

Investigation of Aggression Levels of Trabzonspor Fans

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Abstract

This study aimed to examine the levels of aggression among Trabzonspor fans, considering different variables. The study employed the general survey model, which is a quantitative research model. The study group comprised individuals who were supporters of the Trabzonspor Club. The study sample comprised 1269 participants who were chosen using a simple random sampling method and willingly agreed to take part in the study. Data in the study were gathered using the "Buss-Perry Aggression Scale," which was originally created by Buss and Perry (1992) and later modified for use in Turkish by Madran (2012). The data analysis was conducted using the JASP, JAMOVI, and SPSS software packages for the Windows operating system. The analyses utilised frequency, percentage, standard deviation, arithmetic mean, and non-parametric tests (Mann Whitney U and Kruskal Wallis). The analysis revealed significant variations in the aggression levels of Trabzonspor fans based on factors such as gender, marital status, age, monthly income, sports involvement, frequency of match viewing, and match viewing location. Consequently, it can be asserted that the levels of aggression among young, unmarried, and male fans who actively attend Trabzonspor matches with the spectator groups in the stadium are elevated. The strong sense of affiliation that fans have towards their team, combined with external stimuli present in stadiums, elicit the aggressive tendencies of the fans. These fans, who possess personal attributes such as youth and singleness, may encounter difficulties in managing their aggressive impulses, resulting in a heightened level of aggression.

Keywords: Sports club, football, fan, aggression

1. INTRODUCTION

Aggression, a significant concern in sports, has been a persistent form of behaviour throughout human history. According to Dalbudak (2012), the act of intentionally causing harm to other living beings, ranging from disputes in children's games to street conflicts and wars, is a significant aspect of human behaviour that deserves attention. Aggression in literature has been linked to various concepts, and numerous factors influencing aggression have been investigated. Some factors that contribute to aggression include normative acceptance of aggression, hostile attribution, prejudices, moral justification for violence, high trait anger, low self-control, social stress, gender, environment, media, family, age, culture, arousal, and the individual's situation (Allen et al., 2018; Anderson and Carganey, 2004; DeWall et al., 2012; Gilbert and Daffern, 2011; Greitemeyer and Mügge, 2014). Aggression encompasses physical, verbal, and symbolic actions that are unmanageable or exceed our capacity to adjust, with the potential to impede, injure, or safeguard another individual (Allen and Anderson, 2017; Budak, 2000; Lazarus and Folkman, 1984 as cited in Kırkbir, 2020).

Throughout history, sport has been utilised to enhance both the physical and cognitive capacities of individuals. It has been recognised as a method to bolster an individual's adaptability to their surroundings, foster competition, and promote unity and harmony among different groups and societies. The concept of sport encompasses the inherent characteristics of human beings, offering opportunities for competition and enjoyment without causing harm to one another. This involves engaging in peaceful conditions and striving to either emerge victorious or accept defeat (Jamieson and Orr, 2009). Nevertheless, the presence of aggression (psychological, verbal, physical) and violence towards opposing athletes and their followers in sports settings hinders the positive impacts of sports on individuals and societies from becoming prominent (Ziyagil et al., 2012).

Recent scientific studies primarily focus on the sociological and psychological aspects of engaging in sports activities. It is believed that these studies play a significant role in advancing and developing sports in various ways (Çelik et al., 2017). Today, it is commonly asserted that describing and expressing sports helps to reduce aggression and allows for the release of anger. Conversely, it has been observed that there is a rise in both the quantity and intensity of aggressive behaviours in numerous sports competitions (Kalkavan et al., 2015).

Aggression in sports serves as a method of releasing pent-up energy or emotions. The desire to outperform the adversary can be manifested through various forms of conduct. These behaviours are believed to fulfil the aggressive tendencies of individuals. In sports environments, individuals may unconsciously display aggressive impulses and actions that are considered unacceptable by society in everyday life. Individuals demonstrate aggressive behaviours, such as challenging authority and responding to pressure in sports activities, and derive pleasure from expressing their emotions in this manner. These individuals derive satisfaction from triumphing over their adversaries both mentally and physically, thanks to their involvement in sports. Alternatively, some contend that their inclination towards aggression has further intensified (Bayram, 2012).

