

Degree to Which the Palestinian Sports System Contributes Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to identify the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development, particularly, after Palestine joined the international community in November 2012. Descriptive analytical approach was used, and the study population consisted of (493) individuals working and affiliated with the Palestinian sports system chosen by luster sampling. By 20%, the sample size reached a total of (175) individuals. A questionnaire as a tool for collecting information and data was used. The study showed several results, including: the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development in Palestine was moderate, and among the recommendations that the study reached is that the sports system has a comprehensive vision to achieve sustainable development goals.

Keywords: Palestinian sports system, Sustainable development goals, Palestine

INTRODUCTION

Sport has proven to be an effective and flexible tool for achieving sustainable development goals. Since the beginning of setting development goals in the year 2000, sport has played a vital role in the multiple resolutions issued by the United Nations General Assembly, as sport is considered an important element in enabling the achievement of sustainable development goals (Lemke, 2015), so the United Nations established in harnessing sport in order to advance the process of

development and peace among individuals, through its specialized departments, it supported large sporting initiatives and events, in addition to its support for popular activities in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development (Bayoumi, 2023). This is due to the increasing role of sport in achieving development and encouraging tolerance and respect, in addition to its contribution to empowering women and youth in societies in order to achieve sustainable development goals related to the fields of health, education, and social integration (Darnell, 2016).

Based on the United Nations’ confirmation to the members of the General Assembly that sport is a means to achieve the goals of sustainable development for the year 2030, Palestine has become obligated to adapt its legislation and regulations to join international treaties, agreements and agreements, especially after it became

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part of the international community on November 29, 2012. Accordingly, this study will investigate The degree to which the Palestinian sports system contributes to achieving sustainable development goals as the Palestinian sports system is an integral and large part of the institutions of the Palestinian state, in addition to being part of international sports institutions such as the International Olympic Committee and international sports federations, which have come to believe that sports are an effective means of achieving sustainable development goals, especially after the United Nations resolution under the title “Sports as an enabling factor for development.” “Sustainable Development” as this resolution encourages Member States to emphasize the use of sport as a means to promote and promote sustainable development, while recognizing the role played by sport and the Olympic Movement (IOC, 2018) (UN. 2018).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Sports are considered one of the vital sectors of the state which can invest in achieving its agenda and goals because it consists of a group of governmental and private institutions that influence the state, and after Palestine joined the international community after the United Nations General Assembly voted at its sixty-seventh meeting on November 29, 2012, to obtain the status of an observer state. With this vote, the Palestinian state and its institutions must enter into international treaties and agreements emanating from international law, international humanitarian law, and others. Palestine also declared its commitment to implementing the sustainable development agenda adopted by the United Nations, which must be achieved by the year 2030.

Study Questions

- To what degree does the Palestinian sports system contribute to achieving sustainable development goals in Palestine?
- Are there statistically significant differences in the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due on the variable (gender, sports institution, educational qualification, and geographical region)?

Purpose of the Study

This study aims to find out the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system to achieving sustainable

development strategies, and to know the differences in the degree of contribution to achieving sustainable development goals due to the variable (gender, sports institution, educational qualification, and geographical region), after Palestine joined the international community.

Significance of the Study

The significance of the study lies in the fact that it sheds light on the degree to which the Palestinian sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development, especially after Palestine has joined the international community and after the United Nations General Assembly voted in its favor and obtained the status of a non-member observer state in the United Nations as this step opened the way for Palestine to join many treaties and agreements. Therefore, Palestine has become obligated to keep up with its laws and legislation in a manner consistent with these treaties and agreements, including the agenda of sustainable development goals that must be achieved by the year 2030.

Limitations of the Study

There are four major limitations to this study:

1. The study focuses only on the degree to which the Palestinian sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development
2. It is limited to 2020- 2022
3. It is limited to The locations of the components of the sports system in (the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Diaspora).
4. It is limited to employees and members of the Palestinian sports system, namely: the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, the Olympic Committee, the Palestinian sports federations and clubs).

