

Reasons for Violence in Kosova Sport

*Shemsedin Vehapi**

*Hazir Salihu***

*Vullnet Ameti****

*Valbona Zeqa-Rexhepi*****

Abstract

Given the fact that sport represents a cultural and spiritual value of every society and human civilization, and as such it requires a deeper treatment and multidimensional research of factors and phenomena that are related to sport and affect directly the degree of sport development in certain environments and societies. Kosova sport, like any other activity, has passed a difficult stage of circumstances created in the prewar as well as in the postwar period. As a result of these circumstances, the sport has stalled at a dissatisfactory level and continues to be associated with phenomena that are of concern and damage not only the image of the sport but also that of the people of Kosova society. One of the most frightful phenomena that continues to be very present and at a very high level, is violence in sport events, which appears in various forms and by different actors. Although it has been debated a great deal on violence and damage caused by sport, and overall image, it has not been treated yet in proper scientific and professional way, and no institutional efforts have been made to investigate the causes which are the source of this phenomenon. Therefore, experts of physical culture and sport should initiate a scientific and institutional approach to research this phenomenon. The Center for Sport Research has designed a research project which is mainly based on the collection of opinions from actors and different categories which are directly involved in sports and directly or indirectly involved in violent events in sports shows. For this purpose a questionnaire was compiled, which aims to collect the opinions

* Dr. sc. Shemsedin Vehapi- UP, AAB.

** Dr. sc. Hazir Salihu- AAB.

*** Dr. sc. Vullnet Ameti- AAB.

**** Valbona Zeqa-Rexhepi, Mr. sc. – AAB.

of key actors in sport, such as: fans, sportsmen, teachers (trainers), judges, donors, managers of clubs, representatives of sport federations and the Olympic Committee of Kosova. The project included 800 respondents in all the cities of Kosova, and opinions collected from the respondents have provided a good base of information and orientation to a broader project, which would help for deeper elaboration of causes and composition of a strategy for prevention and elimination of violence in sport activities.

Keywords: violence, Kosova sport, aggressiveness, referees, professionalism.

1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of violence has been treated by scientists of various fields and as a result of this we have different theories that have treated and explained violence depending on the point of view and its field of study. Violence in sport fields in post-war Kosova has been a phenomenon which always occurs in sport events. Although violence is a phenomenon that appears and follows sport in the whole world, the size of its appearance in Kosova sport is really worrying. Rightly, some individuals say that sportsmen show aggression as a result of lack of sportive culture or spirit. So, aggressiveness and violence as a negative behavior stemming from players within sport fields and stadiums, has become a topic that raises the interest of many fans, spectators, journalists, analysts and many other people be they children, youngsters or seniors, who are less involved in sport activities. In fact, this issue has multiple dimensions, different points of view, various reasons, so we should definitely know the causes, motives and understand the fundamental factors to this problem that will allow us to find the ways and relevant mechanisms to help in reducing and eliminating this negative occurrence. The phenomenon of aggression and violence in sports is significantly more evident in sport competitions, as a result of extremism that plays a major role in the expansion of this frightful phenomenon. As witnesses of sport events, we see that this phenomenon has assumed large dimensions, in order to understand and

comment aggression and violence in sport in a proper way, one dimensional study is not sufficient, but it must also be studied from the ethic, educational, psychological, social, etc. points of view. Some sport researchers let us know that aggressiveness and violence in sport are existent since the beginning of sport activities, in other words, sport competitions are accompanied by force, violence or end sometimes in a scandalous manner. All the presented theories on aggressive and violent behavior in sport can be summarized in three groups.¹ The biological theory proposed and developed by Konrad Lorenz explains aggression as a basic characteristic of human beings, and as such sport presents an accepted social form, whereby the accumulated aggression is released. The psychological theory explains violence as a result of frustration situation-dependent. Frustration occurs when the efforts of an individual or group to implement a particular purpose are hampered.² The third theory is learning on social factors as the main causes of violence in sport and explains the aggressive behavior of sportsmen, which is built on the basis of a certain model that can be strengthened through rewards and supports made by various factors.³

2. THE AIM AND TASKS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY

The purpose of this experiment or study is the finding of several important factors that cause (present) violence and aggressiveness in our sport activities.

