



IS WRESTLING A PROMISING SPORT FOR YOUNGSTERS FROM DEPRIVED REGIONS?

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Abstract This study aimed at exploring the social factors in lead young wrestlers with disadvantaged background and from deprived regions to take up wrestling. Utilizing a cross-sectional survey design, the research explores demographics, socio-economic status, and the motivators behind wrestling involvement among 129 participants aged 9 to 16. Purposefully selecting regions with limited wrestling activity, the study is part of a special project. Conducted incentive camping period in Antalya study reveal that key motivators to wrestlers include Physical Education Teachers (PET) (22%), friends (19%), siblings (15%), fathers (12%) and others (14%). Although, there were 70% of participants who have some idols from countrywide, it was found that they have lack of idols in the regions of our participant group. Despite wrestlers have some disadvantages in social status such as the lack of wrestling authority in family members, camping affected them positively and encouraged them in wrestling career. Prospective wrestlers had declared that they come from low-income families underlining the socio-economic difficulties. It is thought that situations such as conducting the study in a seaside camp in a 5-star hotel, recognizing idol athletes increase the children's interest in wrestling and will have a positive effect on their future sports life despite their disadvantaged backgrounds.

Key words: candidate wrestlers, motivators, demographic features, deprived regions

Introduction

Wrestling is a popular high-intensity combat sport that requires a combination of physical strength, endurance, and technical skills. While wrestling has gained increasing attention worldwide, it remains inaccessible to many young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived regions. Starting age and years of experience are crucial factors that can affect an individual's performance in wrestling. In a recent study it is suggested that individuals begin wrestling at early ages to ensure maximum development of the necessary physical and technical skills. Additionally, there is a significant correlation between years of experience and peak performance age, suggesting that the more experience one has, the higher their peak performance age may be. Thus, adolescents should start wrestling at the age of 10 and for the peak performance, they will need around 14 years of training (Baić et al., 2014). Additionally, wrestling is not considered a safe sport for children by most families as it is often combined with a high degree of muscle damage due to demanding movements through training and technique, such as concentric and eccentric muscle use with high levels of applied force (Ratel et al., 2006). For this reason, most families from upper segment of the society do not want their children to take up wrestling as a starting point for sports even though they have enough opportunities and access. The lack of accessibility to wrestling for young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived regions highlights the need to explore the social, educational, and personal factors that lead them to pursue the sport. Although the sport of wrestling is gaining increasing attention around the world, it is still inaccessible to many young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived areas. Understanding these factors can inform initiatives aimed at increasing access to wrestling and improving it. In addition to psychological factors such as character traits and aggressive impulses, socio-cultural factors and local communities play a critical role in the adoption of or rejection of combat sports by the society and families, particularly in directing children to sports. Regarding this context, combat sports such as boxing, wrestling, MMA etc. emerged and became more common in the process of institutionalizing the sport. In the social analysis of such events, historical and cultural background of the communities, public interest and existence of civilized social projections aimed at raising physically superior generations, self-protecting and mitigating urban violence on the streets can be listed as crucial political, social, and cultural factors in the understanding of combat sports. Moreover, the use of capitalist logic in combat sports arts predicted the commercialization of civilized violence. This process become more prevalent with the introduction of these combat sports practices ("body to body fight") into sports arenas, institutionalized by the upper class as a means of civilization. (Atkinson, 2002; Mathisen et al., 2022; Seward, 1987; Torreadella-Flix & Gutiérrez-García, 2022). In view of this context, although wrestling is regarded as a traditional and popular sport in Turkey, yet there is a disparity between the regions of Turkey in the engagement of wrestling. In Turkey, wrestling has traditionally been more popular in the western and central regions, and opportunities for wrestling in the eastern regions are limited. In response to this situation, the Turkish Wrestling Federation (TWF) has launched a project aimed at encouraging and supporting young candidates from the eastern regions to take up wrestling. This paper presents the results of a cross-sectional survey of 129 young candidate wrestlers from relatively disadvantaged regions of Turkey, focusing on the social, educational, and personal factors that motivate them to take up wrestling. The findings of this study contribute to our understanding of the role of socio-economic status, family, peers, and coaches in shaping young wrestlers' motivations and aspirations. Despite its physical demands and technical requirements, wrestling can be an immensely rewarding sport for young individuals. However, its inaccessibility to those from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived regions is a pressing issue that deserves attention. In this context disadvantaged backgrounds operationally defined as rural