Definition of Terms

- Palestinian Sports System: It is all Palestinian sports institutions, which consist of (the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, the Olympic Committee, and sports clubs) and the scope of work of these institutions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Diaspora, and the occupied Palestinian interior (Qadi & Abd alazeez, 2022).
- Sustainable development: Sustainable development is defined as meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (United Nations General Assembly, 1987).

Previous Studies

The study by Morgan et al., 2021 aimed to provide insights through the analysis of secondary data collected by the Commonwealth Games Federation from 62 sports federations regarding their views on the contribution of sport to the Sustainable Development Goals. The study provided examples of strong areas in which the goals can be achieved. During it and other areas that need further development to achieve these goals, in order to evaluate the contribution of sport to achieving the goals (CGAs), because sport is considered a common language for unifying the global commitment towards changing the course with regard to social, economic and environmental development issues. Although not explicitly mentioned within the Sustainable Development Goals or related targets, sport has been widely accepted and promoted as an enabler of social change and a mechanism through which commitments to sustainability can be strategically mapped and measured. Among the findings of the study: The scope is that sport may serve as a cultural vehicle through which the Sustainable Development Goals can be addressed.

Shams and Hani(2019) conducted a study aiming to identify the role of sports culture in achieving intellectual security and sustainable human development. The research relied on the two approaches, the descriptive approach and the comparative approach, with the use of a social survey with a sample of (300) young people, and individual interviews. Among the most prominent results that The study concluded: Sports culture (for young people practicing sports activities) has a positive impact on dealing with others in society, supports young people's practice of sports activities, and also recommends the need to pay attention to young people practicing sports activities in educational institutions (nursery - school - university).

Dingle & Mallen, (2017) conducted a study about reviewing sports education methods with the increasing demand for environmental sustainability in the sports sector. Education for Sustainable Development (EFS) is one of the pedagogical methods in higher education and must be introduced in order to enable graduates of sports programs, as individuals in the sports field to be sustainable practitioners. Environmentally, socially and commercially, they can contribute to broader global efforts to achieve sustainable development. Among the findings of the study is ES sports education is an

emerging field that represents a rational response to global environmental change and is consistent with broader developments in education for sustainable development.

Comment on Previous Studies

The current study IS similar to previous ones in dealing with the topic of the role and degree of sports contribution in achieving sustainable development goals. The current study is also similar to the study of (Morgan et al., 2021) and the study of (Hani and Shams, 2019) by using the questionnaire as a tool for collecting information and data. The study is also similar in using descriptive approach. The current study differs with previous studies in using the descriptive analytical approach, and the current study differs with previous studies in terms of time and space. Also, the current study has benefited from previous studies by developing the study tool and examining its theoretical framework.

Sampling, Instrumentation and Procedure

The sample consisted of (157) individuals out of the study community of (493) workers and members of the Palestinian sports system. The returned questionnaires were 175 which consisted the study sample and were 20.0% of the study community chosen by cluster method. The background of those workers were varied in terms of gender, sport institution, qualification and geographical region as shown in (Table 1) below.

Instrumentation

To achieve the objectives of the study, the researchers used a 15-item questionnaire by using literature review and previous studies The questionnaire consisted of two sections; the first focused on demographic profile such as gender, sport institution, qualification and geographical region whereas the second consisted of 15 items. The scores of responses to each item were calculated according to a five-point Likert scale, in which strongly agree=5 points, agree=4 points, neutral = 3, disagree = 2 points and strongly disagree = 1 point.

