



The Development of Sepak Takraw in Bali Viewed from the Parent's Involvement as a Socialization Agent

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Abstract. The research on sepak takraw has been widely practiced. However, very little attention is given to examining parental involvement in the development of Sepak takraw. This study aims to analyze the involvement of parents as a socialization agent in the development of sepak takraw in the village of Sulahan, Bali. This study used a qualitative approach in the form of ethnography. Sources of data in this study include events, informants, and documents. Data collection techniques were conducted by observation, in-depth interviews, and document review. Informants in this study are 14 people. The data obtained were analyzed thematically. The analysis shows that parents do not socialize and do not participate in the development of sepak takraw in Sulahan Village Bali. This is because sepak takraw is considered a less popular sport, sepak takraw sport is considered a sport that has a high difficulty level, a shift to the art of dance and percussion, and family economic reasons. This article is expected to contribute to the policy-making of sepak takraw sports in Sulahan Village, Bali.

Keywords: Parent involvement · socialization agent · sepak takraw

1 Introduction

The game sepak takraw is a mix or merge between three games, namely football, volley ball and badminton [1, 2]. To perform this sport, the players must have basic skills, such as basic kicking, croaking, mending, boasting and handling techniques [3, 4]. Sepak takraw is played on a flat, rectangular field 13,40 m long and 6,10 m [5].

Sepak takraw entered the village of Sulahan Bali in the early 1990s (I1, personal interview, 2021). In the 1990s, sepak takraw was regarded as one of the prestigious sports. In the era of the 1990s, the performance of athletes from this area is very good. The athletes from the village of Sulahan once won first in the junior men's national championship, and two other athletes excel in the ASEAN tournament (I2, personal interview, 2021). However, as time passes, both the number of athletes and athletes' achievements decreases.

The number of athletes in terms of quantity decreases. The decline in the number of athletes began in 2000. Based on data from 1990–1993, the total number of athletes of

sepak takraw in this area is thirty-eight people. All athletes are male. Three years later, the number of athletes grew from thirty-eight athletes to forty-two athletes where all athletes were male. The next three years, there is a significant addition where the total number of athletes of sepak takraw is fifty people. Among these fifty athletes, eight are female. In the following years, the number of athletes continues to decline. The number of athletes recorded in 2021 is up to eighteen people. Three of whom are female (I14, private interview).

Besides experiencing a decline in terms of quantity, sepak takraw in the Sulahan Village also experienced a decrease in quality. This can be seen from the declining performance of athletes from year to year. Just like the number of athletes, the achievements of the sepak takraw athletes in this region experienced a golden period from 1990 to 2000. In this year's range, a range of regional, national and international achievements were achieved by athletes of sepak takraw (I10, private interview). However, starting in 2001, the achievement of sepak takraw athletes in this area began to decline. This decline is not only happening at the level of the match followed but also the number of medals achieved in the match at the regional level. Peak quality of athletes decreases seen in 2017 in which the athletes of sepak takraw are only able to achieve one bronze medal at the local level of sepak takraw game named Sports Week Student and Art (Porsenijar) and Provincial Sports Week (Porprov).

The decrease in quantity and quality of sepak takraw athlete is important to be examined to describe what factors causing the decline. From several perspectives, the researcher chose to approach this problem through socio-cultural study, especially the involvement of parents as socialization agent of sepak takraw sport. This is based on preliminary research conducted in the village of Sulahan Bali, where parents are less frequently involved in the socialization and participation of sepak takraw sport. In fact, parents are the first and foremost socializing agent that plays a very important role in introducing the values, habits, and norms embraced, including the belief in the value of a particular sport [6].

This phenomenon is interesting to be studied because it can give information on factors causing this problem to happen. By knowing the causal factors, the policy makers (the government, managers, and coaches who are involved in the field of sepak takraw in the village of Sulahan Bali) can optimize, re-activate and raise the sepak takraw sport in the village of Sulahan Bali. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to analyze what factors which caused the low involvement of parents as a socialization agent on sepak takraw sport.

2 Methods

This research was conducted in Sulahan Village, Susut Subdistrict, Bangli Regency, Bali, Indonesia. This research was conducted with the qualitative approach in the form of ethnography design. The data sources in this study used three types of sources including events, informants, and documents (artifacts). An instrument in data collection is the researcher himself as the main instrument (key instrument). Data collection technique in this research is by observation, interview, and document review.