Football, the sport that garners the largest following, distinguishes itself from other athletic disciplines. From a social psychology standpoint, it is understood that individuals often disengage from their usual identities in daily life and assume different identities when engaging in various activities. Football matches can create an environment where different negative behaviours are observed, particularly among

large groups of spectators, due to the influence of reduced self-control and external factors (Karagözoğlu and Ay, 1999). Sports competitions serve as platforms for individuals or communities to express themselves, voice their opinions, and channel their emotions, whether it be anger, sadness, or happiness, into competitive engagement (Cengiz, 2004).

Violence and aggression are widely regarded as significant issues in sports competitions, with their prevalence and intensity on the rise. As a devoted consumer of the sports industry, which encompasses various stakeholders, the concept of a fan emerges as the primary focus and target of violence and aggression, serving as the social and psychological foundation of the system (Dere and Türen, 2020).

In the present day, nations that have attained global recognition in sports take into account various factors to achieve this success. One of the crucial factors is the notion of fan, as highlighted by Altun and Koçak (2015) and Yetim et al. (2023). The significance of the term "fan" grew with the widespread adoption of modern sports during the 19th century (Holt, 1990). The term "supporter" refers to sports spectators who have a strong emotional attachment to a sports club, demonstrate interest in it, and provide their support (Arıkan, 2000). Nevertheless, these supporters can be labelled as fanatics or hooligans based on their distinctive traits. Fanatics are individuals who display unwavering loyalty towards their supported team and are willing to employ any methods necessary for their team to achieve victory (Baş, 2008). Conversely, a hooligan can be defined as an individual who escalates to the point of violence, causing harm to their surroundings and displaying anger, as stated by Şahin (2003). Fan aggression in football is a pervasive social issue that impacts numerous countries globally (Van der Meij et al., 2015).

The inhabitants of Trabzon commonly identify themselves as nationalist and patriotic. The people of Trabzon prioritise and emphasise their local culture and identity. The characteristic traits of individuals from the Black Sea region, particularly those from Trabzon, include a combative nature, a lack of awareness of boundaries and obstacles, as well as a tendency towards recklessness, toughness, and aggression. Alptekin and Amanet (2019) emphasise the utmost significance of Trabzon residents rallying behind their local football team, as it is regarded as a form of patriotism. The motto "everywhere is Trabzon to us" can be regarded as an emblematic representation of this concept. Trabzonspor fans are engaged in a fierce rivalry with the supporters of the top clubs who have achieved championship status in Turkey. Occasionally, this rivalry extends beyond the playing field and manifests through undesirable conduct. The fact that Trabzonspor supporters prevent individuals who favour a different team from wearing that team's jersey and even resort to physical violence against them can be seen as indicative of the intense and confrontational disposition of Trabzonspor fans. Furthermore, being perceived as a member of Trabzonspor is often associated with a sense of patriotism.

Trabzonspor fans have a history of engaging in violent behaviour. One notable incident that exemplifies extreme fanaticism took place in 1996, when a fan tragically took their own life following Trabzonspor's loss in the championship. During the year 2002, Trabzonspor experienced a significant defeat of 5-0 against Beşiktaş in their home stadium. In response, the passionate fans took the drastic action of removing the seats from the stadium and hurling them onto the pitch. During the 89th minute of the 2007 Sivasspor match, a spectator trespassed onto the pitch and physically assaulted one of the opposing football players by slapping him. During the 2015 Fenerbahçe match, spectators hurled foreign objects onto the field, including a smoke bomb that was directed towards the Fenerbahçe goalkeeper's goal. During the Fenerbahçe match in 2016, an individual in the audience leaped onto the pitch in the 89th

minute and physically assaulted one of the assistant referees of the match (URL-1, URL-2). As evidenced by the examples, Trabzonspor fans occasionally partake in acts of hooliganism and violence.