Validity of the Questionnaire

To ensure the validity of the questionnaire, it was rated by a jury of experts in the field of sport education. The questionnaire, then, was piloted on 20 workers with similar level of proficiency. The purpose of the

Table 1: Distribution of sample according to study independent variables

Variable	Class	Frequency	Percentage %
Gender	Male	125	71.4
	Female	50	28.6
Total		175	100.0
Sport institution	The Palestinian Supreme Council for Youth and Sports	52	29.7
	Palestinian Olympic Committee	39	22.3
	Sports Federation	30	17.1
	Sports club	54	30.9
Total		175	100.0
Qualification	Diploma	34	19.4
	B.A	95	54.3
	High studies	46	26.3
Total		175	100.0
Geographical region	Northern governorates	98	56
	Western governorates	32	18.3
	Jerusalem and the Palestinian Interior	21	12
	Diaspora	24	13.7
Total		175	100.0

pilot study was to determine whether the questions were comprehensible and can be interpreted by the workers as they are intended measure. The workers who were involved in the pilot study were excluded from the actual research. The respondents' comments and the jury's suggestions were taken into consideration to modify and improve the questionnaire's content and wordings by omitting, adding or rephrasing items bringing the number of items from 18 to 15.

Reliability of the Questionnaire

The reliability of the questionnaire as calculated through Cornbach Alpha formula was (0.93) which is acceptable for the purpose of the study.

Procedure

The final draft of the questionnaire was distributed to the study sample. It took about three weeks for the instrument to be distributed, collected, and returned to the researchers. The total number of the returned questionnaires was 179 and only 175 were analyzed

because 4 questionnaires were excluded as their responses were neither consistent nor complete.

Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using (SPSS) to provide answers to the questions of the study. Means, frequencies, standard deviations, t-tests for Independent Samples, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and LSD Test for distance comparisons were used to find out descriptive statistical analysis. To analyze the findings, the researchers used the following scale to represent the estimation level of workers' responses.

4.21- and more: Very High	4.20 – 3.41: High	2.61–3.40: Moderate
180-2.260 Low	less than 180: Very Low	

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study aimed at identifying the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development. It also aimed at identifying the effect gender, sport institution, qualification and geographical region on the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development, the researchers analyzed the data in accordance with the study questions and the results were as follows:

Results related to the First Question. What is the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development?

To answer this question, the researchers used means and standard deviations as shown in (Table 2).

Table 2 shows that the total degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development was (3.01) which suggests a moderate level of response. The highest mean was given to the item "The Palestinian sports system is concerned with social goals in its sports programs." which scored (3.52). The lowest mean was given to the item "Drawing on international experiences and applying them in the field of sustainable development with sports doping" which scored (1.89). The researchers attribute this result to the fact that the process of renaissance in Palestinian sports began in the year 2011, when it began to arrange the sports indoor house from a technical point of view, such

Table 2: Means and standard deviations of the degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system in achieving the goals of sustainable development

No.	Item	Means	Standard deviations	Estimation level
1.	There is a clear message from the Palestinian government to begin implementing the sustainable development goals related to the sports system.	2.80	0.77	Low
2.	Sustainable development constitutes one of the basic axes of the Palestinian sports system.	3.44	1.01	Moderate
3.	The Palestinian sports system has a comprehensive vision for sustainable development applications for its members	3.25	0.97	Moderate
4.	There is awareness of the importance of commitment to following up on sustainable development indicators in the management of the Palestinian sports system.	3.25	0.88	Moderate
5.	There is support from official bodies to value efforts related to sustainable development in the Palestinian sports system	2.91	1.09	Low
6.	The economic dimension of sustainable development is taken into account as an input into the planning process for managing the Palestinian sports system	3.20	0.81	Moderate
7.	The Palestinian sports system is concerned with social goals in its sports programs	3.52	0.72	High
8.	The Palestinian sports system is concerned with the human development of individuals in its sports programs	3.43	0.76	Moderate
9.	The Palestinian sports system works to use information technology in the training process	3.21	0.82	Moderate
10.	The Palestinian sports system works to use communications technology in the training process	3.14	1.00	Moderate
11.	The Palestinian sports system works to use communications technology in the sports management process	3.08	1.04	Moderate
12.	The Palestinian sports system works to use communications technology in the sports management process	3.01	1.01	Moderate
13.	The Palestinian sports system seeks to adopt an effective system to rationalize the use of energy resources	2.51	1.08	Low
14.	The Palestinian sports system seeks to adopt an effective environmental management system	2.46	0.92	Very Low
15.	Drawing on international experiences and applying them in the field of sustainable development with sports doping	1.89	0.58	Very Low
Total Degree		3.01	0.59	Moderate

