

Analysis of the School Attitudes of Middle School Students in School Sports Clubs

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify the differences in school attitudes among middle school students according to their participation in school sports club, participation period, frequency of weekly participation, and number of competitions. For this purpose, 520 middle school students who participated in school sports club and 485 middle school students who did not participate were selected as research participators. The difference in school attitude was analyzed by the presence of school sports club, participation period, the frequency of participation per week, and the number of participation in competitions. Collected data were statistically processed by using the SPSS 25.0 program. Exploratory frequency analysis, reliability analysis, t-test, one-way ANOVA were conducted and verified by the post hoc test. As a result, significant differences are as follows: First, all sub-factors of school attitude of middle school students showed differences as per their participation in school sports club. Second, all sub-factors of school attitude of middle school students showed differences as per the participation period of school sports club. Third, all sub-factors of school attitude of middle school students, except school friend factors showed differences as per the participation frequency of school sports club. Fourth, all sub-factors of school attitude of middle school showed differences as per the participation frequency of school sports club competitions. According to these results, the followings are concluded: First, school sports club policy should be established from a long-term perspective. Second, the number of school sports club competitions should be increased. This study is significant as an empirical data that participation in school sports club positively affects the formation of school attitudes of middle school students.

Keywords: Middle School Student, School sports club, Participation Experience, School-Related Attitudes, ANOVA

1. Introduction

As a new word, 'The 8th grade syndrome' has recently appeared in Korean society with a growing concern about school violence, the problems of young people are emerging as a social problem. In particular, students' emotional difficulties are most frequent among the youth problems. For example, suicide is the number 1 cause of mortality among young people aged between 13 and 19 in Korea, in line with 12.1% of teenagers who feel suicidal thoughts, and 5.2% of teenagers in crisis, such as violence, runaway, and academic suspension. This shows that students' emotional behaviors are getting serious [1]. In addition, some deviant behaviors occur during the period of vigorous physical activities in the physical aspect, causing the problems of social maladjustment including frequent absences, school maladjustment, and school dropout [2]. As adolescence is in a period of self-establishment as well as of instinctive impulse and physical growth, the fate of not only teenagers but also schools and social organizations depends on how to convert negative factors, such as tension, anxiety, conflict, and dissatisfaction in adolescence, into the positive direction so that they can play a role as a member of community [3]. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology [4] is trying to achieve students' health promotion, physical development, and school adaptation through their participation in school sports club. School sports club is a student-led sports organization [4] that promotes health and forms a vibrant school atmosphere through the voluntary participation of the same school's students with a hobby in sports activities, and it has been rapidly growing through the national pilot project since 2007.

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Moreover, it has been decided as one of the four main tasks of the primary and secondary school sports promotion plan [5] (strengthening physical education in curriculum, expanding school sports club and revitalizing sports league, motivating students to participate in sports activities, and establishing infrastructure for student sports activities). Therefore, the number of students who participate in school sports club for more than 17 hours has been steadily increasing to 3,314,820 in 2013, 3,787,401 in 2014, and 3,878,938 in 2015. Accordingly, the students participating in school sports club league showed positive changes in school life adaptability and personality, and the activation of school sports club and the degree of school violence were found to have a negative(-) relationship [6], [7]. In particular, there are many studies reporting that adolescent sports activities are whole-person education that plays an important role in morality and personality by improving the positive aspects of students' personality, empathy, and communication skills, while reducing delinquent traits so that there is a growing social expectation of personality education through school club activities [8], [9]. Other studies [10], [11] also reported that students develop personality and social factors when they participate in school sports club in the medium and long term. However, studies on school sports club activities and school attitudes that is school-related attitudes are very insufficient, given that a school is the space where students spend the most time and have a great influence on the formation of attitudes including their personality.