The project description can be defined through the efforts which will be made by recognizing the key factors which influence the appearance of violence in sport, regarding it through the prism of actors in sport activities.

¹ Terry, Peter C. and Jackson, John J. (1985) The Determinants and Control of Violence in Sport. *Quest*, 37 (1) 27-37

² Leonard, Wilbert Marcellus. (1988) *A Sociological Perspective of Sport* (Third Edition). New York, Macmillan Publishing Company.

³ Leonard, Wilbert Marcellus. (1988)

2.1. The purpose of this study can be defined in:

Collection of opinions among the key actors in sport, such as fans, sportsmen, teachers (trainers), judges-referees, donors, managers of clubs, representatives of sport federations and the Kosova Olympic Committee. The primary task of this project is that by identifying the main causes to prevent violence and aggressiveness in our sport fields.

2.2. The implementation method of the research - experiment Model (samples) of entities

The project included 800 respondents in all the cities of Kosova, of whom 730 respectively 91.25% responded positively. In all of our centers there were tested teachers (trainers), fans, sportsmen, donors, judges-referees, representatives of sport federations and the Kosova Olympic Committee.

For the anonymous questionnaire was used the direct method of canvass (face to face); each question contained five options for every answer: **the first alternative:** I do not agree at all, **the second alternative:** I agree in part, **the third alternative:** I agree, **the fourth alternative:** I agree fully and **the fifth alternative:** I do not know.

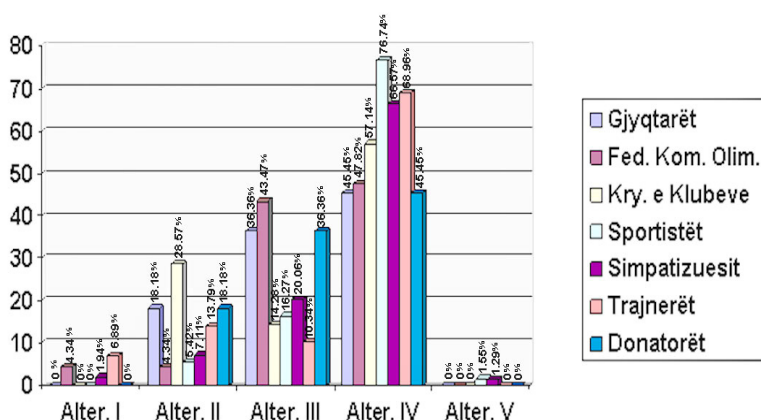
3. Methodology of work - processing of the achieved results

Processing of the data from the questionnaires was made with the program Microsoft Office Excel 2003. The charts (graphics) were processed with the program Microsoft Office Word 2003. Decomposition of the percentage figures was made by the formula which is used to regulate the percentage of numerical figures. The percentage of each question (graphics) is regulated on the basis of the mathematic-statistical formula: $b \times 100 / a$.

4. ACHIEVED RESULTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

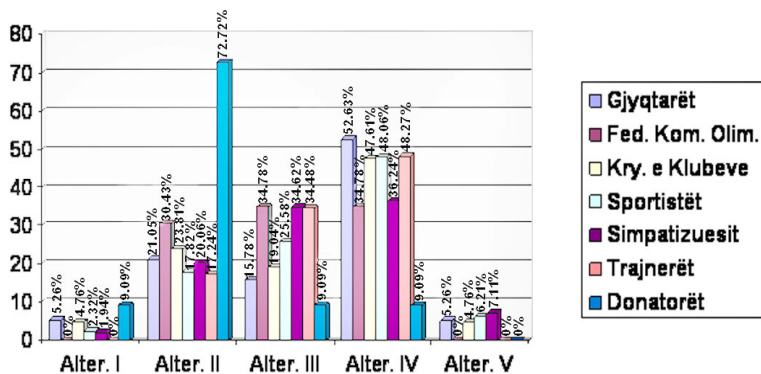
Graph 1: Taking measures to prevent violence in our sport:

With a quite high percentage, the answer to this graphic was very positive, as follows: sportsmen respond in the fourth alternative, i.e. agree completely with 76.74%, as well as trainers with 68.96% and fans with 66.67%. From this overview we see that all the categories involved in sport are aware of the situation and express the full conviction that appropriate measures must be taken to prevent violence and aggressiveness in our sport activities.



