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Measuring the Expectations of Oil Wrestlers with Regards to Oil Wrestling Organizations

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Abstract

The sport of wrestling has a significant place in Turkish cultural history. During the historical evolution of wrestling, Turks have introduced new forms to the sport, which became the traditional norm in time. Currently, oil wrestling is the most common type of traditional wrestling practice in Turkey. This study aims to reveal the expectations of oil wrestlers regarding oil wrestling organisations to put forth the basic requirements of organizations as an input in future planning phases. In this context, a questionnaire has been applied to 541 oil wrestlers for the evaluation of their expectations. The study revealed that the problems of oil wrestlers on wrestling organizations arise from the 4 main components of the facility, advertisement, referee, and award titles.

Introduction:

Every society is entitled to its own sports branches. Oil wrestling is considered to be among the traditional (ancestor) Turkish sports since the time of the old Turkish states in Anatolia, followed especially by the Ottoman period. The etymology of the word “wrestling” (güres), which is found in different dialects of the Turkish language as well (such as, küres or göres), could not yet be discovered. Wrestling, which is based on both body strength and mind power, is as old as human history, being adopted and developed throughout different civilizations. Societies reflected their own cultures to wrestling which resulted in the birth of different types of the sport arising in Egypt, Mesopotamia & Ancient Greece in 3000s BC, in Anatolia & Central Asia in 2500 BC, in India in 2000 BC, and in Japan at 22 BC (Tekin & Tekin, 2014; Dervisoglu, 2012; Eren, 1990; Güven, 1999). The wrestling figures seen on Egyptian wall paintings dating back to 2000 BC reveal that it has been systematized as a sport branch at least ever since then. Wrestling has been very popular and common among ancient Turks and is known to be performed by the Greeks and Romans as well. Early documents, such as Chinese annuals, epic tales, certain travelogues, and Ottoman history records showed that Turks performed wrestling at a diverse range of occasions, such as celebration festivals and weddings festivities, as well as being a part of war exercises since wrestling is also accepted as a measure of valour. A particular interest of the kings, princes and viziers made wrestling one of the palace (court) sports, along with riding and shooting. It is known that young Turkish women also

wrestled in time, while some of them challenged their suitors in horseback racing, arrow shooting and wrestling.

The Turkish community enjoyed close contact with one another and being in touch with nature. It has been a time of life struggles in which the individuals try to survive and make themselves safe while living in nature. This struggle for survival has pushed people to fight and to defend - attack and defence- through the ages, which made it acceptable for them to show their strength to the society, and/or to prove their superiority.

In the early days, wrestling was considered to be a fight where it is known to result in the death of one of the sportsmen at the end. During the evolution of the sport, such mortal competitions have vanished through time.

Wrestling is divided into the sub-categories such as; aba wrestling, salwar wrestling, karakucak wrestling, and oil wrestling in Turkey. The type that will be examined in this thesis is oil wrestling, where the sportsman wears wrestling pants called kispet, cover themselves in olive oil from head to toe, and carry on the contest in the open air in the countryside. The wrestlers are preferably heavy-weight where the body fat makes it harder for the contestants to hold onto each other. It takes great strength and skill to gain superiority over the opponent. Flatlands suitable for wrestling competitions, such as meadows or plateaus is called the field of a contest -for the brave.

Traditional oil wrestling, which has a long history in the Turkish culture, is amongst the important cultural heritage values of Turkey, and the world as well. As a matter of fact, Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Festival is the only wrestling

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organization globally that has entered the UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Kirkpinar masters (aghas) organize oil wrestling organizations with responsibilities including, delegating the sportsman, consolidating the competitions, presenting the awards, hosting the guests from meals to accommodation, and maintaining the overall wellbeing of the attendants and safety of the organization. The studies in the national (domestic) literature mostly cover the history of oil wrestling, the rules of competition, and the historic contests of leading head-wrestlers (Bic, 1944; Sefik, 1953; Temizoglu, 1970; Kaynar, 1971; Ayag, 1983; Kahraman, 1989). Additionally, there are various studies on the history of Çardak and Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Contents (Gümüş, 1990; Yilmaz, 1995; Acar, 2014). On the other hand, this study aims to examine whether such oil wrestling organizations are up to standards. The answers of oil wrestling contestants in Turkey to the summary list of questions were sought and examined in this study;

- What are the oil wrestlers' expectations regarding wrestling organizations?
- What are the oil wrestlers' general opinions and views on oil wrestling competitions?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the facilities utilized in the organizations?