Violence can be interpreted as a manifestation of aggressive behaviour (Aydemir, 2016). This study aimed to examine the levels of aggression associated with hooligan behaviours and acts of violence among Trabzonspor fans, considering different variables. Several studies have been conducted on fan aggression in football, as documented in the literature (Bağış, 2021; Bensimon and Bodner, 2011; Berendt and Uhrich, 2018; Bilir and Sangun, 2014; Heydarinejad and Gholami, 2012; Polat and Sönmezoğlu, 2016; Sheehy and Maurice, 2022; Van der Meij et al., 2015). Nevertheless, there is a lack of research examining the belligerence displayed by Trabzonspor supporters. This research holds significance due to the fact that the residents of Trabzon exhibit fluctuating moods, place great importance on Trabzonspor, and occupy a prominent position in Turkish football alongside Trabzonspor fans.

2. MATERIAL & METHOD

In this research, quantitative research methods were used. In determining the path to be followed in scientific research, quantitative methods based on statistical theories can be used at many stages, from sample determination to analysis of collected data (Guo, 2013).

Research Model

General survey model was used in this study. This model is a research approach, which is used to define a situation that has occurred in the past or is still ongoing, by selecting a group of samples to represent the population. (Karasar, 2012).

Study Group

The population of the research consists of Trabzonspor Club fans. The sample of the research compose of 1269 fans who were chosen by simple random sampling method among people/individuals who lived in Trabzon and considered themselves Trabzonspor supporters and agreed to participate in the study voluntarily.

Data Collection

Questionnaire technique was used to collect data in the study. Questionnaire is a systematic data collection technique of questions are directed to the elements that make up a population or sample in line with the previously produced hypotheses about a determined subject (Balci, 2010). Research data were collected through the online delivery of the questionnaire to the participants. The demographic data form created by the researcher in order to examine the demographic characteristics of the participants and the "Buss-Perry Aggression Scale" developed by Buss and Perry (1992) and translated into Turkish by Madran (2012) were used to measure the aggression levels. The scale includes 29 items in 4 different sub-dimensions (physical aggression, anger, hostility, verbal aggression). These items were rated with a 5-point Likert type (1=Absolutely Disapproved, 5=Absolutely Appropriate). Internal consistency coefficients (Cronbach alpha values) of the scale were calculated by Buss and Perry (1992) in sub-dimensions, respectively as 0.85 in the physical aggression, 0.77 in the hostility, 0.83 in the anger, and 0.72 in the verbal aggression. In the study of Madran (2012) adapting the scale into Turkish, the internal consistency coefficients of the scale were calculated in sub-dimensions, respectively as 0.98 in the physical aggression, 0.85 in the hostility, 0.85 in the anger, and 0.82 in the verbal aggression. In the present study,

internal consistency coefficients were calculated in sub dimensions, respectively as 0.78 in the physical aggression, 0.76 in the hostility, 0.78 in the anger, and 0.53 in the verbal aggression.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed in JASP, JAMOVI and SPSS packages for Windows. First, the normality distributions of the data were examined in order to determine the appropriate statistical tests to be applied to the data. Shapiro Wilk's test was used to examine the normality distributions of the data. Shapiro Wilk's test showed that the data did not provide normal distribution ($p < 0.05$). From this point of view, frequency, percentage, standard deviation, arithmetic mean, and non-parametric tests (Mann Whitney U and Kruskal Wallis) were used in the analysis. Statistically significant Alpha (α) error level was evaluated as $p < 0.05$.

Research Ethics

During the current research, it was acted within the framework of "Higher Education Institutions Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive". First, necessary ethical permissions were obtained in order to conduct the research. The ethics committee approval of the research was obtained from the Ethics Committee of the Social and Human Sciences Institute of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University. Then, in order to use the scales in data collection, correspondence was made with the researchers who developed the scales and their permissions were obtained.

3. RESULTS

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the participants

Independent Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	831	65.5
	Female	438	34.5
Marital Status	Married	764	60.2
	Single	505	39.8
Age	18-33 Age	502	39.6
	34-49 Age	488	38.5
	50+ Age	279	22.0
Monthly Income	4800 TL and below	371	29.2
	4801 – 8000 TL	488	38.5
	8001 – 10000 TL	190	15.0
	10001 TL and above	220	17.3
Status of Doing Sport	Not doing	452	35.6
	Do it in spare time	744	58.6
	Licensed athlete	73	5.8
Frequency of Watching Matches	Not watch	175	13.8
	Sometimes watch	432	34.0
	Often watch	662	52.2
How to Watch Matches	Watch through electronic devices	848	66.8
	Watch in stadium	246	19.4