areas, low-income families, parents with low educational status, parents with low prestigious jobs or unemployed, wrestling is unpopular in the regions (eastern and south-eastern Anatolia), ethnically diverse population groups, and scarce wrestling champions as a role model. In addition, the common perception of wrestling as unsafe for children dissuades families from enrolling their children in the sport, particularly those from the upper segments of society. To address these issues, it is important to explore the factors that motivate young individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to take up wrestling, and the educational and personal factors that contribute to their success in the sport. Such an understanding can help to promote greater accessibility to the sport and encourage more young individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue their passion for wrestling. To fight this gap, TWF started a project in 2021 to help increasing the engagement of wrestling amongst the youngsters from the East and Southeastern regions of Turkey. With this regard the present study was carried out in cooperation with TWF to explore young wrestlers' motivation to take up wrestling as well as their socio-economical background. To achieve this overarching aim, the study addressed the following research questions:

1. What are the demographics of candidate wrestlers?
2. What is the socio-economic status (SES) of candidate wrestlers?
3. What are the factors motivating candidate wrestlers to take up wrestling?

In line with this research questions, we hypothesized that motivation to take up wrestling in candidate wrestlers from deprived regions of Turkey is associated with (a) socio-economic status, (b) supporting figures in family or social network, and (c) presence of idol wrestlers. Thus, the following research hypotheses were set and tested:

H1: Taking up wrestling is associated with the socio-economic status of the candidate wrestlers.

H2: Taking up wrestling is associated with the presence of supporting figures in family or social network of the candidate wrestlers.

H3: Taking up wrestling is associated with the presence of idol wrestlers.

Material and Methods

A cross-sectional survey design (Connelly, 2016) was employed as a methodological approach to examine young wrestlers' demographics, socio-economic status, as well as to determine the association between the antecedents of their wrestling motivation. The participating group of the study was determined by employing a purposive sampling technique (Creswell, 2012). The participants were 129 young wrestlers, aged from 9 to 16, who are living in relatively disadvantaged regions of Turkey, particularly in cities located in statistical regions TRA (Agri, Kars, Iğdır, Ardahan, Erzurum, Erzincan, Bayburt) TRB (Malatya, Elazığ, Bingöl, Tunceli, Van, Muş, Bitlis, Hakkari) and TRC (Gaziantep, Adıyaman, Kilis, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Batman, Şırnak, Siirt). TRA, TRB, and TRC regions are provinces designated by the European Commission (Eurostat, 2024). Those regions were purposively selected since they are unproductive in terms of raising young and promising wrestlers compared to the other regions of Turkey. The present study is part of a project run by Turkish Wrestling Federation. The project aims to encourage and support youngsters from the regions in which wrestling is unpopular. In line with this project, the participants were surveyed during a camping period organized by Turkish Wrestling Federation in Antalya in June 2021. A written letter of approval of the ethical committee of Hitit University non-interventional studies was retrieved prior to study. The present study was approved by the Turkish Wrestling Federation. Since the participating candidate wrestlers were under 18, a written consent was retrieved from their parents or custodians.

The procedure

The participants were selected on a voluntary basis. Prior to data collection, they were informed by the researchers about potential benefits, risks, and survey questions of the study. In addition to surveying the participants, their physical characteristics (height, weight, BMI, percent fat) were measured. The coaches were also briefed about the study. After briefing, a total of 200 questionnaires were distributed to the participants. The next day, a total of 137 questionnaires were retrieved with a return rate of 80%. Prior to data analyses, the researchers scanned all the surveys and eliminated eight questionnaires since they were not filled out properly. After the elimination of the uncompleted or misconducted ones, a total of 129 eligible questionnaires were detected. However, in some of the questionnaires the participants did not prefer to answer all the questions. Thus, the analysis was run with the answered items. All statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS 25 to analyze survey data. Descriptive statistics such as mean, frequency, standard deviation, and min-max values were administered to summarize variables namely, demographics, socio-economic status indicator, and wrestling motivators.