Table 3: T-test for independent samples for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to gender

Total	Gender	N	Mean	S. D	t	Sig.*
	Male	125	3.50	0.43	0.039	0.969
	Female	50	3.50	0.40		

as ensuring the regularity of the local league for different age groups in group sports such as football, basketball, and volleyball, in addition to the interest in discovering talents. Sports are among the buds, training them, paying attention to the young age groups (buds and juniors), and also working to raise the efficiency of the training staff and referees by holding training courses for them at different levels (local, continental, and international). It should also

Table 4: Frequencies, means and standards deviations for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to sports institution

Sports Institution		N	Mean	S.D
Total Degree	The Palestinian Supreme Council for Youth and Sports	52	3.47	0.44
	Palestinian Olympic Committee	39	3.57	0.28
	Sports Federation	30	3.32	0.23
	Sports club	54	3.59	0.52
	Total	175	3.50	0.42

be noted that the Israeli occupation has bombed the sports infrastructure, in particular, many times. In the Gaza Strip, which hinders the development and development process of the sports system It is

Table 5: Results of one way ANOVA for for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to sports institution

Sports Institution	Source of variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Between Groups	1.712	3	0.571	3.328	*0.021
	Within Groups	29.317	171	0.1710		
	Total	31.029	174			

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

Table 6: Results of LSD test for post hoc comparisons organizational performance of sports institutions work in the United Arab Emirates due to qualification

Sports Institution	Palestinian Olympic Committee	Sports club
Total Sports Federation	-0.25971*	-0.27260*

Table 7: Frequencies, means and standards deviations for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to qualification

Qualification	N	Mean	S.D
Total Degree			
Diploma	3.61	0.35	0.44
B.A	3.48	0.41	0.28
High studies	3.48	0.46	0.23
Total	175	3.50	0.42

consistent with the study of (Dai & Rashid, 2020), the study of (Shams & Hani, 2019), and the study of (Dingle & Mallen, 2017).

Results Related to Second Questions, which is

Are there statistically significant differences in the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due on the variables of (gender, sports institution, educational qualification, and geographical region)?

To answer this question T- Test for Independent Samples, One Way ANOVA test and LSD test for post hoc comparisons were used and the results are shown below.

A. Results Related to Gender

Table 3 shows no statistical significant differences at ($\alpha \geq 0.05$) between study sample responses about the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to gender. Significant value was 0.969 which is more than 0.05.

2-Results related to the Sports Institution.

Table 4 shows that there are differences in the means of the sports institution variable levels. To verify whether the differences in the means had reached the level of statistical significance. The researchers used One Way ANOVA, and Table (5) shows this.

Table 5 shows statistical significant differences at ($\alpha \geq 0.05$) between study sample responses about the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to sports institution. Significant value was 0.020 which is less than 0.05. In order to explore the differences between the means of qualification, LSD test for post hoc comparisons was used and the results are shown in table 6.

Table 6 shows that the differences in total degree were between (Sports Federation) and (Palestinian Olympic Committee And Sports club) in favor of (Palestinian Olympic Committee and Sports club). The researchers attribute this result to the fact that the Olympic Sports Committee seeks to achieve sustainable development strategies, especially with regard to partnership with international sports institutions, and this reflects positively on its performance. With regard to clubs, sports activities begin with them, in addition to the fact that sports teams are formed and trained by the clubs, so they are Keen to achieve sustainable development goals, especially those compatible with sports activities.

3-Results related to Qualification.

Table 7 shows that there are differences in the means of the qualification variable levels. To verify whether the differences in the means had reached the level of statistical significance. The researchers used One Way ANOVA, and Table 8 shows this.