Out of the individuals involved in the study, 34.5% (n=438) are female and 65.5% (n=831) are male. Among the fans surveyed, 60.2% (n=764) are married, while 39.8% (n=505) are single. 39.6% of the fans fall within the age range of 18-33, with a total of 502 individuals. 38.5% of the fans are between the ages

of 34-49, with a total of 488 individuals. Lastly, 22% of the fans are aged 50 and above, with a total of 279 individuals. When examining the monthly income distribution of the fans, it is found that 29.2% of them have an income of 4800 TL or less (n=371), 38.5% have an income between 4801 TL and 8000 TL (n=488), 15% have an income between 8001 TL and 10000 TL (n=190), and 17.3% have an income of 10001 TL or more (n=220). Out of the total number of fans surveyed (n=452), 35.6% do not engage in any sports activities. On the other hand, 58.6% of the fans participate in sports during their free time. Additionally, a small percentage of 5.8% (n=73) are licenced athletes. 13.8% of the fans abstain from watching the matches, with a sample size of 175. 34% of the fans occasionally watch the matches, with a sample size of 432. Finally, 52.2% of the fans frequently watch the matches, with a sample size of 662. 66.8% of the fans watch the matches through electronic devices (n=848) and 19.4% watch the matches in the stadium (n=246).

Table 2. The aggression levels of fans according to the gender

Dependent Variable	Gender	n	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Z	U	p
Physical Aggression	Male	831	692.02	575073	-7.64	134601	.00*
	Female	438	526.80	230742			
Hostility	Male	831	599.29	498012	-4.78	152316	.00*
	Female	438	702.74	307804			
Anger	Male	831	615.64	511605	-2.46	165909	.01*
	Female	438	668.97	291674			
Verbal Aggression	Male	831	662.65	550669	-3.72	159005	.00*
	Female	438	582.52	255146			

*p<0.05

The Mann Whitney U test, as mentioned in Table 2, revealed statistically significant disparities in physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression levels among fans based on their gender (U=134601; 152316; 165909; 159005, p<0.05). The study found that male fans exhibited significantly higher levels of physical and verbal aggression compared to female fans (p<0.05). Statistical analysis revealed that female fans exhibited significantly higher levels of hostility and anger compared to male fans (p<0.05).

Table 3. The aggression levels of the fans according to the marital status

Dependent Variable	Marital Status	n	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Z	U	p
Physical Aggression	Married	764	583.56	445847	-6.16	153617	.00*
	Single	505	712.80	359968			
Hostility	Married	764	542.38	414380	-11.09	122150	.00*
	Single	505	775.12	391436			
Anger	Married	764	582.04	443514	-6.22	152811	.00*
	Single	505	712.40	359764			
Verbal Aggression	Married	764	590.23	450935	-5.38	158705	.00*
	Single	505	702.73	354880			

*p<0.05

The Mann Whitney U test, as mentioned in Table 3, revealed significant disparities in the levels of physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression among fans based on their marital status (U=153617; 122150; 152811; 158705, p<0.05). The study revealed that unmarried fans exhibited

significantly higher levels of physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression compared to married fans ($p<0.05$).

Table 4. The aggression levels of the fans according to the age

Dependent Variable	Age	n	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	p
Physical Aggression	18-33 Age	502	716.69			
	34-49 Age	488	597.23	2	43.86	.00*
	50+ Age	279	554.08			
Hostility	18-33 Age	502	787.32			
	34-49 Age	488	546.20	2	145.10	.00*
	50+ Age	279	516.25			
Anger	18-33 Age	502	727.74			
	34-49 Age	488	589.59	2	57.68	.00*
	50+ Age	279	542.70			
Verbal Aggression	18-33 Age	502	699.76			
	34-49 Age	488	580.41	2	27.73	.00*
	50+ Age	279	613.96			

* $p<0.05$

The Kruskal-Wallis test, as shown in Table 4, revealed significant variations in the levels of physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression among fans based on their age ($X^2(2)=43.86;145.10;57.68;27.73$, $N=1269$, $p<0.05$). The Bonferroni test was employed as one of the post-Hoc tests to identify the origin of substantial discrepancies. The test results indicate that fans in the 18-33 age group exhibited significantly higher levels of physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression compared to those in the 34-49 age group and over 50 age ($p<0.05$).