What we analysed:

This study utilized the scanning model which aims to describe an existing situation as it was. The event, individual or object that is subjected to research is tried to be defined on its own terms and conditions. Utmost effort was made in order not to influence or affect the subject in any way (Karasar, 2003). The universe of the research consists of oil wrestlers in Turkey. The sample of the study comprises 541 sportsmen who participated in the oil wrestling organizations held in Turkish cities in various regions; namely, Antalya, Edirne, Kocaeli, and Samsun.

The study aimed to reveal the thoughts of oil wrestlers with regards to these sports organizations, including how the events should be organized and how to improve the quality of existing organizations accordingly. Within the scope of the study, an initial focus group meeting was held with 5 oil wrestlers for answering & discussing 3 open-end questions. The discussion allowed for the generation of survey questions to be developed by a team comprising of the researcher and the sector expert. A total of 35 Likert-type questions regarding the personal information of oil wrestlers and personal opinions on wrestling organizations were created for the study survey which has then been applied to the same sample group.

SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for Windows Version 25.0 program, which is a tool for statistical analysis with social sciences interface, was used in the analysis of the data obtained as a result of research within the scope of this study. All data obtained were analyzed comparatively, and the results of the analyses were

presented in number and percentage distributions to be explained in summary tables under the appropriate headings in line with the study objectives.

Our findings:

35 questions regarding the personal information of oil wrestlers and their opinions on wrestling organizations were developed for the study survey to be applied to the sample group of 541 oil wrestlers. This section covers the analysis of all answers given to the related questionnaire.

All the given tables are self explanatory. However, the demographic characteristics of the sportsmen participating in the survey are provided below in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table-1: Distribution of Oil Wrestlers by Age

Age Gr.	Frequency	%	Age Gr.	Frequency	%
8-14	57	10.5	15-21	170	31.4
22-28	168	31.1	29-35	74	13.7
36 & >	54	10	No value	18	3.3
Total	541	100			

Table -2: Distribution of Oil Wrestlers by Wrestling Years

Age Gr.	Frequency	%	Age Gr.	Frequency	%
1-6	220	40.67	7-12	157	29.02
13-18	78	14.42	19-24	49	9.06
25 & <	18	3.33	No value	19	3.51
Total	541	100			

Evaluation of Organizational Expectations of Oil Wrestlers within the Scope of Research

In this section, the answers to 32 questions asked under the general heading of the questionnaire, namely "What Are Your Opinions Regarding the Adequacy of Oil Wrestling Organizations?", were investigated with each question's answers assessed separately.

Table-3: Distribution of answers of "Do the Lighting of the facilities is sufficient?"

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	88	16.3	Not agree	224	41.4
Indecisive	135	25.0	Agree	65	12.0
Absolutely agree	28	5.2	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	0.2	Grand Total	541	100

Table-4: Distribution of answers of "Do the Promotion of organizations is sufficient?"

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	52	9.6	Not agree	151	27.9
Indecisive	228	42.1	Agree	73	13.5
Absolutely agree	37	6.8	Total	541	100.0

Table-5: Distribution of answers of "Are the Showers and toilets of the facilities clean?"

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	152	28.1	Not agree	168	31.1
Indecisive	126	23.3	Agree	62	11.5
Absolutely agree	29	5.4	Total	537	99.3
Missing	4	.7	Grand Total	541	100

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Table-6: Distribution of answers of “Do the Oil used in oil wrestling is of high quality?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	110	20.3	Not agree	150	27.7
Indecisive	195	36.0	Agree	60	11.1
Absolutely agree	25	4.6	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100

Table-7: Distribution of answers of “Do the number of changing rooms in the facilities is sufficient?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	115	21.3	Not agree	170	31.4
Indecisive	173	32.0	Agree	62	11.5
Absolutely agree	18	3.3	Total	538	99.4
Missing	3	0.6	Grand Total	541	100