Results

Firstly, based on our research aim, we analyzed students' answers from survey questions related to (1) young wrestlers' demographics and socio-economic status, (2) the presence of supporting figures in their families or social network, and (3) presence of wrestling idols, as well as other factors leading them to wrestling, including their interest in wrestling and other sports, their perception of and expectation from wrestling and other sports, where and how they do sport, what impedes them in sport, future profession, and family support and so forth with an open response alternative and a statement with one response alternatives were determined and illustrated in the following tables. As for the three hypotheses of the study, H1 was related to disadvantages of wrestling sport and candidate wrestlers mostly coming from lower SES families. H2 was related to the influence of supporting family members or social figures on wrestling motivation. H3 was associated with testing the impact of presence of idols in candidate wrestlers' lives.

Demographics results

In line with this, firstly, the descriptive statistics (Mean, SD, and percentage etc.) regarding the educational status were analyzed and the results were presented in Table 2. The educational level of the participants was examined, and the results illustrated that 87% were attending secondary school. With a closer look at the educational background of mothers of prepubescent wrestlers, 33% of them have not undergone formal education. 42% of them were graduated from primary schools. 23% of them were secondary or upper secondary graduates. None of their mothers have graduated from higher education. The 96% of the mothers were housewives who were unemployed or not included in workforce for more than one year. On the other hand, the 25% of fathers were unemployed or not included in workforce for more than one year. Table 1 illustrates the details about the demographics of the participants.

Table 1. The demographics of the young wrestling candidates ($N = 129$)

Variables	<i>n</i>	Mean	Min–Max	SD
Age in years	129	14,40	10,00–16,00	1,15
Height in meters	129	1,60	1,30–1,83	0,11
Weight in kg	129	55,30	32,00–108,00	15,3
BMI (kg / m ²)	129	20,87	16,00–36,00	3,80
School Grade	112	9,00	6,00–11,00	1,00
Sports Experience (year)	125	3,00	1,00– 8,00	1,57

The demographics presented in Table 1 also served as descriptors in the study.

The Socio-Economic Status of the young wrestlers

Table 2. The socio-economic status of the young wrestling candidates ($N = 129$)

Demographics	<i>n</i>	%	Mean	Min–Max	SD
School grade (secondary)	112	87	9,00	6–11	1,00
Number of Siblings	115	89	5,00	2–15	2,33
Family income (monthly)	110	85			
Minimum wage or below	82	75			
Average	27	24			
High	1	1			
Parental status	110	85	1,90	1–2	0,2
Married	104	95			
Divorced	6	5			
Mother's educational degree (total)	126	98	1,02	0–3	0,95
Not-in-formal	42	33			
Primary	54	43			
Secondary	16	13			
Upper-Secondary	14	11			
Higher Education	0	0			
Father's educational degree	126	98	1,90	0–4	1,10
Not-in-formal	17	14			
Primary	33	26			
Secondary	36	29			
Upper-Secondary	32	25			
Higher Education	8	6			
Mother employment status	129	100	0,10	0–1	0,21
Unemployed	123	95			
Employed	6	5			
Father employment status	123	95	0,80	0–1	0,43
Unemployed	30	23			
Employed	93	72			
Father's job	85	66			
Civil servant	14	11			
Worker	27	21			
Freelancer	33	26			
Other	11	9			
Region 1 (Eastern Turkey)	53	41			
Region 2 (Southeastern Turkey)	76	59			

Table 2 presents the socio-economic status of the young wrestling candidates based on various demographic and economic factors. The table includes information about school grade, number of siblings, family income, parental status, maternal and paternal educational degrees, as well as parental employment status and father's occupation. The data is summarized using counts, percentages, means, ranges (minimum to maximum values), and standard deviations (SD). 87% of the young wrestlers are in 9th grade, with a range from 6th to 11th grade. The average school grade is 9 (indicating the average class level). 89% of the candidates have an average of 5 siblings, ranging from 2 to 15. The standard deviation is 2.33, suggesting variability in the number of siblings. 85% of families earn minimum wage or below. 75% of families earn an average income. 24% of families have high income. Only 1 family reported an income above the high-income threshold. 95% of parents are married. 5% of parents are divorced. 33.3% of mothers have a non-education. 43% of mothers have a primary education. 13% of mothers have secondary education. 11% of mothers have upper secondary education. 98% of mothers have some form of formal education. 26% of fathers have a primary education. 29% of fathers have a secondary education. 25% of fathers have upper-secondary education. 6% of fathers have higher education. There are also 14% of fathers with non-education in the study. 95% of mothers are unemployed. 5% of mothers are employed. 23% of fathers are unemployed. 72% of fathers are employed. Among the fathers, 11% are civil servants, 21% are workers, 26% are freelancers, and 9% have other types of jobs. The table shows data from two regions, labeled as Region one and Region two. 41% young wrestling candidates are from region one whereas 59% are from region two. The candidates mostly come from families with lower to average income levels, with varying parental educational backgrounds and employment statuses. The educational degrees and employment statuses of both parents are quite diverse, and the father's job distribution highlights a variety of occupations among the candidates' fathers.