Table 5. The aggression levels of the fans according to the monthly income

Dependent Variable	Monthly Income	n	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	p
Physical Aggression	4800 TL and below	371	674.66			
	4801 – 8000 TL	488	628.86			
	8001 – 10000 TL	190	616.92	3	7.28	.06
	10001 TL and above	220	597.35			
Hostility	4800 TL and below	371	764.10			
	4801 – 8000 TL	488	619.47			
	8001 – 10000 TL	190	554.42	3	77.50	.00*
	10001 TL and above	220	521.34			
Anger	4800 TL and below	371	705.54			
	4801 – 8000 TL	488	629.81			
	8001 – 10000 TL	190	572.88	3	25.32	.00*
	10001 TL and above	220	574.88			
Verbal Aggression	4800 TL and below	371	663.07			
	4801 – 8000 TL	488	619.10			
	8001 – 10000 TL	190	636.99	3	3.45	.32
	10001 TL and above	220	621.22			

* $p<0.05$

The Kruskal-Wallis test, as presented in Table 5, revealed statistically significant variations in the levels of hostility and anger among fans based on their monthly income ($X^2(3)=77.50; 25.32$, $N=1269$, $p<0.05$).

The Bonferroni test was employed as one of the post-hoc tests to identify the origin of substantial discrepancies. Based on the test results, it was concluded that fans with a monthly income of 4800 TL and below exhibited significantly higher levels of hostility and anger compared to other fans ($p < 0.05$). Furthermore, it was established that the fans with a monthly income ranging from 4801-8000 TL exhibited significantly higher levels of hostility compared to fans with a higher monthly income ($p < 0.05$).

Table 6. The aggression levels of the fans according to the sports status

Dependent Variable	Sports Status	n	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	p
Physical Aggression	Not doing	452	585.98			
	Do it in spare time	744	660.41	2	12.78	.00*
	Licensed athlete	73	679.60			
Hostility	Not doing	452	632.95			
	Do it in spare time	744	630.24	2	2.19	.33
	Licensed athlete	73	696.25			
Anger	Not doing	452	635.04			
	Do it in spare time	744	633.77	2	.01	.99
	Licensed athlete	73	629.94			
Verbal Aggression	Not doing	452	601.19			
	Do it in spare time	744	648.03	2	8.07	.01*
	Licensed athlete	73	711.53			

* $p < 0.05$

The Kruskal-Wallis test results presented in Table 6 indicate that there were significant variations in the levels of physical and verbal aggression among fans based on their sports status ($X^2(2)=12.78; 8.07, N=1269, p < 0.05$). The Bonferroni test was employed as one of the post-Hoc tests to identify the origin of substantial discrepancies. The test results indicate that individuals who do not participate in sports exhibit significantly lower levels of physical and verbal aggression compared to both recreational athletes and licensed athletes ($p < 0.05$).

Table 7. The aggression levels of the fans according to the frequency of watching matches

Dependent Variable	Frequency of Watching Matches	n	Mean Rank	Sd	X ²	p
Physical Aggression	Not watch	175	563.78			
	Sometimes watch	432	602.69	2	17.87	.00*
	Often watch	662	674.91			
Hostility	Not watch	175	664.56			
	Sometimes watch	432	637.06	2	1.57	.46
	Often watch	662	625.84			
Anger	Not watch	175	653.68			
	Sometimes watch	432	598.73	2	6.07	.05
	Often watch	662	651.71			
Verbal Aggression	Not watch	175	603.19			
	Sometimes watch	432	582.67	2	19.28	.00*
	Often watch	662	677.56			

* $p < 0.05$

The Kruskal-Wallis test, as mentioned in Table 7, revealed statistically significant variations in the levels of physical and verbal aggression among fans based on the frequency of watching matches ($X^2(2)=17.87;$

19.28, $N=1269$, $p<0.05$). The Bonferroni test was employed as one of the post-Hoc tests to identify the origin of substantial discrepancies. The test results revealed that the levels of physical and verbal aggression among fans who did not watch the matches and those who occasionally watched the matches were significantly lower than fans who frequently watched the matches ($p<0.05$).