Table-8: Distribution of answers of “Do the Payments can be made prior to the event?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	61	11.3	Not agree	114	21.1
Indecisive	180	33.3	Agree	139	25.7
Absolutely agree	46	8.5	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	0.2	Grand Total	541	100

Table-9: Distribution of answers of “Do the Doping check/test room is provided in organizations?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	43	7.9	Not agree	119	22.0
Indecisive	253	46.8	Agree	94	17.4
Absolutely agree	30	5.5	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100

Table-10: Distribution of answers of “Do the Floors of the facilities is problematic?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	35	6.5	Not agree	160	29.6
Indecisive	170	31.4	Agree	136	25.1
Absolutely agree	37	6.8	Total	538	99.4
Missing	3	.6	Grand Total	541	100

Table-11: Distribution of answers of “Do the Resting areas in the facilities reserved for wrestlers is sufficient?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	85	15.7	Not agree	171	31.6
Indecisive	191	35.3	Agree	67	12.4
Absolutely agree	27	5.0	Total	541	100.0

Table-12: Distribution of answers of “Are Therespecial seats for the audience in the facilities?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	47	8.7	Not agree	138	25.5
Indecisive	222	41.0	Agree	101	18.7
Absolutely agree	31	5.7	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	0.4	Grand Total	541	100

Table-13: Distribution of answers of “Are the Facilities easily accessible?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	44	8.1	Not agree	109	20.1

Indecisive	185	34.2	Agree	162	29.9
Absolutely agree	39	7.2	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100

Table-14: Distribution of answers of “Are the Facilities suitable for families?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	59	10.9	Not agree	146	27.0
Indecisive	227	42.0	Agree	85	15.7
Absolutely agree	23	4.3	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-15: Distribution of answers of “Do the Security service is sufficient in organizations?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	46	8.5	Not agree	164	30.3
Indecisive	207	38.3	Agree	92	17.0
Absolutely agree	30	5.5	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-16: Distribution of answers to the question of “Is There a hot water problem exist?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	130	24.0	Not agree	136	25.1
Indecisive	183	33.8	Agree	57	10.5
Absolutely agree	29	5.4	Total	535	98.9
Missing	6	1.1	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-17: Distribution of answers of “Do the Announcers shout more than necessary while introducing contestants?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	44	8.1	Not agree	79	14.6
Indecisive	245	45.3	Agree	111	20.5
Absolutely agree	59	10.9	Total	538	99.4
Missing	3	.6	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-18: Distribution of answers of “Is there a food problem in organizations?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	60	11.1	Not agree	166	30.7
Indecisive	152	28.1	Agree	119	22.0
Absolutely agree	42	7.8	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-19: Distribution of answers of “Are the Payments for organizations encouraging?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	67	12.4	Not agree	129	23.8
Indecisive	186	34.4	Agree	120	22.2
Absolutely agree	39	7.2	Total	541	100.0

Table-20: Distribution of answers of “Are there enough towels/napkins to be used during oil wrestling?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	37	6.8	Not agree	168	31.1
Indecisive	204	37.7	Agree	99	18.3
Absolutely agree	33	6.1	Total	541	100.0

Table-21: Distribution of answers of “Do the First aid team is always present during tournaments?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	18	3.3	Not agree	84	15.5
Indecisive	160	29.6	Agree	211	39.0
Absolutely agree	68	12.6	Total	541	100.0

Table-22: Distribution of answers of “Is there any parking service problem at the facilities?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	61	11.3	Not agree	191	35.3
Indecisive	190	35.1	Agree	70	12.9
Absolutely agree	27	5.0	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-23: Distribution of answers of “Are the Shower amenities at the facilities sufficient?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	139	25.7	Not agree	157	29.0
Indecisive	161	29.8	Agree	56	10.4
Absolutely agree	27	5.0	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-24: Distribution of answers of “Do the Lack of advertisement results in loss of public interest in oil wrestling?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	44	8.1	Not agree	111	20.5
Indecisive	147	27.2	Agree	155	28.7
Absolutely agree	83	15.3	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-25: Distribution of answers of “Do the Announcers affect the audience negatively?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	83	15.3	Not agree	154	28.5
Indecisive	177	32.7	Agree	85	15.7
Absolutely agree	38	7.0	Total	537	99.3
Missing	4	.7	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-26: Distribution of answers of “Do There not any canteen at the facilities?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	43	7.9	Not agree	169	31.2
Indecisive	164	30.3	Agree	116	21.4
Absolutely agree	49	9.1	Total	541	100.0

