent in the sports events. 52.77% of adolescents said that sometimes the leader imposes impact but it is not crucial. While 68.18% of adolescents said they regularly adopt the way of winding which poses the leader of the group.

Table No.1  
Percent of age impact

Influence the thinking and behaviour of others	Leader imposes way of winding		
	Never	Sometimes	Always
Does not effect	26.47%	<b>44.11%</b>	29.41%
Have effect but is not a crucial	11.11%	52.77%	36.11%
Have strong effect	9.09%	22.72%	<b>68.18%</b>

Graphic No 1  
Percent of age impact

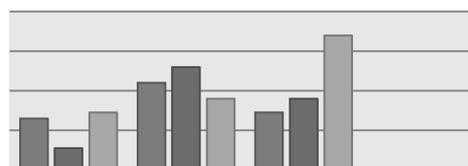
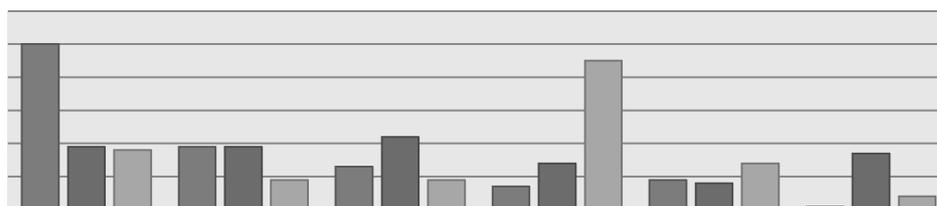


Table No.2  
Percent of age impact

Influence the thinking and behaviour of others	Way of winging in the sports events					All
	Sing song for team	Support our team	Constant winging	Sing offensive song against other	Sing in the match events	
Does not effect	<b>50%</b>	19.11%	13.23%	7.35%	8.82%	1.47%
Have effect but is not a crucial	19.44%	19.44%	22.22%	13.88%	8.33%	16.66%
Have strong effect	18.18%	9.09%	9.09%	<b>45.45%</b>	13.63%	4.45%

Graphic No.2  
Percent of age impact



Statistically significant difference at 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ) was found in the manner of winding adolescent sports events and the impact of opinion. Table. 2 shows that the largest percentage (50%) of adolescents are those who sing songs about their team with them which does not affect thinking and behaviour of others.

Unlike them, 45.45% of those adolescents whose opinions and behaviour of others has strong influence, were singing obscene songs directed to the opponents.

Graph no. 2 shows the influence of behaviour and thinking of others compared to how the winding of adolescent sports events. It can be noticed that 50% of the adolescents state that they are not influenced by the leader, and that, by singing songs, they are supporting their team. 45.45% of the adolescents who are under strong influence of the group leader during the winding use insulting words to the opponent. If we add 13.88% of those who are under the influenced of the leader, but it is not crucial, one can notice that 1/3 of the adolescents use abusive language towards an opponent during sports events.

When analysing the impact of thinking and behaviour of others by way of responding to ado-

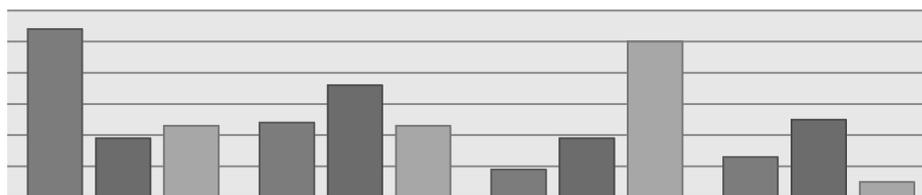
lescents during an incident at sports events four types of reactions were taken into account: I was standing aside, I was a direct participant; I verbally insulted others and had fight with them. The results in Table No.3 show that there is a statistically significant difference at 0.05 ( $p < 0.05$ ) in terms of the impact of the opinion and behaviour of others with the way adolescents react to sporting events. Persons who were not affected were mostly (54.41%) standing aside during the incident at a sporting event. Unlike them, 50% of those who verbally insulted others during an incident were strongly influenced from the behaviour and thinking of others. It is interesting to note that 36.11% of adolescents who were influenced by opinions and behaviour which was not crucial were direct participants in an incident at sports events.