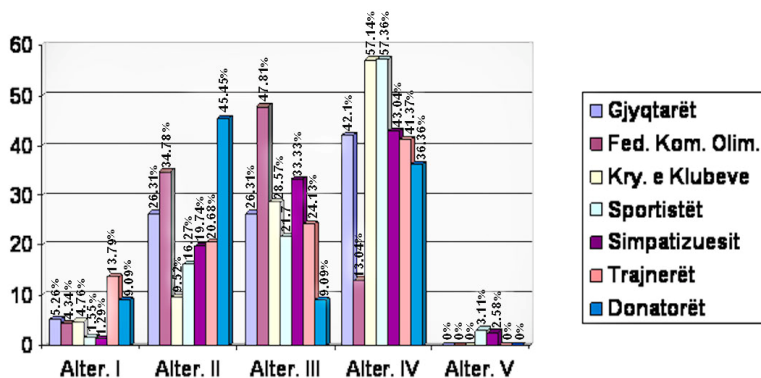
Graph 2: The majority of staff working in clubs does not have proper (adequate) professional education:

With quite high percentage, the donors namely referees, let us know that professionalism should rule in sport clubs in the future. The response is very positive and focuses on the second alternative; the donors agree partially with 72.72%, while the judges-referees agree fully in the fourth alternative with 52.63%, as in our sport clubs work mostly non professional staffs.



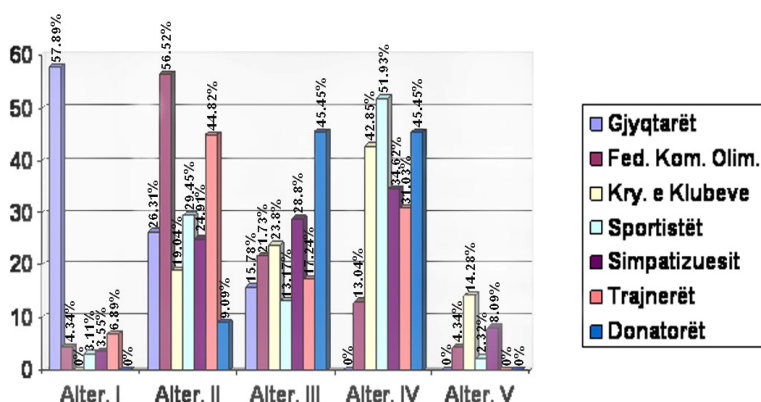
Graph 3: Do you think that violence is still at a worrying level in Kosova Sport?

The answer to this question turns out positively as follows: 57.36% of managements of clubs respectively sportsmen answer to the fourth alternative, which means that they fully agree and have argued that violence and aggressiveness still rules in our sport fields. So, nevertheless, measures should be taken in this direction, as the situation is very worrying when organizing sport activities.



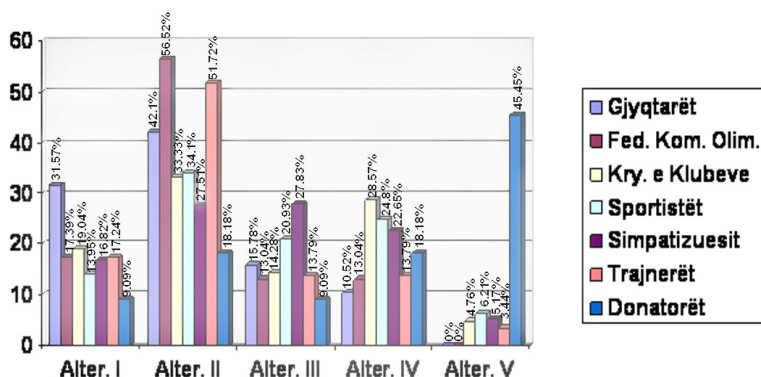
Graph 4: Judges - referees are corrupted and are not objective in their judgments:

The answer to the following question results as follows: In the first alternative, 57.89% of the judges - referees completely disagree and denied that they were corrupted, while 56.52% of the sport federations agreed in part and argued the opposite to the referees; in the fourth alternative the sportsmen agree completely with 51.93%, which means that they were convinced that the referees were not objective (they were corrupted) in their judgments. Judges should be directed to professional institutions for education-learning at higher level.



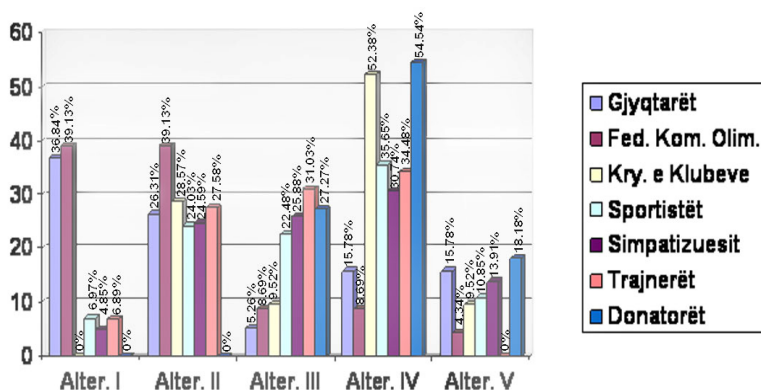
Graph 5: Spectators are more prone to cause violence in our sport fields:

Based on the percentage shown in the graphic, the answer is focused on the second and fifth alternative as follows: the representatives of sport federations with 56.52% and trainers with 51.72%, agreed partly, as some the spectators are prone to cause sudden violence in our sport fields. Whereas the donors of sport clubs do not know whether spectators provoke violence and aggressiveness in our stadiums - sport fields, i.e. they respond to the fifth alternative with 54.54%, resulting anonymous in their responses. So, the hosting club leadership should organize meetings with the fans in order to educate them in the spirit of sport.



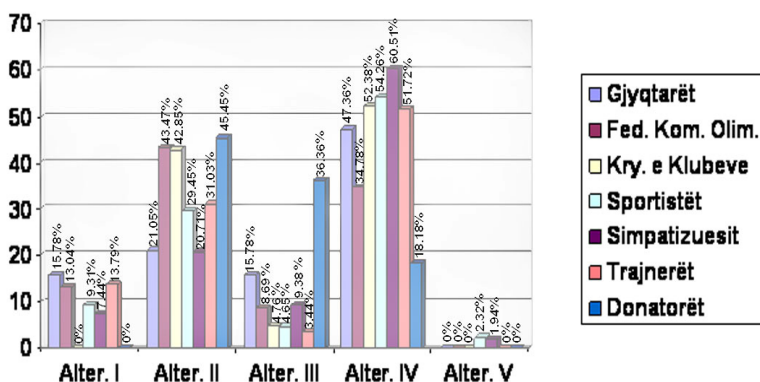
Graph 6: Even senior officials of federations are involved in various irregularities which lead to conflicts:

In the next graphic, the answer is focused on the fourth alternative, which results positive as follows: donors with 54.54% and managements of clubs with 52.38% agreed completely, because senior officials of sport federations were also involved in various irregularities that led to conflicts of all kinds. This shows that there is still an alarming situation in our sport federations, which have chosen unprofessional staffs, meaning that their involvement in various irregularities is always present.