The accumulation of failure experience at school may lead to negative self-concept as well as loss of interest in school due to dissatisfaction with school, hostility, and frustration [12], [13]. On the other hand, students who have formed positive attitudes towards school adjust to school life appropriately, and show high academic achievement and good relationships with their friends and teachers while participating positively and enthusiastically in various activities at school [14], [15]. Therefore, it is important to form a positive attitudes towards school because the school attitude is closely related to school achievement, school adaptation, misconduct, and youth deviation and affects self-concept, interpersonal relations, and life attitude, thereby greatly influencing students' growth and development. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the differences in the school attitude of middle school students participating in school sports club so as to identify the necessity of school sports club activities at school as a venue for whole-person education that contributes to growing and developing them into healthy citizens with a positive school attitude. To this end, the research hypotheses are as follows. First, their participation/non-participation in school sports club will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school. Second, the participation period of school sports club will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school. Third, the frequency of participation per week in school sports club will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school. Fourth, the number of school sports club competitions will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school.

2. Research Method

2.1. Research subject

In this study, 1st, 2nd and 3rd-grade middle school students in J Province were selected as the subjects of this study by means of random sampling. Specifically, in order to secure the reliability of school sports club activities, this researcher and a co-researcher visited the volleyball, futsal, soccer and netball stadiums of 2019 Superintendent School Sports Club to distribute 550 questionnaires. And a total of 550 questionnaires were all returned, whereas unfaithful 30 questionnaires were excluded. In addition, in order to receive the questionnaires from both the students participating in school sports club and non-participating students, 550 questionnaires were distributed with the consent of 8 junior high schools in J Province, and all of them were returned but unfaithful 65 questionnaires were excluded. As a result, a total of 1,005 questionnaires

were used in this study, including 520 questionnaires from middle school students who participated in school sports club, and 485 questionnaires from non-participating middle school students. <Table 1> shows the general characteristics of the subjects and the experience of participating in school sports club. Based on the study of [16], this study examined the differences between middle school students who participate in school sports club and middle school students who do not, in order to distinguish differences in school attitude according to the degree of participation in school sports club. The duration and the frequency of participation in school sports club were set as variables by considering the studies of [17], [18], and [19]. Besides, in the study of [20], the school attitude was also examined according to the number of participation in school sports club competitions, given that there were differences in self-esteem, school belonging, and school life satisfaction according to the number of participation in school sports club competitions and the prizes in the competitions, and there were also differences in educational experience [21] according to the number of participation in school sports club competitions.

Table 1. General characteristics of research subjects and school sports club participation experience

Category		Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
	1st	273	27%
Grade	2nd	333	33%
	3rd	399	40%
Darticipation status	Participation	520	52%
Participation status	Non-participation	485	48%
	1 st	118	23%
Participants' grade	2 nd	183	35%
	3 rd	219	42%
	≥6 months	103	20%
Darticipation pariod	6 ~ 12 months	122	23%
Participation period	1 ~ 2 years	165	32%
	≤3 years	130	25%
	1 time	148	28%
In the last year Frequency of participation per week	2 ~ 3 times	189	37%
equality of participation per week	≤ 4 times	183	35%
	1 time	158	30%
Number of participation	2~3 times	202	39%
	≤ 4 times	160	31%

2. Research tools

This study revised and used the questionnaire for middle school students' school attitude, which was developed by [22], in consideration of the development level and school characteristics of middle school students. [22] made a questionnaire about school attitude based on a total of 35 questions: 9 questions of students' attitudes towards their school's environment factors, namely school environmental factors that reflect students' attitudes toward the overall physical environment of school, such as the cleanliness and

comfort of school facilities, air conditioning and heating, water supply and meal service; 7 questions of school teacher factors that reflect students' preference for subject teachers and homeroom teachers, teachers' teaching styles, and attitudes related to relationships with teachers; 7 questions of school friend factors that reflect preferences for school friends, attitudes related to relationships with friends; 6 questions of school learning factors that reflect the attitudes related to school classes, tasks, tests and scores; 6 questions of school general factors that reflect the attitudes related to school life and school system.

