



# Development of the sociology of sport in the aspect of theoretical analysis

UDC 796.014



Dr. Hab., Professor **L.I. Lubysheva**<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Sc.Soc., Professor **S.I. Rosenko**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Russian University of Sport «GTSOLIFK», Moscow

<sup>2</sup>Lesgaft National State University of Physical Education, Sport and Health,  
St. Petersburg

Corresponding author: fizkult@teoriya.ru

Received by the editorial office on 4.12.2024

## Abstract

**Objective of the study** was to pinpoint the trajectory of sociological inquiry in the realm of physical culture and sports, we will examine the content of the journal «Theory and Practice of Physical Culture».

**Methods and structure of the study.** A review of articles on the sociology of physical culture and sports published in the journal Theory and Practice of Physical Culture from 2000 to 2024 was conducted.

**Results and conclusions.** In the present day, the sociology of physical culture and sports has emerged as a distinct discipline, grounded in empirical research and theoretical insights from the field. Sociologists are dedicated to exploring the intricate web of social relationships and interactions within the realm of sports.

The evolution of physical culture and sports into a prominent social phenomenon underscores the necessity for ongoing investigation into its current state and future trajectory. Consequently, a comprehensive examination of sociological publications in this domain is crucial for identifying the key areas of contemporary sociological inquiry and their potential future trajectory.

**Keywords:** *sociology of physical culture and sports, sociological research, social relations in the field of physical culture and sports.*

**Introduction.** Currently, scientific periodicals are an important resource for the development of sociological discourse in the field of physical culture and sports [2, 3] both in domestic and Western sociology [1]. The journal «Theory and Practice of Physical Culture» («TPPC») has traditionally been a recognized platform for scientific discussions within the framework of sports sociological topics. Distinctive features of the journal are its high status, unique information base, rich historical archive of publications, as well as editorial strategy in promoting new sociological knowledge and social practice in accordance with the current demands of science and society. In this regard, monitoring of published works on topical issues of the sociology of physical culture and sports for the period 2000-2024 serves as an effective mechanism for determining current trends in the development of the sociology of physical culture and sports.

**Objective of the study** was to pinpoint the trajectory of sociological inquiry in the realm of physical culture and sports, we will examine the content of the journal «Theory and Practice of Physical Culture».

**Methods and structure of the study.** Identification of the content and features of the sociological research field requires analysis of quantitative and qualitative parameters of the publication activity of the authors of the articles. In total, over 250 articles were published in 2000–2024, forming the information flow on social aspects in the field of physical culture and sports [1]. The dynamics of publications indicates an increase in the share of articles on sociological topics in the total volume of scientific materials of the journal from 3% for the period 2000–2004 to 4% for 2015–2024. The total number of authors for the period under study exceeded 600 people, while 86% of the articles were written by university professors, the remaining 14% of sociological publications



were written by employees of various sports institutions and organizations. A significant part of the articles (over 90%) were prepared by groups of authors based on the results of scientific research conducted within the framework of scientific grants and joint projects [2]. The geography of sociological research is represented by almost all regions, with a significant volume of it coming from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Chelyabinsk, Tomsk, Surgut, Yakutsk, Smolensk and Tyumen. All this testifies to the growing attention of the scientific community to the sociological issues of physical culture and sports.

**Results of the study and discussion.** The analysis of the topics of the published materials made it possible to identify the current subject field of sociological research, which combined various social aspects of physical activity and healthy lifestyle, physical education in educational institutions, sports activities, social aspects of mass sports and elite sports, professional training of future specialists in the field of physical education and sports, work of sports and health institutions and services. Most of the materials published in the journal on the sociology of physical education and sports are an overview of the results of empirical studies, a description of the social aspects of physical education and sports practice, an analysis of the attitude of various population groups to physical education and sports. Sports activities have become an actively developing area of sociological research, including such topics as socialization of the individual in sports, problems of mass sports, and social aspects of elite sports. In different years of the last 20 years, specialists studied: the social role of sports in the development of society and socialization of the individual (L.I. Lubysheva); sociological analysis of the mission and potential of sports (L.I. Lubysheva, V.A. Baranov); sports priorities of various social groups of the population (M.V. Sinyutin, E.E. Tarando, L.A. Lebedintseva, R.V. Karapetyan, O.A. Nikiforova); value aspects of sports (P.A. Bulatov, V.B. Myakonkov, T.V. Kopylova); sports culture (L.I. Lubysheva); motivational aspects of sports activity (E.A. Parkhomenko); sports specialization (V.V. Bakaev, A.E. Bolotin, V.S. Vasilyeva), sports career (L.I. Lubysheva, T.A. Danilenko); social adaptation of an athlete (O.A. Sirotin, V.I. Sivakov, T.A. Danilenko, O.I. Milshstein, I.A. Grets), etc. A wide range of areas of sociological research indicates that sports activity is a multifaceted social phenomenon aimed at improving a person in the field of sports.

A separate area of sociological discourse was the

study of the problems of socialization of students in the process of physical education and sports in educational institutions. The authors focused on the following: problems of social adaptation of schoolchildren and students in the process of physical education (T.A. Markina, E.S. Levchenko); the place of physical education in the system of students' values (G.V. Ponomareva); understanding the phenomenon of physical fitness and its significance in students' educational activities (A.A. Khristolyubova, E.M. Kadomtseva, V.V. Ponomarev), the attitude of students, students, and teachers to physical education and sports (A.V. Novikov, N.I. Sinyavskiy), physical education and sports activity and its relationship with the psychological state of students (V.G. Shilko, T.A. Shilko, E.S. Potovskaya, O.N. Krupitskaya); social representations of the image of a physical education teacher (I.V. Vasilenko, O.V. Tkachenko). Almost all publications reflect the results of applied sociological research aimed at studying modern social practice in the field of physical culture and sports.