Table 8 shows no statistical significant differences at ($\alpha \geq 0.05$) between study sample responses about the extent to which the sports system contributes to

Table 8: Results of one way ANOVA for for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to sports qualification

Qualification	Source of variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Between Groups	0.467	2	0.234	1.315	0.271
	Within Groups	30.562	172	0.1780		
	Total	31.029	174			

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

Table 9: Frequencies, means and standards deviations for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to geographical region

Geographical Region	N	Mean	S.D
Total Degree			
Northern governorates	98	3.46	0.47
Western governorates	32	3.52	0.26
Jerusalem and the Palestinian Interior	21	3.79	0.37
Diaspora	24	3.39	0.32
Total	175	3.50	0.42

achieving the goals of sustainable development due to qualification. Significant value was 0.271 which is more than 0.05. The researchers attributed this result to the fact that the members of the study sample, despite their different academic qualifications, whether working in the sports system or affiliated with it, are aware of the message of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, which is the legal authority for the rest of the institutions that make up the sports system in Palestine, as its message includes reaching To achieve sustainable development in a manner that does not conflict with international laws.

4-Results related to the Geographical Region.

Table 9 shows that there are differences in the means of the geographical region variable levels. To verify whether the differences in the means had reached the level of statistical significance. The researchers used One Way ANOVA, and Table 10 shows this.

Table 10 shows statistical significant differences at ($\alpha \geq 0.05$) between study sample responses about the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to geographical region. Significant value was 0.005 which is less than 0.05. In order to explore the differences between the means of qualification, LSD test for post hoc comparisons was used and the results are shown in table 11.

Table 11 shows that the differences in total degree were between (Jerusalem and the Palestinian Interior) and (Northern governorates, Western governorates And Diaspora) in favor of (Jerusalem and the Palestinian Interior). The researchers attribute this result to the fact that the Palestinian sports system, since its restructuring in 2011 until the present moment, attaches great importance to the city of Jerusalem and the athletes in the occupied Palestinian territories and places them on the list of its priorities. An example of this is that the sports system built a modern building for the Palestinian Football Federation and the Palestinian Olympic Committee. The Palestinian sports system provides an opportunity for Palestinian players from Jerusalem and inside Palestine to participate in representing Palestine in international, continental and Arab sports forums.

General Study Results

- The United Nations General Authority issued that sport is an effective means of achieving sustainable development goals through partnership with international sports institutions such as the International Olympic Committee and other institutions.
- The degree of contribution of the Palestinian sports system to achieving the sustainable development goals in Palestine was moderate.
- The Palestinian sports system contributes to achieving the social dimension in its sports programs, which include both genders and all components of the Palestinian people to a large extent.
- The sports system does not contribute to the effective guidance of energy resources because the Palestinians do not have the right to control energy resources as a result of the Israeli occupation's control over them.
- The Israeli occupation hinders the achievement of the sporting objectives of sustainable development, especially with regard to the field of the environment,

Table 10: Results of one way ANOVA for for the extent to which the sports system contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development due to geographical region

Geographical Region	Source of variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Between Groups	2.259	3	0.753	4.476	*0.005
	Within Groups	28.770	171	0.168		
	Total	31.029	174			

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

Table 11: Results of LSD test for post hoc comparisons organizational performance of sports institutions work in the United Arab Emirates due to geographical region

Geographical Region	Northern governorates	Western governorates	Diaspora
Total			
Jerusalem and the Palestinian Interior	*0.32985	0.27749*	0.40772*

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

due to the arbitrary measures of the Israeli occupation.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, the researchers recommend the following:

- This study recommends that the sports system have a comprehensive vision to achieve sustainable development goals, especially with regard to the economic and educational dimensions.
- There must be awareness on the part of the Palestinian sports system to follow up on sustainable development indicators in its management.
- Documenting the violations committed by the occupation, especially with regard to the destruction and sabotage of sports infrastructure by targeting stadiums and gyms, which constitute an obstacle to achieving the sustainable development goals agenda, in addition to documenting the violations, especially obstructing and preventing the entry of sports equipment for Palestinian players, the vast

majority of which is supported by international federations for the development of games. Sports.

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