This researcher formed a group of experts, such as 1 major professor and 3 doctors. And they removed school environment factors in consideration of the suitability of a questionnaire and middle school students' concentration on the questionnaire and revised the questionnaire into a total of 4 factors and 26 questions. Prior to this survey, a pilot test was conducted on a total of 157 students including 50 students in the first grade, 52 in the second grade, and 55 in the third grade at J Middle School located in J Province from March 18 to 22, 2019. In the case of the questions about personal characteristics and the degree of participation in school sports club, the validity and reliability tests were not conducted by nominal or ordinal scale, but school attitude variables were tested for validity and reliability. As a result of the analysis, a total of 26 questions were classified into four factors: school teacher factors(22.377%), school friend factors(19.383%), school learning factors(18.110%), and school general factors(16.945%), and the cumulative variance was 76.815%. The factor loading of each factor was more than .05, and the reliability was high from .924 to .960.

Table 2. Validation attitude and reliability of school

Factor Question	School teacher	School friend	School study	School general	Reliability
3	.866	.139	216	.231	
4	.862	.139	208	.143	
1	.856	.160	168	.167	
2	.855	.149	252	.194	.960
5	.822	.165	187	.231	
7	.806	.152	196	.310	
6	.804	.132	101	.198	
8	.057	.841	135	.184	
11	.238	.815	111	.214	
12	.204	.814	171	.175	
10	.160	.814	021	.250	.926
8	.258	.791	136	.180	
13	.069	.773	153	006	
14	.030	.719	144	.231	
23	194	124	.846	069	
26	194	124	.846	069	
22	190	161	.827	255	.924
25	190	161	.827	255	.524
21	242	173	.786	391	
24	242	173	.786	391	
19	.179	.191	200	.813	.949

16	.305	.279	170	.775	
18	.182	.180	195	.765	
17	.214	.160	191	.737	
20	.269	.286	268	.701	
15	.387	.226	268	.701	
Eigenvalue	5.818	5.040	4.709	4.406	
Variance%	22.377	19.383	18.110	16.945	
Cumulative variance %	22.377	41.759	59.869	76.815	

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequact=.933, Bartlett's Test of Sphericity=4212.230, p =.000

3. Data analysis

The collected questionnaires were coded on a computer and processed by using a SPSS 25.0 statistical program. First, a frequency analysis was conducted to find out the general characteristics of the study subjects and the degree of participation experience in school sports club. Second, an exploratory factor analysis and Cronbach's α coefficient with Varimax rotation were performed for the validity and reliability of the questionnaire questions. Third, independent-samples t-test and one-way ANOVA were carried out to find out the differences in middle school students' attitudes towards school according to the degree of participation experience in the school sports club, and Scheffé test was conducted as a post-hoc test.

4. Result

4.1. Differences in middle school students' school attitude depending on whether they participate in school sports club or not

Hypothesis I of this study is "The participation in school sports club will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school". The analysis of variance to verify this found that the participants of school sports club competitions showed a significant difference in all sub-factors of school attitude, compared to non-participants.

Table 3. School attitude differences according to middle school students' participation in school Sports club

	Participation status			
School attitude	Non-participation(n=485) Participation(n=520) t		t-value	p
	Average and standard devi			
School teacher	23.93 ± 6.02	27.79 ± 5.42	-8.867	.000
School friend	27.38 ± 4.45	28.87 ± 5.01	-3.991	.000
School general	23.09± 3.96	24.43 ± 3.79	-4.559	.000
School learning	21.09 ± 4.10	21.99 ± 4.99	-2.627	.009

2. Differences in middle school students' school attitudes according to the period of participation in school sports club

Hypothesis II of this study is "The period of participation in school sports club will affect middle school student's attitude." To verify this, the results of variance analysis of 520 school sports club participants are shown in <Table 4>. As shown in <Table 4>, there was a significant difference in all sub-factors of school attitude according to the participation period of school sports club. Specifically, in terms of school teacher factors, D group(M=29.48, SD=4.56) was significantly higher than A group(M=26.05, SD=5.23) and C group(M=27.30, SD=5.68). As for school friend factors, D group(M=30.80, SD=4.00) was significantly higher than A group(M=25.98, SD=4.59), B group(M=28.64, SD=4.61), and C group(M=28.96, SD=5.38). And C and B groups were also significantly higher than A group. As for school general factors, D group(M=26.39, SD=4.14) and C group(M=24.70, SD=5.01) were significantly higher than A group (M=22.49, SD=5.12), and D group was also significantly higher than B group(M=23.36, SD=5.30). As for school learning factors, D group(M=23.46, SD=4.06) was significantly higher than A group(M=20.48, SD=4.47) and B group(M=21.18, SD=4.26).