Table 8. The aggression levels of the fans according to the where they watching matches

Dependent Variable	Where They Watching Matches	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	Z	U	p
Physical Aggression	Watch through electronic devices	848	493.92	377353	-2.136	85123	.03*
	Watch in stadium	246	539.56	132192			
Hostility	Watch through electronic devices	848	498.60	380928	-1.234	88698	.22
	Watch in stadium	246	524.97	128617			
Anger	Watch through electronic devices	848	492.79	376493	-2.264	84263	.02*
	Watch in stadium	246	541.16	132043			
Verbal Aggression	Watch through electronic devices	848	498.91	381171	-1.178	88941	.24
	Watch in stadium	246	523.98	128374			

* $p<0.05$

The Mann Whitney U test, as mentioned in Table 8, revealed statistically significant disparities in the levels of physical aggression and anger among fans based on their match viewing locations ($U=85123$; 84263 , $p<0.05$). Statistical analysis revealed that the fans present in the stadium exhibited significantly higher levels of physical aggression and anger compared to the fans watching the matches via electronic devices ($p<0.05$).

4. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

This section presents the conclusion derived from interpreting the research findings and evaluating them in comparison to existing studies in the literature. The current study revealed that male fans exhibited elevated levels of physical and verbal aggression compared to females, while females demonstrated higher levels of hostility and anger than males. This situation can be attributed to the inherent dissimilarity between the genders. Clear disparities in personality structures are readily apparent between males and females, and this phenomenon arises from genetic formation (Tarhan, 2021). Given that men tend to exhibit more belligerent behaviour than women, it can be inferred that they are more likely to translate their aggressive impulses into physical and verbal acts of aggression. In contrast, women tend to experience these aggressive impulses with heightened feelings of hostility and anger. Multiple studies in the literature have consistently demonstrated that men exhibit higher levels of aggression compared to women (Burton et al., 2007; Eren, 2009; Madran, 2020; Muhammad, 2019). Moreover, research on the relationship between sports and aggression has found that men who engage in sports, whether actively or passively, exhibit higher levels of aggression compared to women. This finding has been supported by multiple studies conducted by Bebetos et al. (2013), Burton and Marshall (2005), Keeler (2007), and Kumar (2015).

The study revealed that single fans exhibited higher levels of physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression compared to married fans. This situation can be attributed to the increased responsibilities and resulting maturity of married individuals. It can be argued that individuals who are more mature exhibit greater ability to regulate their aggressive impulses. There are scholarly studies that corroborate this discovery. In their study on the identification and aggression levels of Alanyaspor fans,

Karademir and Kurnaz (2020) found that unmarried fans exhibited higher levels of aggression compared to married fans. Conversely, there are also studies in the literature that demonstrate the contrary to this scenario. In her study on the prevention of aggression, violence, and hooliganism among football spectators, Gümüşgül (2016) found that married fans exhibited a higher frequency of aggressive behaviours. The occurrence of problems, disagreements, and arguments in relationships and marriages can lead to increased stress levels in individuals, which in turn can manifest as aggressive behaviours. The disparity in the results can be attributed to these circumstances.

The study revealed that individuals in the 18-33 age group exhibited higher levels of physical aggression, hostility, anger, and verbal aggression compared to the older fans. This situation can be attributed to the heightened emotional intensity experienced by young individuals. Their proclivity for aggression may manifest as extroverted tendencies, characterised by heightened emotions and excitement, which in turn can result in increased displays of aggression. Multiple studies in the literature corroborate this discovery (Archer and Haigh, 1997; Gaitniece-Putāne and Raščevska, 2006; Harris, 1996; Toder-Alon et al., 2019; Turegun and Efek, 2021; Turğut et al., 2018). In addition, the study revealed that fans with a monthly income of 4800 TL or less exhibited higher levels of hostility and anger compared to fans with higher incomes. This situation can be attributed to the financial constraints and livelihood challenges faced by individuals with a low monthly income as they navigate through their lives. Individuals who struggle to meet their needs or have to give up their desires due to insufficient financial resources experience a decline in life satisfaction and the emergence of negative emotions such as unhappiness. This is because low income reduces their living standards. These emotions can influence individuals' aggressive tendencies and manifest in behaviours such as hostility and anger. Several studies in the literature have demonstrated a correlation between income disparities and aggressive behaviours (Archibald and Richards, 2002; Doherty and Clayton, 2011; Greitemeyer and Sagioglou, 2018; Pabayo et al., 2014; Stewart, 2000).