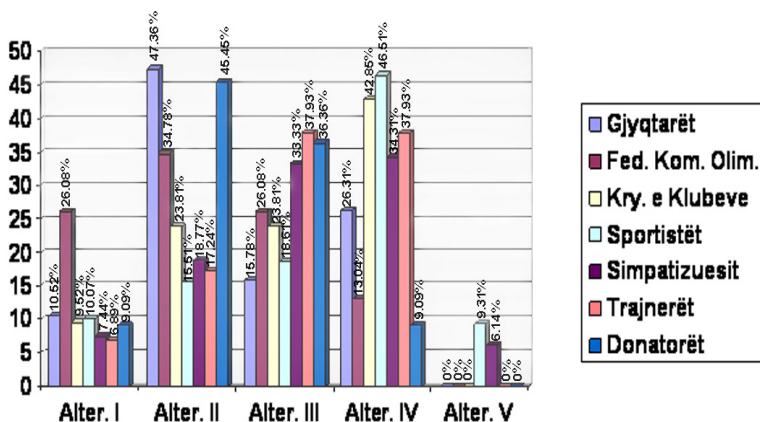
Graph 7: Our sport level in comparison to other countries in the region:

The answer in the next graphic is very positive, specifically in the fourth alternative, which means that the fans with 60.51% and sportsmen with 54.26% were not satisfied with the level of our sport in comparison to the countries in the region. Our institutions must be more interested in our clubs and engage more professional staffs to increase the level of our sport in comparison to the countries in the region.



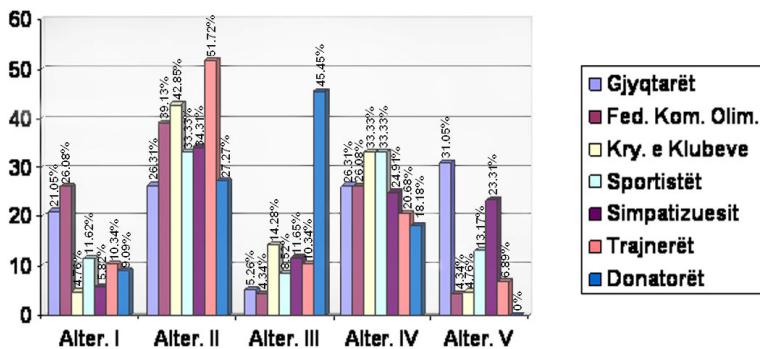
Graph 8: A further cause for violence is also the poor material stimulation of sportsmen:

The answer to this question is focused on the second and fourth alternatives as follows: referees with 47.36% and donors with 45.45%, respectively, agreed partly, while the sportsmen with 46.51% fully agreed that violence and aggressiveness resulted from poor material stimulation that was offered to our players - sportsmen. Our task is to find forms and ways to stimulate our sportsmen in the future, without which we cannot organize or develop any sport activity; in a word our sport would not survive.



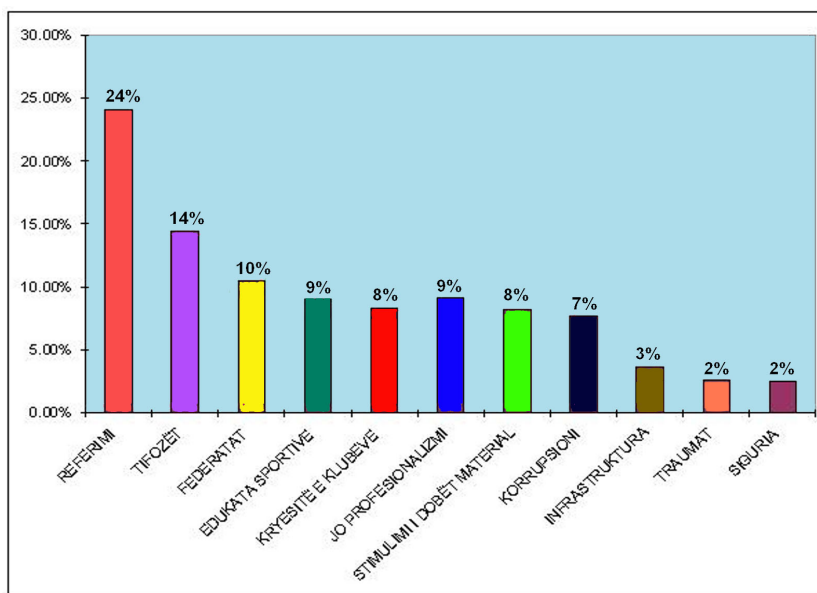
Graph 9: Relationships between sport federations' officials, clubs trainers and referees:

In this graphic the responses were focused on the second and third alternative, that resulted positive, as follows: Trainers with 51.72% said that they were partly satisfied, while donors of sport clubs with 45.45%, were fully satisfied with the relationships between the sport federations' officials, trainers and referees. One should intervene in this direction to have a proper relationship between them.



Graph 10: List 3 of the main causes of this negative phenomenon:

According to the results presented in this graph, the majority of the respondents answered in different alternatives, but most of them gave a negative response to the tendentious (biased) judgment; not objective with 24%, fans with 14%, federations with 10%, non-professionalism with 9% and so on, as presented in the graph. So, this is one more proof for our referees to be more accurate and more correct when judging and should care maximally about their occasional mistakes, in order not to encourage aggressive behavior as well as sudden and unwanted violence by all the concerned people; teachers (trainers), fans, sportsmen, managers, representatives of sport federations, donors of sport clubs, etc. This means that judges should show interest to continue school for a more professional degree.



5. SUMMARY

According to the analysis of the achieved results by calculating the percentage of the received opinions one can see that there are different opinions and attitudes regarding the beliefs on the causes of violence in sport. From a summary analysis it can be concluded that:

- All the categories which are directly involved in sport activities or as a managing or supporting body of sport activities are aware about the fact that violence in sport fields is still at a worrying level and are also aware that it is necessary to take needed measures to prevent it.
- The majority of respondents expressed that the main causes of violence in Kosovar sport are non professionalism in leadership and incorrect judgment in sport fields.
- It has also been noted that higher leading structures of sport federations are involved in some irregularities, which directly affect the good functioning of the organization of sport activities.

Based on the collected opinions we suggest:

- Not to neglect the negative role that has violence as a very frightful phenomenon which undermines the image of our sport, but to deal with the treatment of this problematic approach in a very active and professional way by taking various activities either scientific or practical ones.
- To initiate drafting of a comprehensive strategy by relevant scientific as well as managing sport institutions, which would provide a platform of mechanisms and instruments to combat and prevent further violence.
- As it is important to represent our new state in a worthy way in the international arena, by complementing the role of sport as an ambassador of the values of a nation, Kosovar sport institutions should pay special importance to the professionalism of leadership in sport and valid qualifications of persons which judge and influence

directly in creating the culture of sportsmen in sport fields.

- To pay particular attention to the creation of relations between spectators and sport clubs in a spirit of cultivating support within the bounds of possibility and sportive fair-play.
- Sport clubs in preparatory programs with young sportsmen should pay more attention to the educational aspect and forming of positive moral values as well as correct psychological preparation of sportsmen.

The conduct in the spirit of sport is:⁴

- To cool down each other, so must act teachers (trainers), sportsmen, judges-referees, fans, managers, donors, organizers, etc.
- To greet prior to the match the spectators and opponents to move toward each other and to extend hands indicating success.
- To take responsibility for our spectators and for that what happens during sport activities.
- To greet the public and opponents even after the match regardless of defeat or victory.
- After each improper intervention to ask each other forgiveness.

So, we should be more vigilant, more disciplined and more correct in judging during sports activities, to prevent radically all together once and for all violence and aggressiveness in our stadiums and sport fields. This research is of special importance as it represents the first attempt to study the phenomenon of violence and, of course, a more comprehensive investigation on this phenomenon is very necessary, where the number of variables and research of relation reason-effect will be based on the analysis of facts on the cases and evidence of violence in sport events.

⁴ H-J. Rojahn: *Revistë për paqen dhe heqjen e dhunës* (Review of Peace and Violence Avoidance), Denmark – 2003.

The study - the research in question, will open new prospects in the future, since it will serve to the social development nationwide.

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