Table 4. School attitude differences according to male middle school students' sports club participation period

	Participation period(n=520)						
School attitude	A(n=103)	B(n=122)	C(n=165)	D(n=130)	F value	p	Post-hoc
Average and standard deviation							
School teacher	26.05±5.23	28.01±4.28	27.30±5.68	29.48±4.56	6.358	.000	A <d C<d< td=""></d<></d
School friend	25.98±4.59	28.64±4.61	28.96±5.38	30.80±4.00	12.761	.000	A <b,c,d B<d< td=""></d<></b,c,d
School general	22.49±5.12	23.36±5.30	24.70±5.01	26.39±4.14	9.525	.000	A <c,d B<d< td=""></d<></c,d
School learning	20.48±4.47	21.18±4.26	22.23±5.46	23.46±4.06	6.001	.001	A <d B<d< td=""></d<></d

o A : ≤6 months B : 6~12 months C : 1~2 years D : ≥3 years

3. School attitude of middle school students according to the frequency of participation per week in school sports club

Hypothesis III of this study is "The frequency of participation per week in school sports club will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school." To verify this, the results of variance analysis of 520 school sports club participants are shown in <Table 5>. In <Table 5>, there were significant differences in all sub-factors of school attitude according to the frequency of participation per week in school sports club. Specifically, in terms of school teacher factors, C group(M=29.23, SD=5.53) was significantly higher than A group(M=26.01, SD=5.68). There were no significant differences among A group(M=27.88, SD=5.24), B group(M=28.61, SD=5.24) and C group(M=29.71, SD=5.63). As for school general factors, group C(M=25.90, SD=4.70) was significantly higher than A group(M=23.24, SD=5.02) and B group(M=24.03, SD=4.15). As for school academic factors, C group(M=22.91, SD=5.16) was significantly higher than A group(M=20.62, SD=4.94).

Table 5. School attitude differences in middle school students according to the frequency of participation per week in school sports club

	frequency of participation per week (n=520)					
School attitude	A(n=148)	B(n=189)	C(n=183)	F Value	р	Post-hoc
Average and standard deviation						
School teacher	26.01±5.68	27.65±5.13	29.23±5.53	9.338	.000	A <c< td=""></c<>
School friend	27.88±5.43	28.61±5.24	29.71±5.63	3.121	.045	
School general	23.24±5.02	24.03±4.15	25.90±4.70	10.103	.000	A,B <c< td=""></c<>
School learning	20.62±4.94	21.96±4.58	22.91±5.16	5.664	.004	A <c< td=""></c<>

A: 1 time B: 2~3 times C: ≥4 times

4. Differences in middle school students' attitudes towards School according to the frequency of participation in sports club competitions

Hypothesis **IV** of this study is "The frequency of participation in school sports club competitions will affect middle school students' attitudes towards school." To verify this, the results of variance analysis of 520 school sports club participants are shown in <Table 6>. In <Table 6>, there were significant differences in all sub-factors of school attitude according to the frequency of participation in school sports club competitions. Specifically, in terms of school teacher factors, C group(M=29.39, SD=4.98) was significantly higher than A group(M=26.79, SD=4.81) and B group(M=27.13, SD=4.86). As for school friend factors, C group(M=29.99, SD=5.07) was significantly higher than A group(M=28.17, SD=5.08) and B group M=28.26, SD=4.61). As for school general factors, C group(M=22.84, SD=5.04) was significantly higher than A group(M=21.35, SD=4.27). As for school learning factors, C group(M=26.06, SD=4.97) was significantly higher than A group(M=22.67, SD=5.53) and B group(M=24.36, SD=5.13). B group was also found to be significantly higher than A group.