The graph no. 3 shows the influence of behaviour and thinking of others as compared with the way of response of adolescents during the incident at sporting events. 54.41% of adolescents who report that the leader does not influence them were standing aside during the incident at sporting events. On the other side, 50% of adolescents who reported that the leader had strong influence over

Table No.3  
Percent of age impact

Influence of thinking and behaviour of others	Way of reaction in incident in the sports events			
	Staying aside	Direct participant	Verbally insulted others	Use physical force
No influence	<b>54.41%</b>	23.52%	8.82%	13.23%
There is influence but is not crucial	19.44%	36.11%	19.44%	25%
Have strong influence	22.72%	22.72%	<b>50%</b>	4.54%

Graphic No 3  
Percent of age impact



them verbally insulted others during the incident at sporting events. Finally, 25% of those adolescents whose leader has influence that is crucial use physical force during the incident.

## CONCLUSION

I conclude that there is great influence of the peer group as a factor for manifestation of deviant behaviour at sporting events in the Republic of Macedonia, which speaks about the important role of this agent of socialization, especially during adolescence. The assumption that if adolescents socialize and build relaxed and correct relations in the circle of their peers, less manifest deviant behaviour is confirmed by high certainty rate. The obtained results are consistent with the stated theoretical knowledge according to which peer group is one of the prime factors of socialization, which shares common values and attitudes shows cer-

tain equivalent behaviours and preferred lifestyles and makes strong pressure on its members to accept it. In this period of life adolescents are easily influenced to initiate behaviour and accept opinions of others, primarily the impact of imposing leaders of peer groups or the members themselves. Such behaviour of adolescents is dependent on their cognitive, emotional and moral development, and influences from the social environment in which that development takes place. Hence, it is essential to be elected leader, as he/she has strong influenced by what he/she does, through the ideas and goals that propagates and through the effects caused by their actions. If one takes into consideration that between fans often there is rivalry on ethnic or religious basis, which often results in violence and aggression at sporting events, the role of the leader of the group gets much more importance.

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## **ВЛИЈАНИЕТО НА ВОЗРАСТА КАКО ФАКТОР ЗА ДЕВИЈАНТНО ОДЕНСУВАЊЕ НА ПОСЕТИТЕЛИТЕ НА СПОРТСКИТЕ МАНИФЕСТАЦИИ ВО РЕПУБЛИКА МЕКДОНИЈА**

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(Оригинален научен труд)

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### **Апстракт**

*Секое напредно модерно општество има сериозен однос кон спортот како општествена област во која покрај играта доаѓа до израз и манифестирање специфични елементи на поделни култури и нивно меѓусебно влијание. Во услови на локално, регионално и национално ривалство или комплетна идентификација на навивачите со клубот, се случува културниот конфликт да се претвори во конфликт меѓу две спротиставени култури. Изливот на човечки фрустрации во вакви ситуации предизвикува девијантно однесување кое добива елементи на насилно и агресивно однесување кое е санкционирано со закон. Девијантното однесување на спортските манифестации уште одамна се познат општествен феномен на модерниот спорт со сите социолошки атрибути. Дивеењето на манифестациите и надвор од нив во светот претставува задолжителна најава на врвните спортски настани како декор со многу чести трагични последици. Трибините стануваат слика на општеството, со јасно изразена палета од можности за навивачки избор. Во Република Македонија постојат зачетоци и сериозна подлога за егзистирање на девијантното однесување од страна на посетителите пред, за време и по спортските манифестации. Духот на девијантното однесување лесно се насетува за време на одржување на значајни спортски манифестации во Република Македонија.*

**Клучни зборови:** *девијантно однесување, спортски манифестации, посетители, спорт*

