

Abstract

Spatial and material conditions applicable to physical activities of young adolescents living in Central Bohemia Region

The major objective of dissertation thesis was to explore the continuity of spatial and material conditions and affiliation to physical activities of individuals aged 12–15 years, i.e. young adolescents, living in municipalities, around the area of Central Bohemia Region (population 10 000–22 000) and their surroundings. The presented study was conducted predominantly as an empirical association research. The research sample consisted of 2 660 young adolescents living in five municipalities in the area of Central Bohemia Region (Benešov, Beroun, Čelákovice, Kutná Hora, Neratovice) and their close surroundings. However, 2 564 properly completed questionnaires were analyzed.

No direct relationship was found between the perceptions of spatial conditions, individual material equipment of young adolescents, and their attendance in physical activities. The correlation between spatial conditions applicable to locomotion activity and between locomotion activity of young adolescents reached $r = -0.04$. The correlation coefficients between spatial conditions applicable to sport and between organized sport activity in young adolescents were ranging from -0.10 to 0.19 , and from -0.17 to 0.26 in non-organized sport activity respectively. Material conditions applicable to sport and organized sport activity in young adolescents correlated at $r = -0.13$, and $r = -0.15$, and -0.07 for non-organized sport activity. The satisfaction of respondents with the material conditions applicable to locomotion and their locomotion activity correlated at $r = -0.06$. The socioeconomic background of young adolescents was also addressed by several items of the questionnaires. However, this factor did not represent a good predictor of young adolescents' affiliation to physical activities, since the highest correlation coefficient reached only $r = 0.14$, namely between the perception of economic status of respondents' families and between sport activities performed at home or in garden.

The information obtained from questionnaires was extended by semi-structured interviews with basic school and secondary school PE teachers ($n = 37$) from monitored municipalities. The interviews implicated the complexity of these issues and, into some degree, the differences in teachers' subjective perception of these issues. Overall, the conditions applicable to organized sport were perceived as quite positive, whereas the perception of the conditions applicable to non-organized sport was rather opposite. In terms of public sport areas (free of charge entrance), vandalism was the most reported problem and subsequent legal responsibility for potential risk of harm to visitors. Therefore, most of the interviewed teachers emphasized the need of surveillance around the sport areas.

Further research is needed in spatial and material conditions applicable to physical activities, with respect to the fact that both monitored groups - young adolescents and teachers - referred to the spatial conditions as to one of the potential limitations of stronger affiliation to physical activities in young adolescents.

Key words: adolescence; children and youth; locomotion activity; sport; sport activity; sports facility/equipment.