Table 6. School attitude differences according to middle school students' participation in school sports club competitions

	participation in school sports club competitions (n=520)					
School attitude	A(n=158)	B(n=202)	C(n=160)	F value	p	Post-hoc
Average and standard deviation						
School teacher	26.79±4.81	27.13±4.86	29.39±4.98	9.868	.000	A <c B<c< td=""></c<></c
School friend	28.17±5.08	28.26±4.61	29.99±5.07	5.221	.006	A <c B<c< td=""></c<></c
School general	21.35±4.27	21.73±4.06	22.84±5.04	3.506	.031	A <c< td=""></c<>
School learning	22.67±5.53	24.36±5.13	26.06±4.97	12.070	.000	A <b<c< td=""></b<c<>

4. Discussion

The purpose of this study is to identify differences in school attitudes among middle school students in J Province according to their participation in school sports club, participation period, frequency of weekly participation, and number of competitions. As a result of the study, statistically significant differences were found in all sub-factors of the school attitude according to the participation in school sports club, the period of participation, the frequency of weekly participation, and the number of competitions. This finding shows that middle school students' participation in school sports club has a positive effect on forming a positive attitude towards school. And the subsequent detailed discussions are as follows.

First, the reason why the experience of participating in school sports club positively influences the school teacher factors of school attitude is that the students interact more with their teachers. The study [21], which conducted a qualitative study of the students participating in school sports club for two years, reported that the relationship with teachers improved after participation in school sports club. Because the attitude towards teachers improved as the number of not temporary but continuous interactions increased due to the change of attitude into positive, the decreased prejudice about teachers, and the recognition for teachers. These results are partially same as the previous studies [23], [24], [25] that have reported that the students who participated in school sports club activities showed better relationships with their schoolmates and teachers, less school violence, and overall satisfaction with school, compared to students who did not participate.

Second, the reason why the experience of participating in school sports club positively influences the school friend factors of school attitude is that participation in the school sports club strengthens social skills. For example, school sports club activities allow the participants to constantly interact with seniors, juniors, and peers, and through such interactions, they can reduce self-centered perspectives. In addition, they go through the social development of learning not only the principles of cooperation, competition and negotiation, but also how to respond to social rules and pressures [26]. It is thought that social skills necessary for interpersonal relationships are acquired through school sports club activities, and interactions with friends is promoted. Young people use social relationships with their parents, teachers, and peers as emotional and psychological resources [27], [28], and their social and psychological adaptability improves through interactions such as love, protection, and acceptance of them [29]. Besides, children and adolescents who have positive peer relationships respond appropriately to stressful events, develop positive personalities as they grow, and have successful experience in human relationships [30], [31]. Considering this point, the above-mentioned problem of students can be reduced through school sports club activities.

Third, the reason why the experiences of participating in school sports club have a positive effect on the school general factors of school attitude is that the participants may feel grateful to their school. For example, school sports club activities are made by many supports from school, such as human resource support including teachers who directly teach students, physical support for sports equipment and space required for the activities, and financial support for drinks and snacks. This support from school allowed the students who participated in school sports club to feel satisfied and grateful to school and to cultivate a positive attitude towards every situation and environment in school life. The students who feel positive about their school and perceive themselves as active participants in school life are less likely to become academic burnout under academic stresses [32]. When they experience positive emotions about school due to the supportive environment and accessibility, encouragement, and kindness from school, they

recognize them as valuable and precious people who can be deeply accepted. In this regard, school sports club activities are more important.

Fourth, the reason why the experience of participating in school sports club improved the school learning factors of school attitude is because participation in school sports club strengthens the students' self. For example, according to the study of [18], participation in school sports club competitions provides middle school students with an opportunity to find out the changed result that both they and their team have tried to develop. And regular training and cooperation between team members to prepare for the competitions was found to have a positive effect on self-enhancement. In addition, considering not only the study that reported that there was a positive correlation between academic achievement and self-concept [34], but also the study[35] that eliminated the influence of intelligence index and reported that there was a positive correlation between self-concept and average academic score, it seems that students who participated regularly for a long period of time had a stronger self-concept, and thus had confidence and necessity for learning, thereby forming a positive learning attitude.

