



Description of Motor Skill Development and Parent Socioeconomic Status of West Java Little League Baseball Athletes

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Abstract

Elite sport achievement in early childhood is inseparable from parent financial supports. In Little League Baseball sport, parents invest money to help their children grow and develop optimally. Parents put their hopes and aspirations for their children to become great Indonesian Baseball players. This study aimed at determining the socioeconomic status characteristics of the Little League Baseball athlete parents in West Java. This study used a cross-sectional study method. Sixteen parents volunteered to fill out the Social Economic Status questionnaire via Google Form. Data were analyzed using percentage techniques and Spearman correlation test. The results showed that the Socioeconomic Status (SES) of the Little League Baseball athlete parents was in the middle to upper category. The athlete's motor development was at a good level. The socioeconomic status condition of the Little League Baseball athlete parents, who were included in the middle to upper category, had a beneficial effect on the optimal training process because the training demand fulfillment requires financial support.

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INTRODUCTION

The participation of children and adolescents in sports can optimize their growth and development (Hills et al., 2015; Lubans et al., 2016). Health is carried out through parental encouragement for children to participate in various sports at an early age (Gould, D., & Westfall, S, 2014; Hills et al., 2015). Baseball is a sport that requires many tools in its game. The considerable expense that the parents should incur in Baseball gives them economic considerations. (Humphreys, B. R., & Ruseski, J. E, 2006). The number of baseball athletes in Indonesia is still very small compared to other community sports. Many people think that Baseball is an expensive sport because the individual and team equipment are quite expensive. In Japan and America, Baseball is popular considering the playing baseball benefits for positive character building in children (Xia, M., Hu, P., & Zhou, Y, 2020).

The role of parents is necessary for maintaining the motivation and continuity of children to be consistently participating in training and competitions (Post, E. G, et al., 2018). However, some studies show that the presence of parents in the game puts pressure on children. However, there are also studies showing that parents and family are a strong foundation for children to keep fighting and not give up during the competition (Post, E. G, et al., 2018). Parent motivations in involving their children in sports are varied. Some parents want their children to be able to socialize with their peers, and some others want to introduce their children to physical activity through participation in sports clubs for health purposes (Xia, M., Hu, P., & Zhou, Y, 2020).

The parent's socioeconomic conditions have an influence on the choice of sports, which can certainly support a child's career in adulthood. Elite sports are believed to give children the opportunity to compete to become tough individuals (Theokas, C., Danish, S., Hodge, K., & Heke, I, 2007). The investment perspective's idea is that parents aim to maximize their children's future economic,

social, and emotional well-being through the investment in early childhood education. (Stahl, Schober, & Spiess, 2017). Research shows that 80% of CEOs in America are student-athletes, which shows that sports participation can provide athletes with experiences to become individuals who never give up and have a high fighting power.

There is no data on early childhood motor development in Little League Baseball athletes that is associated with the parent's economic status. It is considered important so that the process of fostering early childhood athletes can be optimal, not only for the international Baseball sports achievements but also for improving the quality of Indonesian human resources in general. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to describe the parent socioeconomic status development and motor development of Little League Baseball athletes.

METHOD

The research method used in this study was descriptive, while the research design used ex-post facto design. The research subjects were 38 Bandung Little League Baseball athletes and their parents who were willing to participate in this study. The completed data were 20 (the participation rate was 67%). Some of the data were incomplete because some athletes were not present during the motor development test.

Motor development data were collected through direct observation on the children during the practice day. The instrument used to measure motor development was TGMD-2. The parental SES questionnaire used the developed Instrument (Scale) for Measuring the Socioeconomic Status of a Family developed by (Aggarwal et al., 2005). Parents filled out the SES questionnaire through the Google Form. Data analysis was administered using Descriptive Statistics, while correlation test employed Kendall and Spearman Correlation tests.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The parent socioeconomic status (SES) is divided into three categories, including upper, middle, and lower categories. Most of the parent socioeconomic status was in the middle category.

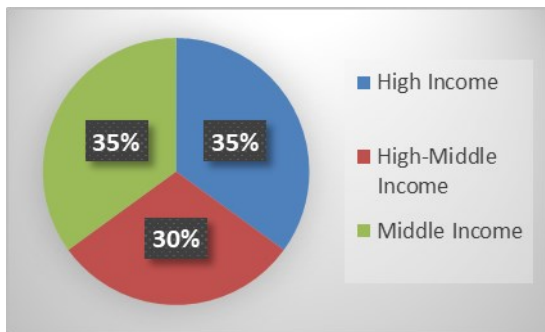


Figure. 1 Socioeconomic Status Category Proportio

Figure 1 shows the socioeconomic status category of the Little League Baseball athlete parents starts from middle to upper category with an even distribution, namely 35% in the upper category, 30% in the upper middle category, and 35% in the middle category.

