

# Participation in organized sport of soccer male children the age of 6-12 years

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## Abstract

The study examines the participation, in the sport of organized football, of male children living in Albania, for ages 6-12 years for the period 2014 - 2015.

The study analyses the socio-economic causes of parents of children aged 6 - 12 years, which in their decision-making affect the participation of children in organized football. The study included a questionnaire distributed to parents of children in public primary schools in Albania in some of Albania's major cities. The survey was conducted for 1141 parents of children aged 6-12 in the cities of Albania Tirana, Durrës, Fier, Elbasan. The data show that the number of enrolled children increases significantly at ages 12-14, 51.70% compared to ages 8 -11, 16.50%, and where there is a shortage of registered children ages 6-7. The ratio of the number of enrollments, for the age groups of 8-12 years old, 40%, against the categories of 14-18 years old, 60%, indicates that the participation pyramid base is smaller. The data show that for 83% of parents it is very important for the child's safety to accompany the child when leaving school and returning home from school. 74% answered YES and 26% NO to the question "Does your son want to join a football team". To the question "Is your son enrolled on a football team" 21% answered YES, and 79% NO. In the answer data "If NO what are the reasons" it seems that the most significant reasons or barriers why children are not enrolled in a football team, listing the importance of selection, are as follows: 1. We cannot accompany, 2. Fear of losing focus on lessons, 3. Sports facilities are far away, 4. No financial opportunities, 5. No teams for his age. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** The school is a controlled and safe environment where the child spends a significant portion of their daily activities. Based on study data where the majority of parents are at work by 5:30 pm, the school with its sports facilities would be a solution where children ages 6 - 11 could practice soccer and other activities until the parent returns home from work. Promoting studies that show that engaging with a sporting activity does not pose a risk of lowering children's academic performance but instead helps them achieve higher learning outcomes. Football clubs and football academies to provide transportation for children. Improvement and enhancement of sports facilities in schools. Close cooperation and mutual relations of sports clubs and football academies with schools. The strategy and policies clearly defined by sports clubs for recruitment. Financial support for gifted children by reducing participation costs.

**Keyword:** Participation, children, sport, soccer, parent