The tendency of growing research interest in considering social aspects of professional education in the sphere of physical culture is noteworthy. The subject of sociological analysis in these works were motivational aspects of choosing the future profession of a sports teacher and coach (M. Radzinska, M. Novak, L. Novak); the level and quality of students' knowledge in the context of their social significance (M.V. Lopatin, O.G. Rumba); attitude of students of physical culture universities to professional education (A.V. Shukaeva); social ideas about athletes' trust in the personality of the coach-teacher (N.A. Vaznin, L.G. Tatyana, D.A. Vasiliev, E.T. Maiboroda), etc. Separately, it is necessary to note the publications related to the content and tendencies of development of sports education (L.I. Lubysheva, S.I. Rosenko). The actualization of scientific interest in the social aspects of professional education is caused by the ongoing processes of reforming this system, the adoption of educational standards and, in connection with this, the development of new requirements for future specialists, the creation of conditions for their successful social, psychological, and professional adaptation.

Publication activity on the topic of healthy lifestyle is traditionally high. Within the framework of the research field, the influence of physical education and health activities on the formation of the need for a healthy lifestyle in students was assessed (D.A. Ulyanov, T.G. Kovalenko, A.P. Shklyarenko), bad habits



and their influence on the lifestyle of students were monitored (M.D. Kudryavtsev, I.E. Kramida, A.Yu. Osipov, O.B. Gileva, O.S. Rogov, D.A. Polyak); factors determining health and health-oriented behavior of schoolchildren were identified (L.E. Pakhomova, V.N. Irkhin, L.A. Kadutskaya, M.I. Bordukov, A.S. Rybakov) and the values of health culture among young people (S.I. Zheleznyakova, T.I. Shukshina); the motivational and value attitude towards a healthy lifestyle of students was determined (A.Yu. Kolesnikova, V.Yu. Lebedinsky); issues of promoting a healthy lifestyle in the media were raised (V.N. Zuev, P.N. Devaykin, Tyumen), conditions for the formation of a healthy lifestyle at the level of educational institutions and regions were determined (A.M. Gendin, M.I. Sergeev, S.L. Sadyrin, V.P. Rubchevskiy, V.A. Pinaev), etc. Undoubtedly, the study of the above issues is primarily due to the social demands of modern society associated with the importance of physical, social and spiritual health of individuals. Sports and health institutions and the services they provide actively contribute to the popularization and promotion of mass sports. In this regard, the researchers raised issues of the quality of the services provided (V.N. Zuev, N.G. Milovanova, D.V. Gramotin); the efficiency of physical culture and sports management in the municipality (A.A. Peredelskiy, Yu.A. Tsegelny); the impact of sports mega-events on the sustainable development of territories (A.O. Lancev, E.G. Shurmanov, A.V. Ponomarev, L.L. Tolvayshis), as well as the social significance of sports and health facilities and services. This can be explained by the fact that as a result of past sports events of global and Russian significance, such as the 2014 Olympics, the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the 2013 and 2018 Universiades, the need to use the legacy of sports events has increased, as well as to solve the urgent problem of involving the population in a healthy lifestyle.

There is a noticeable predominance of scientific works, the subject field of which includes, first of all, young people. Basically, researchers are interested in the social aspects of the formation, development of physical activity of young people by means of the educational environment, their involvement in sports activities. Also, a significant part of the research is aimed at studying the position of athletes as a social group in the structure of the population as a whole. Publications of this kind meet the needs of society and the state in terms of obtaining reliable information

about the population in general and young people in particular as a resource for the development of social and human capital of the country. At the same time, it is necessary to outline the promising trends of the sociological discourse aimed at identifying current social demands in the sports sphere. These include: sociological aspects of the progressive development of physical culture and sports; sociology of management and digital transformation of physical culture and sports; sociological parameters of Olympic and Paralympic sports; sports culture as a new trend in mastering the values of modern society; physical culture and sports in the context of the social structure of society; professional, class, ethnic identity of athletes as a social group, etc. The designated topics of promising research largely form the problematic field of the modern sports sociological space and determine its vector for the near future.

**Conclusions.** Thus, the main topics of the results of sociological research published in the journal «Theory and Practice of Physical Culture» were: social aspects of sports activities, including problems of socialization of the individual in sports; social problems of mass sports, high-performance sports, the Olympic movement; social aspects of physical education in educational institutions, enterprises, organizations; social aspects of professional education in the field of physical culture and sports; the formation of a healthy lifestyle by means of physical activity; the social significance of sports and health institutions and services. The presented areas of thematic priorities of the editorial board reflect the current state of physical culture and sports in the country.

### References

1. Lukashchuk V.I. Sotsiologiya sporta: obzor traditsionnykh zarubezhnykh sotsiologicheskikh paradigm i teory. Vestnik Moskovskogo universiteta. Seriya 18. Sotsiologiya i politologiya. 2020. No. 26. pp. 49-69.
2. Mikhaylova T.A., Studenikina E.S. Razvitiye rossiyskoy sotsiologii fizicheskoy kultury i sporta kak nauchnogo napravleniya i uchebnoy distsipliny. Yuzhno-rossiyskiy zhurnal sotsialnykh nauk. 2024. Vol. 25. No. 1. pp. 94-113.
3. Tarasov V.A. Razvitiye sotsialnogo instituta fizicheskoy kultury i sporta. Mir nauki. Sotsiologiya. Filologiya. Kulturologiya. 2022. Vol. 13. No. 1. pp. 1-9.