The findings of the study revealed that young wrestling candidates were coming from families form lower or average socio-economic status and wrestling was not popular sport in those deprived regions, which supports H1.

The Motivators of Wrestling

Five open-ended questions were used to determine the motivators of wrestling across young adolescents. The first two questions were used to determine the role of family in motivating adolescents for wrestling. These two questions were: *"Is there a wrestler in your family or relatives? If yes, who is it?"* and *"Is there anybody in your family or relatives who is engaged in other sports?"*. The findings illustrated that out of 129 participants, 84 (65%) reported that there was nobody in their family or relatives who were engaged in wrestling in the past. Only 3 (2%) reported that their fathers were engaged in wrestling. Also, they reported there are no female figures involved in wrestling including mother or sisters in their families and relatives. On the other hand, nearly half of the participants (48%) also reported that there are some people in their families or relatives who are engaged in other sports. The third question was *"Who encouraged you to become a wrestler?"* 104 out of 129 participants (81%) reported that there is somebody who encouraged them to take up wrestling. Further analysis of the motivators illustrated that the motivators are respectively PE teacher (f:28, 22%), friend(s) (f:24, 19%), sibling(s) (f:19, 15%), father (f:15, 12%) and others (mother, uncle, cousin) (f:18, 14%). The fourth question was *"Who is your idol in wrestling?"* 96 out of 129 participants (74%) reported that there is an inspiring wrestler figure who is inspiring them. Of all the wrestling figures two Turkish wrestling champions are prominent. The first one is Taha AKGÜL (f = 27, 21%). He is nine times European Champion, twice World Champion, and holder of once Olympic Champion title. The second inspiring wrestler is Rıza KAYALP (f = 26, 20%). He is twelve times European Champion, four times World Champion, and

holder of one silver and two bronze Olympic medals. The remaining 36 participants' responses to that question were analyzed and their idols were varied. Thus, they grouped under the "other" category. Because of the age group of the participants, the idols were mainly composed of the recent champions. The last question was "Which family member support you in doing wrestling? Father, mother, or both?" 104 out of 129 participants (90%) reported they receive father support, who encouraged them to take up wrestling. Further analysis of the motivators illustrated that the motivators are respectively Physical Education and Sports Teacher (f:28, 22%), friend(s) (f:24, 19%), sibling(s) (f:19, 15%), father (f:15, 12%) and others (mother, uncle, cousin) (f:18, 14%).

As a result, these findings supported H2 and H3, illustrating that supportive figures in the family or social network, as well as presence of idols wrestlers are associated with candidate wrestlers' motivation to take up wrestling, particularly in deprived regions.

