

## **An Analysis of the Arrangements in the Field of Sports Included in the Party Program of the Political Parties in Turkey**

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**Abstract:** As the indispensable organizations of modern societies, today's political parties undertake the responsibility of the reflection of the political will of the society in the political arena. Political parties are the organizations, which attempt to gain power within the framework of the constitution and the laws. Therefore, they try to introduce their leaders, ideologies and implementations through party programs and various propaganda tools. This study aimed to answer the question: "What are the targets of political parties in Turkey in the field of sports?" The data was collected through document analysis method, which is one of the qualitative data collection tools. The data was subjected to "content analysis" among qualitative data analysis methods. The results of the study indicated that the political parties developed views in 26 different subjects in the field of sports.

**Key words:** Political parties • Party programs • Sports • The implementations and targets in the field of sport  
• Turkey

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The history of management science can be based upon the beginning of the human history. Even in the primitive societies, the presence of the administrator people and administered people is accepted by the management science. In every society, the presence of different groups who support the administrators and who make opposition them causes the individuals who have different management approaches to organize separately in groups. This situation was the starting point of the modern political parties. No matter what is the regime of the communities, the people who do not think like the present government have tended to reveal their desires to have a voice in the management of the community partially or completely as organizational.

The first pioneers of the political parties of our modern-day had begun to emerge on the stage of management after the French Revolution in 1789. The Conservative Party which was founded in England in 1830s and the Democratic Party which was founded in the United States in the same period, were named as the oldest political parties, which were able to survive until today. Because of the natural consequence of a variety of ethnic, cultural, religious and management differences that today's societies have, it is possible to classify the

political parties which can be seen in the following manner according to their ideology which they defend. These can be called as the Conservative Parties, the Social Democratic Parties, the Nationalist Parties, the Christian Democratic Parties, the Islamic Parties, Green Parties, the Socialist Parties, the Communist Parties, the Liberal Parties, etc... When considering of the recent history of the political movements of Turkey, at the end of the last period of the Ottoman Empire, it can be mentioned that, it was the emergence of the first political party that the organization which was called as Ittihad-i Osmani was taken the name of 'İttihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti' in 1908. And the first political party of the today's Turkey is the Republican People's Party taken this name in 1927, but formerly it was an organization called as the People's Legion than it was given the name of the Republican People's Legion and then lastly it was given the name of the Republican People's Party in 1927 [1].

In accordance with the Constitution and the laws, the political parties of today are defined as organizations, which have legal personality and which organize to operate in the countrywide with the aim of the country to reach to the level of the contemporary civilization at a democratic state and in a social order for ensuring the national will through the parliamentarian and the local government elections with works and open propagandas

with the direction of the opinions specified in the regulations and in the programs. Although, the emergence of political parties in the modern sense is relatively new, in many countries, the parties have become indispensable factor of the political life in the short time, with showing very rapid growth and have gained an extraordinary importance. The reason of why the parties are accepted as indispensable factors of the democracy and accepted as the head actor of the political life is the function that the parties fulfill [2, 3, 4].

Today, in our country there are currently 60 political parties, which are active by 2009 [5]. According to current law in Turkey, the political parties must organize, at least, in 41 provinces for participating in the election. Many of the parties, which are still active, have not got this organizational structure and the number of the qualifications. And for this reason, in Turkish political scene, these parties which are considered as 'Signboard party' by the society, are called as parties which have not got any activity or have got very little activity in terms of the activities and the potential of the vote. After 1993, 38 parties, which take part in the political scene, have not participated in an election yet. And this situation has supported this idea. Although there is a very little vote potential in our country, from time to time, there are also small parties which are effective in the political scene are also available. When the recent 30-year period of our country is examined, it can be seen that, there are approximately hundred parties which were established and which have a variety of vote rates. Very few of them can take part in Turkish political scene in the long term. But, the most of them had to withdraw from the political scene in the course of time and cause of several reasons.