5. Conclusion & Suggestions

The purpose of this study is to identify the necessity of school sports club activities by analyzing the differences in school attitude among the middle school students participating in school sports club. To this end, 520 middle school students who participated in school sports club and 485 non-participants were randomly selected, and a total of 1,005 students were selected as the subjects of this study, in order to analyze the differences in school attitude according to the participation/non-participation in school sports club, the period of participation, the frequency of participation per week. As for data processing, frequency analysis, exploratory factor analysis, independent samples t-test, and one-way ANOVA were performed using SPSS Ver 25.0, and Scheffé test was performed as a post-hock test. As a result, first, there was a significant difference in all sub-factors of middle school students' school attitude depending on whether they participated in school sports club or not. Second, there was a significant difference in all sub-factors of middle school students' school attitude according to the participation period of school sports club. Third, there was a significant difference in all sub-factors of middle school students' school attitude, except school friend factors, according to the frequency of participation per week in school sports club. Fourth, there was a significant difference in all sub-factors of middle school students' school attitude according to the number of participation in school sports club competitions. Based on these findings[36], two conclusions are suggested as follows.

First, the policy of school sports club should be established from a long-term perspective. Overall, middle school students who participated in school sports club for more than 3 years were significantly higher than middle school students who participated for 1~2 years, 6~12 months, and 6 months or less in all sub-factors of school attitude. However, middle school students who participated for less than 6 months showed the lowest score in all sub-factors, but they were not significantly different from the middle school students who participated for 6~12 months and 1~2 years. These results suggest that a positive school attitude is formed by participating in school sports club for at least one year, and students need to participate in school sports club for more than 2 years to show a prominent effect. Therefore, the policy of school sports club should be developed from a long-term perspective. For example, physical education teachers have to bear all the burden of school physical education (PE curriculum, all physical education activities other than the subject). They also should plan and operate all matters including space, sports equipment, time, student motivation, school atmosphere, student record, and sports guidance to run school sports club. This physical education system managed under the sole responsibility is likely to overburden the teachers. It

needs to build a system for supporting physical education teachers at national level by improving the environment of school sports club, which relies on the sacrifice and passion of PE teachers, from a long-term perspective. In other words, the policy of school sports club should be established from a long-term perspective, such as securing sufficient budget, constructing and flexibly using a pool of community sports professionals, promoting the positive effects of school sports club activities for parents, students and teachers, and praising physical education teachers for their effort to activate physical education.

Second, it needs to increase the number of school sports club competitions. The results of the study show that the higher the frequency of participation per week and the number of participation in the competitions, the more significant differences appear in all sub-factors of school attitude. Specifically, students have to participate in school sports club four or more times per week in order to form a positive school attitude. And the students' attitude towards school is positively changed only if the cumulative number of participants in the competitions is at least 4 times. Currently, only schools that win or take the second place in city and county competitions can participate in provincial competitions, and only the schools that win at each different game of the provincial competition can participate in the national school sports club. Therefore, most students who participate in the school sports club end the competition in early May. The problem is that it is difficult to lead students to participate in school sports club after the competition. Therefore, in order to make students participate in school sports club more than 4 times a week and in the competitions more than 4 times, the number of school sports club competitions must be increased. One way may be holding national school sports club every semester as it currently is, while having league matches or tournaments again at the city and province-level, except for the teams that participate in the upper-level competitions. In other words, a national school sports club competition will be held once a semester, twice a year, and the city and provincial school sports club competition will be held twice a semester or four times a year.

Based on the results and the conclusions of this study, the suggestion for follow-up research is that qualitative research should be conducted on school sports club and school attitude. Since school attitude is about most important factors in school life, such as teachers, friends, and schoolwork, it needs to conduct exploratory research on how school sports club activities help the formation of positive school attitude. This study is thought to provide the clues to alleviate students' emotional problems which are emerging as serious social problems.

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