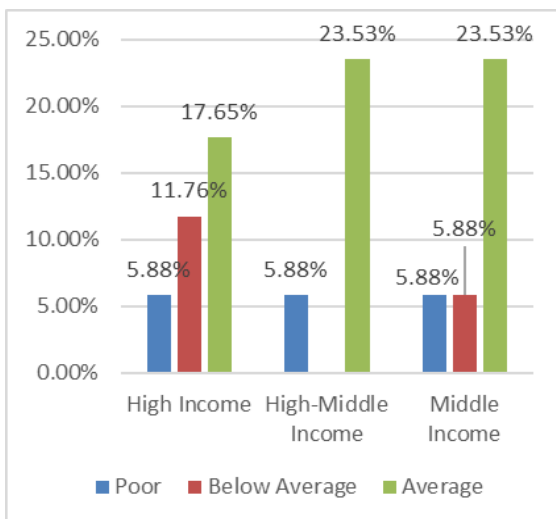


Figure 2. Motor Development based on Parent Socio-Economic Status

Figure 2 shows the athlete motor development according to the parent socioeconomic status. The motor development of the middle economic level athlete group shows that

23.53% of the athletes were in the average category and 5,88% of the athletes were in the below the average and poor category. In the upper middle socioeconomic status group, 23.53% of the athletes were at the below the average category and 5.88% of the athletes were in the poor category. Meanwhile, in the upper socioeconomic group, 17.65% of the athletes were in the average category, 11.76% of the athletes were in the below-average category, and 5.88% of the athletes were in the very poor category.

Table 1. Correlation between Motor Develop-

		SES	Motor Dev
SES	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	0.118
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	0.474
	N	38	38
Motor Dev	Correlation Coefficient	0.118	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.474	
	N	38	38

ment and Parent Socioeconomic Sta

Table 1 shows the relationship between motor development and socioeconomic status from the Spearman correlation test ($r = 0.118$ and $p = 0.474$). The data show a low correlation coefficient and p coefficient > 0.01 . It concludes that there is no strong relationship between motor development and parent socioeconomic status.

Figure 1 shows the parent socioeconomic status of the Little League Baseball athletes. The data show that socioeconomic groups range from middle to upper levels. In developing countries, like Indonesia, Baseball is considered as a prestigious and expensive sport because there is quite a lot of equipment for the athletes and the limited availability of baseball fields. Competitions are only in a few cities in West Java. It is not uncommon to take part in championships held abroad. Operational costs

are quite high, so Baseball can only be followed by certain economic circles. The socioeconomic status level also makes the parent orientation in introducing and encouraging their children to take part in Baseball not only for achievement, but also for the athlete self-development, such as socialization, competitive spirit, health reasons, and to become a sporty person through team sports.

The data in Table 1 show that there are motor development differences in each socioeconomic status level. The socio-economic status of the country becomes a factor in children involvement in sports activities. For example, in high-income countries, family with low socioeconomic status conditions have an effect on the children's participation in sports clubs (Johnstone, et al, 2019). Students with higher socioeconomic status conditions show higher motor skills than those with lower socioeconomic status conditions (Klein, et al, 2015). Participation in sports strengthens children's relationships with the communities in which the sporting organization is located. Thus, sports are expected to encourage a sense of togetherness in sports clubs. It is not only to foster a sense of love for building the club, but also to foster a sense of belonging to one another (Lin, et al, 2016).

The results of this study indicate that there is no significant relationship between the parent socioeconomic status (SES) and the motor development of Little League Baseball athletes. The condition can certainly describe the conditions existing in the Little League baseball athlete environment. Economic conditions in disadvantaged communities often risk exclusion from club sport participation and health benefits. The lack of club income does not address the gap to include economically disadvantaged children and youth. Thus, only certain economic groups can enjoy participation in sports clubs (Rosso, E., & McGrath, R, 2016). Public authorities should be able to provide opportunities for all people to participate and benefit in sports to improve fitness levels and motor skills (Vandendriessche, et al, 2012).

Studies conducted in England on motor skill aspects of children aged 4-7 years showed that motor skills were below average with clear differences on gender and socioeconomic status. Sports teachers and coaches must focus on developing movement skills while considering differences in gender and socioeconomic status (Morley, et al, 2015). Another study showed that socioeconomic status was a significant predictor of involvement in children aged 6-9 years in sports. In the children and adolescents groups, the higher the socioeconomic status, the more frequent the involvement (White & McTeer, 2012).

The motor development of Little League Baseball athletes in this study was taken in athletes who lived in urban areas. The open space in urban areas is not wider than that in rural areas. Some residences have open spaces to overcome space limitations which become a solution in meeting the child movement needs and also supporting motor development aspects and physical activity in children and adolescents.

CONCLUSION

The proportion of the parent socioeconomic status level were 30% in the middle category, 35% in the upper middle category, and 35% in the upper category. The proportion of the motor development level of Little League Baseball athletes based on the parent socioeconomic status were mostly in the average category, while a small portion were in the below average and very poor categories. There is no relationship between the parent socioeconomic status and the Little League Baseball athlete motor development.

Future research can examine the balance of the athlete energy intake and expenditure and the impact of sports participation in Little League Baseball clubs on the athlete development comprehensively.

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