The study involved 14 informants (I) from the village of Sulahan, consisting of four parents of athlete, four parents of ex-athlete, two active athletes, two former athletes,

one football coach from 1990 to 2005, one sepak takraw coach within the period of 2006 until 2017, vice chairman of PSTI of Bangli regency during the period of 1993–2011, Chairman of PSTI of Bangli Regency within the period 2012–2018. The test of the validity of data was conducted by prolonged engagement, triangulation, clarify bias and member checking. Data were analyzed thematically.

3 Results and Discussion

The analysis of the data found that there are four factors that led to the low involvement of parents in the village of Sulahan Bali in terms of sepak takraw sport. The four factors are the lack of popularity of the sepak takraw sport. Sepak takraw is a difficult sport. Moreover, the existence of the art of dance and gamelan is getting popular. The other reason is that for economic reasons.

3.1 Sepak Takraw is Lack of Popularity

Based on the results of interviews with informants, the findings showed that parents in the Village of Sulahan Bali have the perception that the sepak takraw sport is not a sport that is prestigious enough to be played by their children. They prefer other types of sports, such as tennis to be socialized to their children. This can be seen from the excerpt from the interview below.

“Sepak takraw is less prestigious and popular. I directed both my sons to play tennis” (I3, personal interview).

“In the village of Sulahan, many parents assume that sports of sepak takraw are less prestigious. This assumption makes parents give a little support”. (I4, personal interview).

Excerpts of the interview explicitly show that parents prefer to direct their children to sports other than sepak takraw. According to I3 and I4, sepak takraw sport today is less well known in the community. It is difficult to find sepak takraw games in the community. Even on television is also very rarely exhibited sepak takraw championship.

3.2 Sepak Takraw is a Difficult Sport

Besides the sepak takraw was regarded as a less popular and prestigious sport, parents also assume that sepak takraw sport is a sport that is quite difficult to play. Sepak takraw is considered as an acrobatic game that requires a lot of skillful acrobatic moves such as rolling smash movement in the game. Sepak takraw is done with the movement of *salto* in the air. Unlike other sports, sepak takraw needs special skills and courage to play it well. As disclosed by I5 and I6,

“Sepak takraw is very difficult. Jump and fly. I’d better go to athletics. Just rely on running alone” (I5, personal interview).

“Sepak takraw sport is difficult. What a pity! My son was tired of continuing out of practice, better stop the exercise” (I6, personal interview).

From the excerpts of the above interviews, it can be seen that parents assume that sepak takraw sport is a difficult sport to do. According to I5 and I6, instead of putting

his son into a sepak takraw club, I5 would prefer to put his son into an athletic club or stop playing sepak takraw practice. Compared to sepak takraw, athletics is easier to introduce to children through playful activities with parents from an early age, such as running and jumping in pleasant situations.

3.3 Art of Dance and Gamelan is Getting Popular

The strong culture in the Village of Sulahan Bali is also one of the triggers of the lack of socialization in the family in introducing the sport of sepak takraw. This is seen from excerpts of interviews with I7 and I8.

“Girls are playing sepak takraw, then the way they walk becomes weird and not feminine anymore. I’d better go dancing lessons to perform dances in Pura “(I7, private interview).

“Putu’s practice is now rarely. I frequently ask him to practice gamelan”(I8, personal interview).

Now, the incessant-vigorous activities of art and gamelan are great. Most parents prefer their children to dance or do gamelan exercises “(I14, personal interview).

Balinese people can not be released from art. For Balinese people, art is seen as a form of offering (yadnya) to Ida Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa (God Almighty). Art in Balinese life is an inseparable unity. A religious, social activity involves almost all areas of art. For example, in the activities of the God Yadnya (religious ceremony at Pura), all art components are presented to the community as a yadnya (a genuine offering) to God, from gamelan accompanist, ceremonial dance, majejahitan art (stringing janur), art chanting (singing songs of worship), carving art, woven art, and so forth. All of these arts synergize with each other as a whole unity to perform rituals and offerings to God.

The art developed in Bali is much influenced by the noble values of Hinduism. This is caused by the desire of Balinese Hindus in Bali which visualize the values of Hindu religious teachings. Balinese people often create art that is destined as yadnya or offerings before God Almighty so that until now in Bali, there are still various types of dances and gambelan that is considered sacred because the kind of dance or gamelan is only staged as a means of worship before God Almighty.