It is seen that, 18 parties, which participated in the last general election, held in 2007 and the local election held in 2009, are the parties, which were founded after 1983. In the general elections, which held in 2007, including the votes of independent candidates, in a total of four parties (AKP, CHP, MHP and DP) took 92.57% of the votes throughout Turkey and they have been accepted themselves as the main elements of the political scene [6-9]. In this election, 35.049.682 people had voted throughout Turkey and in consequence of the election, the AK Party won the elections in the first place with 46.58% of the votes. The Republican People's Party with 20.88% of the votes and the Nationalist Movement Party with 14.27% of the votes followed this party. Respectively, the Democratic Party with 5.24% of the votes and in a general total, the independent candidates with 5.24% of the votes followed these parties, which were in the first three rows after the election.

The political parties have a vital role to ensure and to continue the social peace. 'The most important functions of the Political parties are; to clarify the political views in the community and to give them direction, to stimulate the problems of the country and to demand vote for coming to power with regulations and programs which can solve these problems and which show the principles of the works' [1]. As content the party programs are written sources in which the problems in many areas identified by the political parties stated and how and in what manner they will made their services which they target. For this reason, the party programs of the political parties are extremely important sources in the terms of easily understanding the approaches of the parties about the issues, which have the social importance and the solutions that they foresee about these issues. The parties undertake to do the changes, which are in their programs when they come to power. When the party programs are examined, it can be seen that there are so many titles from the education, the health and the economy and to the tourism. One of the topics which is in the program of the party is the sport. All the parties determine the problems in the sports field and explain the regulations about the changes that they would like to perform in the party program and they have the tendency to answer to the expectations of the society about this issue [10-25].

**The Purpose of the Study:** The purpose of the study is to determine what the differences and similarities between regulations that the political parties, which are still active in our country, aim to do in the sports field. In the direction of this general purpose, in the party programs of the political parties, it is looked for an answer about the question of what arrangements that they aim to achieve in sports area. The political parties of which the Party Programs are examined within the context of the research are; The Motherland Party (ANAP), the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the Independent Republic Party (BCP), the Great Union Party (BBP), the Independent Turkey Party (BTP), the Republican People's Party (CHP), the Democratic Party (DP), the Democratic Left Party (DSP), the Labour Party (EMEP), the People's Ascent Party (HYP), the Workers' Party (IP), the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), the Nation Party (MP), the Freedom and Solidarity Party (ODP), the Social Democrat People's Party (SHP), the Felicity Party (SP), the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP), the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSİP), the National Party (YP).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study is limited with the political parties which are still active and which have played important roles in the recent past of Turkish political scene. 20 political parties, which are still active in our country, are in the scope of the research. The political scene, in this election, 35.049.682 people had voted.

The parties which were closed for various reasons and which could not participate in the elections throughout the country are excluded from the scope of the research. In this research period, also the parties which are active and which merged with the other parties and then withdrew from the political scene in the time period that the research findings were collected, had been kept within the scope of research.

The data of the study have been obtained in the direction of document analysis, which is one of the methods of the qualitative data collection. The data of the study were taken from the party programs and they were subjected to content analysis. The party programs of all parties have been obtained from printed sources or via the internet.

**The Model of the Research:** The research was designed as a search model. 'The search model is a research approach which aims to describe a situation happened in the past or currently happens with its existing form' [26]. The research data were collected with the analysis of the document. The document analysis which is one of the method of the qualitative analysis includes the analysis of the written materials researched' [27].

**The Analysis of the Data:** The analysis of the research data have been subjected to the "content analysis" which is one of the methods of the data analysis of the qualitative research method [26,27]. At first, the data were separately coded by the researcher. And then the categories were created by using these codes.

**Finding:** In the context of research, the opinions of all parties about the sports that they assert and which take part in the party programs were analyzed in detail and one by one. As a result of this research, it has been identified that, all parties have expressed the opinions about 26 separate issues in sports. In line with these opinions, it has been determined in which points the parties have common attitudes or different attitudes about direction that they want to give to Turkish sports. And in addition

to this, it was also determined which political parties express their opinions about the sports more open and more clearly in the party program.

Following the research, it has been identified that the Social Democratic Populist Party and the National Party almost never mention about the sports in their party programs. These parties, which do not specify the opinions about sports in their party programs, are 10.0% of the parties, which are included in the scope of the research. In terms of understanding of the importance of the sport, it can be seen a pleasing case that the vast majority such as 90.0% of the parties which are in the political scene include the opinions about sports in their party programs and express them.

