MANAGEMENT OF SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN SUSTAINABLE ELITE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction and Problem Statement: Worldwide, national sport policies primarily serve two objectives: promoting public participation for healthier societies and preventing diseases, and second, developing athletes to achieve and sustain success in international competitions. Therefore, sustainable elite sports development is an essential policy field for countries today. It is a complicated, multifaceted attempt that exceeds individual athletic ability, essentially depending on an efficient and successfully managed support system. The sustainable success of elite athletes requires not only advanced training methods or talent but also strategic management of various support systems, including medical care. To implement these support mechanisms, policies hold a significant place. This study aims to comprehensively clarify how these diverse components are optimally managed to foster long-term athlete development and international sporting success, thereby providing an in-depth understanding of the management of these essential support systems in elite sports.

Purpose: The primary purpose of this study is to systematically examine the management of support systems in sustainable elite sports development from a managerial perspective. Specifically, it analyses how strategic leadership and effective governance contribute to the efficiency and impact of these systems. This research offers observations about best practices and potential areas for improvement in national elite sports policies and their implementation.

Theoretical framework: The SPLISS (Sport Policy Factors Leading to International Sporting Success) model conceptually frames this study. The SPLISS model identifies key policy areas that influence a nation's elite sporting success. It primarily serves as an essential tool for comparative analysis among nations and offers valuable guidance for policymakers in developing effective strategies. Particular emphasis is placed on the management dimensions within SPLISS pillars, explicitly focusing on Pillar 1 (Financial Support), Pillar 2 (Organizational Structure), Pillar 5 (Athletic Career Support), and Pillar 9 (Scientific Research & Innovation), among others. These pillars provide a solid structure for comprehending how management practices within these areas contribute to the overall sustainability of elite athlete development.

Method: This study employs a document analysis approach, systematically examining existing literature, national sport policies, and reports related to elite sports development and support systems in the light of the SPLISS model. Additionally, it draws on illustrative examples from various national elite sport systems. Data pertinent to the management and implementation of support structures are qualitatively analyzed. MAXQDA, a qualitative data analysis software, is employed to facilitate a systematic examination of the gathered data. This method enables the identification of variances in management approaches across different contexts.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that the efficient management of support systems is a pivotal determinant for sustainable elite sports development. Countries have the same purpose in elite sport development; however, the methods differ. By highlighting how strategic management practices, aligned with specific policy objectives, contribute to optimized resource allocation, improved interdisciplinary collaboration, and enhanced athlete well-being, this research underscores the critical role of management in achieving lasting international sporting success. The findings provide helpful suggestions for sport policymakers, administrators, and practitioners seeking to develop more robust and sustainable elite sports programs.