Based on interviews with I7 and I8, it is seen that parents prefer their children not to play sepak takraw. In fact, they direct their sons to join dance lessons (Bali) and learn gamelan of Bali. The goal is to set the offerings of dance when there is a ceremonial worship at Pura. For them, seeing his son presenting a dance offering is a joy and pride for them. In addition, through dancing activities, the child can grow into a woman who is feminine and has a smooth and flexible body language.

3.4 Reason for Economic Problem of Family

Socio-economically, the people of Sulahan Village experienced a significant economic shift. In contrast to the 1990s, from the year around 2000, the economic condition of the villagers of Sulahan increased (I9, private interview). Almost every resident has a livelihood as a bamboo craftsman. The result of this village community craft is well known to outside Bangli district even outside Bali. This fact contributes to the decline

in parental support for the sepak takraw sport. This can be seen in the excerpt of the interview below.

“There’s a high school student, his talent is good. Unfortunately, her mother did not give permission. Her mother just saw the money only. At home (wrestling/*nultul*) in one day, he can earn hundred thousand” (I10, personal interview).

“Now, parents just look at economic calculations. Exercise alone is not enough to fulfill life’s need”(I5, personal interview).

“The support of parents in Sulahan for their children joining the sepak takraw has begun to decrease. Parents tend to look at the money. That is why sepak takraw face difficulties to develop” (I11, personal interview).

“It is now seen that the support of parents is seen from economic calculations as well. Parents see that doing sport is not sufficient to fund school fees” (I5, personal interview).

“Friends make money with *nultul*, so they are lazy to join the training. It is better to earn money, he said” (I12, personal interview).

“Many friends of mine stop playing sepak takraw as they have worked *nultul*. (I13, personal interview).

Based on the results of data analysis above, there are four causes of low involvement of parents in the village of Sulahan to sepak takraw sport. From interview excerpts, it can be seen that parents in the village of Sulahan less frequently support his son to participate in sepak takraw sport. They think that sepak takraw sport is not popular, it is a difficult sport, it can not support living economically, and their children had better join dance or gamelan. According to [7] sports participation is influenced by lifestyles, the place where they live, parents’ support and most importantly their socio-economic class. From 1990 to 2017, the social life of the community in this region has undergone many changes. In 1990, when sepak takraw was so popular in this area, parents encouraged their children to participate in sepak takraw (I9, personal interview). When their children participate in sepak takraw and become athletes of sepak takraw, they earn money from sepak takraw bonus which can help their family’s economy. Not only parents but children themselves also have the strong intrinsic motivation to become athletes of sepak takraw. They want to become athletes of sepak takraw so they can get out of Bali or even go abroad, even if only joining the event of sepak takraw (I6, personal interview).

At the beginning of the 2000s, this motivation does not appear in parents and children. Instead of forcing their children to participate in sepak takraw, parents encourage their children to run a business or even work in the hospitality industry (I9, personal interview). Parents ask their children to help them make handicrafts for sale for both local and foreigners. They no longer rely on sports to support their economies. In fact, they recognize that their economic status is increasing because of the home industry business.

Based on the results above, it is known that the socialization of sepak takraw did not take place well in the village of Sulahan, Bali. Although previous studies [8, 9] suggest that parents play an important role in socializing sports for children. This study shows that sports socialization, especially sepak takraw does not occur in the village of Sulahan.

Viewed from a sociological perspective, it can be caused by changes in the sociocultural elements of society. Socio-cultural changes can significantly affect the development

of sports in society because sport cannot be separated from culture, nor vice versa [10, 11]. Society has a powerful influence on how a sport can develop in a society. Society determines which sports are prestigious and not, which sports are important in a community, what teams are liked by the community and others.

This is one of the triggers why sepak takraw decreased in terms of the number and quality in the Village of Sulahan, Bali. Socio-culturally, there has been a shift in the value of sports. In 1990, the sport was considered as a popular sport because, in that year, the sport began to be introduced in the community of Sulahan Village, Bali. Meanwhile, in its development, this sport has been considered less prestigious again so that it was started left by the community.

Sport is learned and is part of the culture of society. As society and cultural change, people's perceptions and attitudes toward certain sports also change. This will affect their understanding and participation in sports. For example, when certain types of sports are popular and gaining public attention, this will attract people in this community to take part in such sports, and vice versa. In this case, the process of sports socialization plays an important role in attracting people to participate in sports.

According to [8], socialization is an ongoing process whereby a person obtains personal identity and learns proper norms, values, behaviors, and social skills. This definition comes from Sage's (1987) as quoted [12] which defines socialization as a learning process and adaptation to a particular social system. This is an active learning process that occurs when people interact with each other and get acquainted with the social world in which they live [12]. Thus, the socialization of sepak takraw sport is a process experienced by a person to engage sepak takraw, to learn and be taught the knowledge, values, and norms that are essential to participate in the sepak takraw sport.