It has been determined that the parties which explain their opinions in detail about sports in their party programs and which share in what manner the attitudes and practices in sport will be with their voters and with society wide are respectively HYP, DP and AKP. In their party program, from this party HYP with 13 topic titles, DP with 12 topics and AKP with 13 topic titles have been explained their opinions about the sports and applications.

There are two-topic titles in which the parties have the most common consensus about sports. These are topic titles which are about 'The presentation of amateur sports branches and ensuring their extending and the necessity of supporting the mass sports' and 'increasing the number of the sports facilities and strengthening the physical infrastructure'. It was determined that 60% of the parties, which are within the scope of the research, have a common attitude about these two issues and hold the same opinion. When the topic titles are examined, it can be seen that the political parties give these topics prominence; the currency of the amateur sports branches in Turkey have not been sufficiently ensured yet and for to be performed widely these sports branches throughout the country it is necessary to increase the number of sports facilities.

45.0% of the parties have seen the sports as an instrument which can improve the mental health, the physical health and the idea health. And 35.0% of the parties have advocated the idea of sports training, culture and the Olympics are the topics that should be handled as parts of the sports training. And 25.0% of the parties have defended the ideas in their party programs that at all levels of the schools should have the sports facilities and registered athletes should be given the rights of the social security and the insurance.

Table 1: The Range of the Opinions about the Sports of the Political Parties In the Party Programs

The Topic Titles / Parties	Total	Percent %
1. The presentation of the amateur sport branches and extending them supporting the mass sports AKP, BCP, BBP, CHP, DP, DSP, EMEP, HYP, LDP, MP, TKP, TSİP	12	60,0
2. Increasing the number of the sports facilities and strengthening the physical infrastructure AKP, BCP, BBP, CHP, DP, EMEP, HYP, İP, MHP, MP, SP, TKP,	12	60,0
3. Developing of the mental health, the physical health and the idea health ANAP, BCP, BBP, CHP, EMEP, HYP, MP, TKP	9	45,0
4. The sport education, the culture and the Olympic BCP, BTP, CHP, HYP, İP, LDP, ÖDP	7	35,0
5. The establishment of school integration ANAP, BCP, CHP, EMEP, MHP	5	25,0
6. Giving the rights of social security and the insurance to registered athletes AKP, CHP, DSP, HYP, İP	5	25,0
7. To organize the sports activities inside and outside of the school ANAP, CHP, MHP, TKP	4	20,0
8. To create a new sport policy AKP, DP, EMEP, LDP	4	20,0
9. Transferring the sport mainly to the local government AKP, BCP, DP, TSİP	4	20,0
10. To support the internationally successful athletes and the clubs AKP, DP, HYP, SP	4	20,0
11. To encourage the institutions, which train the athlete AKP, HYP, İP, SP	4	20,0
12. The campaigns, which encourage the community for sports and its continuity AKP, EMEP, HYP, TSİP	4	20,0
13. To give help to the sports clubs (the amateur- the Professional) by the local government AKP, CHP, LDP	3	15,0
14. The social and the sportive activities and the projects for disabled youths AKP, DP, HYP,	3	15,0
15. To develop the autonomous structures of the federations DP, DSP, HYP	3	15,0
16. To encourage the sponsoring and to regulate a new award regulation DP, LDP	2	10,0
17. To organize the Olympiad of Turkish World, to support the traditional sports HYP, SP	2	10,0
18. To develop and to support the sport industry, to develop and to make cheaper the sport equipment's and tools by the state DP, DSP	2	10,0
19. To train the sport administrators, to provide job opportunities to the sport graduates DP	1	5,0
20. To develop the sports medicine DP	1	5,0
21. To take measures to prevent the violence in the sport DP	1	5,0
22. To transfer the revenue from the professional sports to the amateur sport branches DSP	1	5,0
23. To establish the Sports History Museum of Turkey HYP	1	5,0
24. To support improving of the nature sports İP	1	5,0
25. To provide the public with the opportunity of free sports facilities İP	1	5,0
26. To create the structural changes by establishing the union of the sports clubs LDP	1	5,0

It have been seen that the following topics are in the programs of thirteen separate parties and these are; to organize the campaigns which encourage the community in the sports and to ensure continuity of these campaigns until they raise the awareness of the community, the necessity of creating new sport policy, local government is mainly responsible for the sport management, ensuring the support and the encouragement provided for the institutions which train the athletes and supporting successful athletes. However, considering all the parties and making a general evaluation of these topic titles separately, it has been reached the result that each title is supported at a rate of 20.0%.