Discussion

The present study aimed to investigate the social, educational, and personal factors that drive young candidate wrestlers from disadvantaged backgrounds and deprived regions to pursue wrestling as a sport. Through a cross-sectional survey design, the study focused on the demographics, socio-economic status, and the motivational antecedents of these young wrestlers. The participants, comprising 129 individuals aged 9 to 16, were carefully selected from relatively disadvantaged regions of Turkey, which historically have not been prolific in producing wrestlers. This research was conducted as part of a project initiated by the TWF, focusing on motivating and supporting youngsters from Eastern regions that are less prominent in wrestling. The findings of the study underscore the pivotal role of social influences in motivating young individuals to take up wrestling. Notably, the people around them played a significant role in their decision to pursue wrestling. The study indicated that key motivating figures include Physical Education Teachers (PETs) friends, siblings, and fathers. These individuals served as role models and sources of inspiration, illustrating the importance of mentorship and support from immediate social circles. Moreover, the presence of an idol wrestler in the lives of the young candidates was prevalent, with the majority expressing that having an idol encouraged them to engage in wrestling. These findings align with the socio-ecological framework of human development, emphasizing the significance of multiple layers of influence in shaping individuals' choices (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Role models and mentors, such as PE teachers and familial figures, provide crucial support and guidance, influencing not only the decision to enter the sport but also the maintenance of a wrestling career. A noteworthy discovery was the substantial prevalence of idol wrestlers among the young participants, with around 70% reporting that an idol had encouraged them to embark on their wrestling journey. This finding aligns with Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory (Bandura, 1986), which posits that observing the achievements and behaviors of role models can instill a sense of self-efficacy and motivation. Idol wrestlers serve as sources of inspiration, offering tangible examples of success within the sport, and play a significant role in shaping the aspirations of these young athletes. This observation underscores the influence of established athletes in shaping the aspirations and choices of young aspirants. The educational and motivational camping periods organized by the TWF emerged as essential elements for engaging young wrestlers in the sport and motivating them to sustain their wrestling careers. Such initiatives provided a platform for fostering interest and commitment among participants. These findings align with previous research that highlights the significance of structured programs and events in fostering motivation and commitment to sports among young individuals (Eccles & Wigfield, 2002). These efforts are visible in the last European championship because there is a champion from these disadvantaged regions

of Türkiye. This could be an indicator of the importance of national sport policies addressing raising athletes from relatively disadvantaged regions in sports. The study further uncovers the impact of educational, motivational, and enjoyable camping periods on fostering sport engagement and sustaining wrestling careers. Such initiatives are in line with self-determination theory (Deci & Ryan, 1985), which underscores the importance of autonomy, competence, and relatedness in motivating individuals to engage in activities. The socio-economic background of the candidate wrestlers was also explored in this study. Nearly all the families represented in the study hailed from low-income groups. This highlights the potential of wrestling to serve as a means of empowerment for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, offering an avenue for personal development and success regardless of financial limitations. Similar studies have indicated that sports can serve as a vehicle for social mobility and self-improvement, enabling individuals to transcend their circumstances and achieve personal growth (Holt, 2008). The supportive environment and structured activities of the camping period likely fulfilled these psychological needs, enhancing the participants' enthusiasm for wrestling. Regarding the socio-economic context, the study highlighted that nearly all families of the candidate wrestlers came from low-income groups. This finding echoes with the broader literature on sports and social mobility, illustrating how sports can offer avenues for personal growth and achievement, irrespective of financial constraints (Coalter, 2007). As a result of this study wrestling is a sport that can be practiced with minimal equipment and resources, making it accessible to young people from underprivileged communities. The study also revealed that wrestling can be practiced in a variety of settings, including schools, community centers, and parks. Therefore, wrestling can be a viable option for young people who may not have access to more expensive sports due to financial constraints. Wrestling is one of the most accessible sports, requiring minimal equipment and facilities compared to other sports. This makes it an ideal option for young people from low-income or underprivileged communities who may not have access to more expensive sports (Witkowski & Czuba, 2019). Wrestling teaches discipline, self-control, and goalsetting, which can benefit young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. High school wrestlers scored higher on measures of discipline, self-control, and goalsetting compared to their non-wrestling peers. The researchers suggested that these skills could be valuable for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may face additional challenges in achieving their goals (Swisher et al., 2013). Wrestling requires intense physical and mental training, as well as a strong work ethic and focus. These skills can help young people develop the discipline and self-control necessary to overcome challenges in other areas of their lives. Wrestling provides opportunities for academic and career success. Wrestling can be a pathway to college scholarships and professional opportunities, which can be particularly valuable for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. High school wrestlers had higher GPAs and were more likely to attend college compared to their non-wrestling peers. Additionally, wrestlers who continued to compete at the collegiate level had higher graduation rates and were more likely to pursue postgraduate education (Davis et al., 2016). Wrestlers who excel in the sport may also develop important life skills, such as teamwork, leadership, and perseverance, which can be useful in a range of careers. Wrestling offers a sense of community and belonging. Wrestling teams often foster a strong sense of camaraderie and support among teammates. For young people from underprivileged communities, who may not have access to other forms of community support, wrestling can provide a sense of belonging and connection. Wrestling can promote physical and mental health. Wrestling is a demanding sport that requires intense physical conditioning, which can improve overall health and well-being. Additionally, the mental discipline required for wrestling can help young people develop resilience and coping skills that can be useful in managing stress and anxiety. Wrestling was associated with improved physical fitness, self-esteem, and mental health among adolescent