This study revealed that individuals who do not engage in sports activities exhibited lower levels of physical and verbal aggression compared to both recreational sports participants and licenced athletes. This situation can be attributed to the competitive nature inherent in sports. The competitive nature of individuals in sports often drives them to display physical and verbal aggression as they strive to win. Research in the field of literature has also demonstrated that engaging in sports and certain aspects of sports can heighten aggressive tendencies in individuals (Eime et al., 2013; McHugh et al., 2019; Pappas et al., 2004; Sønderlund et al., 2014;). Conversely, existing studies in the literature demonstrate that there is no correlation between sports and aggression. In fact, the sports environment actually diminishes aggression, and engaging in non-contact sports has been found to decrease aggressive behaviour when compared to participating in contact sports (Bortoli et al., 2012; Kreager, 2007; Spruit, van Vugt et al., 2016).

Furthermore, it was discovered that fans who did not watch matches or only occasionally watched matches exhibited lower levels of physical and verbal aggression compared to fans who frequently watched matches. This situation can be attributed to the impact of individuals' affiliation and the emotional fluctuations they undergo while observing the matches on their aggressive tendencies. The correlation between individuals' avid viewership of matches and their deep sense of allegiance to their team can be regarded as a testament to their strong sense of belonging. Individuals who possess a strong sense of affiliation while watching matches will also become more immersed in the match's ambiance and

experience emotions such as excitement, joy, and sadness more profoundly. Given the nature of the matches, it can be inferred that the rapid fluctuations in these emotions will also incite aggressive impulses in these individuals, leading to the expression of physical and verbal aggressive behaviours. Aggression can be attributed to innate and unalterable instinctual impulses (Masalci, 2001).

The study revealed that spectators present in the stadium exhibited elevated levels of physical aggression and anger compared to those who watched the matches via electronic devices. This situation can be attributed to the influence of attending matches in the stadium on individuals. The external stimuli present in the stadium and the atmosphere of the community environment can be said to elicit physical aggression and anger impulses in individuals. According to Köknel (1996), acts of violence during matches are caused by the demonstrations and cheers of the fans, as well as the provocations of the cheerleaders. Hence, the inclination towards aggression is not limited to fans alone, but extends to all individuals. Nevertheless, acts of violence, which manifest as the manifestation of aggressive impulses, frequently arise within the framework of "fanaticism". Upon examining the factors influencing the behaviour of Trabzonspor fans in this study, it was observed that their aggression levels were influenced by their gender, marital status, age, monthly income, involvement in sports, frequency of watching matches, and location of match viewing.

5. LIMITATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This study is restricted to individuals who are supporters of Trabzonspor. The study found that male Trabzonspor fans who were single, young, low-income, actively engaged in sports, frequently watched matches, and were part of the fan group in the stadium exhibited higher levels of aggression compared to other fans. The fans' strong sense of affiliation to their teams, the ambiance during matches, their proximity to the stands, and various external stimuli elicit these fans' aggressive tendencies. These individuals lack the necessary maturity to effectively manage their impulses, as evidenced by their personality traits. Consequently, we frequently observe episodes of violence during matches. One of the most important objectives is to reduce these behaviours and actions, particularly among the leaders of fan groups, as well as external factors that provoke aggression in the media. This is crucial in order to prevent all forms of conflict. We strongly advise future researchers to conduct thorough investigations of this issue through direct interviews with fans who exhibit aggressive behaviour. Additionally, they can juxtapose this matter with the discoveries of our investigation through the examination of this matter within various fan communities

Information on Ethics Committee Permission

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Researchers Contribution

The processes related to the introduction, methods, findings and discussion sections of the study were carried out by all authors.

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declare no conflict of interest about the article.

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