The rate of the parties which want to give service in the institutional basis, to develop of the autonomous structure of the federation, to give support to the sport clubs without making any distinction like the amateur club or the professional club by local government and in the individual basis, to give support to disabled youth with the social and the sporting activities and with the projects and which put these views to the party program and defend them is 15.0%.

There are only two parties, which want the Olympics of Turkish World to be held and which put the idea of 'the traditional sports should be supported' in the party program and express it (10.0%). When all parties are taken into consideration about the sport, the other opinion which is supported at the rate of (10.0%) is to encourage the sponsorship, to regulate a new 'Award Regulation', to develop and to support the sport industry. When all parties are taken into consideration, it has been determined that many of the political parties have not given part at the expected level to the views which encourage the participation in the sport and which create new revenue sources for the sport in their party program.

There are various opinions about sport which are supported by only one party and which is included in the party program. Among them there are wide ranges of opinions, which are about employment policy such as to train the sport administrators, to provide job opportunities to the sport graduates, to develop the sport medicine. Apart from the employment policy, there are also opinions which will directly affect the sports management policies such as to transfer the revenue from the professional sports to the amateur sport branches, to create the structural changes by establishing the union of the sports clubs and to provide the public with the opportunity of free sports facilities. Apart from the parties which try to drive by putting improving and supporting the nature sports in the party program, there are also the parties

which explain the opinions that are very actual and vital being put in the party program such as to establish the Sports History Museum of Turkey and to take measures to prevent violence in the sport.

## **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

90.0% of the parties, which are included in the research content, put the opinions and practices about the sport in their party programs. Following the research, the views of the parties about sport are classified in 26 different titles. When these topic titles are analyzed, it may be mentioned about only two of them (The presentation of amateur sports branches and ensuring their extending and supporting the mass sports and increasing the number of the sports facilities and strengthening the physical infrastructure) have been approved by the majority of political parties (12 parties) and written in their party programs.

When taken into the consideration, it is seen that all the topic titles which stay out of this, from each of eight topic titles, only one topic title is supported by only one party and six eight topic titles are supported by two or three parties. The political parties support 14 different topic titles, which are mentioned two or three of them. And it is very important, because this shows loudly and clearly that, there is a diversity of views about the sports between the parties.

At the time period that passed from the last general election which were held in 2007 until today, when the draft of the law and the proposals which were presented to the Commission of National Education, Culture, Youth and Sports which is one of 17 specialized commissions of The Grand National Assembly of Turkey are examined, in which there are proposals about the Draft of the Law on Combating against Doping, Structuring of the Football Association and Reorganization of betting and game of chance in what form and how the National Medal of Honor is given Almost none of these proposals have not been included in the party programs can be interpreted as the explanation and the practices about the sport of party programs have not coincided exactly with actual issues. However, it can be seen as a satisfactory situation that in the party programs of the AKP and DP, these are included for to be enacted to take their place among the proposed topic titles; the Draft of the Law on Putting the Successful Athletes on Salary and Giving the Title of State Sportsman and included only in the party program of the DP; the Draft of the Law on doing changes in the Law about the prevention of violence and irregularities in the sports competitions [6, 9].

**As a Result, When the Party Programs:** Are examined, it has been achieved this result that the political parties have lots of regulations that they aim to realize in the sport area and among these regulations there are lots of common points as well as there are so many different issues in the party programs of the political parties [9, 14, 15, 16, 18]. However, in all examined party programs, it can be mentioned about how and in what form the applications in sport will be made is not specified loudly and clearly. On the other hand, although a variety of draft of laws which are not included in party programs are given to mentioned commission of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for to be enacted depending on the forcing conditions of the day. This situation can be perceived as the parties have a good-faith approach about the sport.

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