boys. The researchers suggested that the intense physical and mental demands of wrestling could help young people develop important life skills and coping strategies. Results suggest that participating in physical activity can lead to positive self-esteem among adolescent girls, particularly for younger girls and those at greatest risk of overweight. These findings highlight the necessity of promoting physical activity among adolescent girls as a method of fostering positive self-worth (Schmalz et al., 2007). Participation in wrestling was associated with a greater sense of community and belonging among high school students. The researchers suggested that this sense of connection may be particularly important for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, who may face social isolation or marginalization (Gilchrist et al., 2017). It is important to acknowledge certain limitations of this study. The cross-sectional survey design provides a snapshot of the participants' motivations and backgrounds at a specific point in time, limiting the ability to establish causality or capture changes over time. Additionally, while the sample size was appropriate for the study's scope, the findings may not be fully generalizable to other contexts or regions.

Conclusion

This study shed light on the motivations behind young wrestlers from disadvantaged backgrounds and regions in Turkey to engage in wrestling. The influence of individuals in their social circles, particularly PETs, friends, siblings, and idols, emerged as key factors driving their interest. Educational and motivational initiatives organized by the Turkish Wrestling Federation played a vital role in nurturing their engagement and commitment. The socio-economic context further emphasized the potential of sports to provide opportunities for personal development and growth, even in the face of financial constraints. These findings contribute to our understanding of the complex interplay between social, educational, and personal factors that shape the choices and motivations of young athletes. The study has provided valuable insights into the motivations of young candidate wrestlers from disadvantaged backgrounds and regions. The roles of influential individuals, including PETs, friends, siblings, fathers, and idol wrestlers, were pivotal in sparking and sustaining their interest in wrestling. Additionally, the organized camping period emerged as a potent tool for enhancing engagement, motivation, and continuation of their wrestling endeavors. The socio-economic context, characterized by low-income families, underscores the transformative potential of sports in empowering individuals to transcend their circumstances.

The findings of this study hold implications for both policy and practice within the realm of sports and youth development. Firstly, the emphasis on role models and mentorship suggests that programs aimed at fostering sports engagement should incorporate opportunities for interaction with accomplished athletes, allowing young individuals to connect with real-life success stories. Moreover, the positive impact of structured camping initiatives highlights the importance of creating supportive environments that cater to participants' psychological needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness. For policymakers and organizations like the Wrestling Federation, these findings underscore the significance of targeting less prominent regions and offering tailored programs that encourage youth participation in sports. Such initiatives have the potential to not only increase sport engagement but also contribute to personal development, self-confidence, and social cohesion among youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. Overall, we can conclude that sport is a tool with great educational potential for working with youth from socially vulnerable backgrounds, especially for the younger participants (Lopez & Kirk, 2022). However, students from low SES were less active than those from higher SES. Key barriers preventing low SES groups participating in sport and physical activity included time (mainly due to academic commitments), cost and a lack of confidence (Griffiths et al.,

2020). In line with this, why youth drop out of sports have three reasons and constraints. Intrapersonal constraints include lack of enjoyment (not having fun, being bored); low perceptions of physical competence; intrinsic pressures (e.g., stress); and perceptions of negative team dynamics (negative feelings toward team or coach). Interpersonal constraints include parental pressure and loss of feelings of ownership and not having enough time to participate in other age-appropriate activities. Finally, structural constraints include time (for training and travel), injuries, cost, and inadequate facilities (Witt & Dangi, 2018). Considering gender as a barrier on sport, male dominated discourses, practices and infrastructures still represent a significant disadvantage for women (Robles, 2019).

From this study results, despite wrestlers have some disadvantages in social status such as the lack of wrestling authority in family members, camping affected them positively and encouraged them wrestling career. Prospective wrestlers had declared that they come from low-income families underlines the socio-economic difficulties. It is thought that situations such as conducting the study in a seaside camp in a 5-star hotel, recognizing idol athletes increase the children's interest in wrestling sport and will have a positive effect on their future sports life despite their disadvantaged backgrounds.

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