The socialization process starts from the smallest unit of society, the family (Haycock & Smith, 2012 as quoted [13]). When babies are born, they enter the world with certain grace. Some traits are inherited; others come from the particular environment in which the child is born [14]. The child soon established a relationship with his family from the time he first entered the world. He builds relationships with his parents, siblings, or even his environment. The socialization process takes place naturally in this place. Through family interaction, children learn the particular norms, values, knowledge, and skills they need to participate in their lives. Unconsciously, these children also learn their family beliefs about certain aspects of life, including sports [15].

The process of sports socialization takes place first in this community. Children develop their perceptions and attitudes toward a particular sport through their interactions in the family. For example, when a child's father does not like basketball, he will not introduce this type of sport to his son from the beginning. In fact, unintentionally, parental sayings like "I do not like playing basketball" or "playing sports is not fun" can contribute to their children's perceptions and attitudes toward the sport. Conversely, when a father is a particular sports fanatic, or he is a particular sports athlete, or he likes to exercise, this father will promote sports to his son. Father usually accompanies his son to play a particular sport, or even he enrolls his son to enter a certain sports club [16, 17]. Children are more likely to participate in sports if their parents do so [18, 19].

Within the family, family members can share experiences of sports based on their memories of certain sports. Through this way, many families develop long-term relationships with certain sports [16]. The family is the social field and the “pedagogical environment” in which the personal and social circumstances of family support exert a strong influence on the involvement and also the improvement of the child in physical activity [20]. This is the basic place and the most important system where children grow and socialize. Among several family members, parents are believed to play an important role in all aspects of children’s lives, including sports socialization [21].

The main reason why sports socialization is done through family interaction is that children spend a lot of time with their parents, especially at an early age [22]. Parents are key in influencing children’s activities in sports through various mechanisms, upbringing, support and provision of facilities [23]. In addition, at this stage, parents are the most common source of sports information for children and parents who decide that children should be involved in the sport. According [24], there are three basic roles that parents meet in their child’s sporting experience.

The first role is a provider. The role of parents should give their children plenty of opportunities to join certain sports and parents should fully support the costs required to follow a particular sport. The second role is the translator of the sporting experience. This can be done by helping children win or lose. The third role is a role model. This can be done by modeling the ideal attributes and behaviors in sports. These three roles affect the involvement of their children in sports. When all these roles are met well by parents, then their motivation to join the sport will increase.

However, among the three roles parents have to fulfill in engaging children in sport, the role of modeling is believed to contribute more to children, especially in the early years of children. In sports modeling, children should often interact directly with their parents. Support with parental modeling is of great benefit to children [25]. They are given a lot of sports exposure when interacting with their parents. This is in line with the Vygotskian-social learning theory which states that learning is best accomplished through social interaction [26]. Through many interactions between parents and their children, it is expected that children can acquire and learn skills in sports [22]. Ideally, parents who are sports athletes can be a good model for their child in doing sports. During the interaction, parents not only give a lot of good exposure to their children but also can provide direct feedback that can strengthen the learning process of sports [27]. This is also in line with the concept of modeling for “learners” in Vygotsky’s social learning theory.

This argument is supported by [24] which states that learning will occur through an athlete’s exposure to the sport and the reinforcement received from others. Exposure can be from interactions between athletes, in this case, people who are good at exercising. The more time children are exposed to, the more opportunities children get to acquire the skills needed in sports, and as a result, the more they can play in such sports. During their interactions, parents can provide promotions, reinforcement, support, facility access and positive rewards as their child performs well in sports [27]. This is proven to boost the motivation of children to learn sports because they feel that the sport is a fun experience.

Unfortunately, these forms of interaction and socialization are not found in this study. Parents who participated in this study explicitly stated that they were less supportive of

their children to play sepak takraw. These parents invite their children to be directly involved in the forms of sepak takraw. They rarely give exposure to sepak takraw sport. Thus, the children feel strange and not accustomed to playing sepak takraw.

4 Conclusion

Sports socialization does begin in the family. However, not all sports are socialized in this socialization agency. Sepak takraw in the village of Sulahan Bali has not been well socialized by parents to their children. This is because sepak takraw is considered less popular, sepak takraw is considered a difficult sport, the increasing popularity of dance and gamelan art, and family economic reasons.

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