Table-27: Distribution of answers of “Do the Referees act is without bias in their decisions during tournaments?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	56	10.4	Not agree	114	21.1
Indecisive	231	42.7	Agree	106	19.6
Absolutely agree	32	5.9	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-28: Distribution of answers of “Is there not any drinking water problem at the facilities?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	72	13.3	Not agree	181	33.5
Indecisive	178	32.9	Agree	87	16.1

Absolutely agree	23	4.3	Total	541	100.0
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Table-29: Distribution of answers of ““Do the Equal respect is shown to all contestants in announcements?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	65	12.0	Not agree	142	26.2
Indecisive	160	29.6	Agree	127	23.5
Absolutely agree	46	8.5	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-30: “Do the Promotion campaign for oil wrestlers is sufficient?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	53	9.8	Not agree	169	31.2
Indecisive	204	37.7	Agree	86	15.9
Absolutely agree	29	5.4	Total	541	100.0

Table-31: “Do the Titles of contestants influence the decisions of the referees?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	27	5.0	Not agree	137	25.3
Indecisive	212	39.2	Agree	123	22.7
Absolutely agree	40	7.4	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-32: Distribution of answers of “Is it offensive to receive payments by hand?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	70	12.9	Not agree	219	40.5
Indecisive	168	31.1	Agree	66	12.2
Absolutely agree	18	3.3	Total	541	100

Table-33: Distribution of answers of “Are the changing/dressing rooms in the facilities large enough?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	99	18.3	Not agree	163	30.1
Indecisive	193	35.7	Agree	63	11.6
Absolutely agree	22	4.1	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100

Table-34: Distribution of answers of “Are the meals served at the organization tasty?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	65	12.0	Not agree	187	34.6
Indecisive	195	36.0	Agree	64	11.8
Absolutely agree	28	5.2	Total	539	99.6
Missing	2	.4	Grand Total	541	100.0

Table-35: Distribution of answers of “Do the Range of monetary awards for different categories is wide?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	60	11.1	Not agree	171	31.6
Indecisive	171	31.6	Agree	83	15.3
Absolutely agree	55	10.2	Total	540	99.8
Missing	1	.2	Grand Total	541	100

Table-36: Distribution of answers of “Are the Advertisement posters prepared to attract public from all segments?”

Clause	Freq.	%	Clause	Freq.	%
Absolutely not agree	55	10.2	Not agree	79	14.6

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Indecisive	259	47.9	Agree	119	22.0
Absolutely agree	25	4.6	Total	537	99.3
Missing	4	.7	Grand Total	541	100

Discussion:

As per the results of the study, it was observed that oil wrestlers mostly face problems regarding the facilities in which the organizations were held.

The detailed examination of the study results reveal that the facility component of the organizations was sub-standard overall; dressing/changing rooms in the facilities were not large enough, the shower and WC areas of the facilities were not hygienic, potable drinking water, in addition, too hot water amenity in the showers had been an issue, the recreational and resting areas in the facilities reserved for the wrestlers were unsatisfactory, the proper lighting of the facilities was insufficient, the doping checkroom in the facility did not receive proper care and attention, special seats were not set aside for the audience, the facilities were not suitable for families nor child-friendly, and the access to the facilities that are on the countryside is mainly difficult.

In addition to the facility aspect of organizations, the oil wrestlers state that promotion and advertising of the organization are unsatisfactory which results in loss of interest in oil wrestling by the public. Other problems revealed are; the oil used for oil wrestling is of poor quality, security service is not sufficient for the organization overall, payments were delayed long after whilst they could be made prior to the organizations, the range of monetary awards for different categories were significantly apart, the biased decisions of the referees who care for titles rather than the sport demotivate the sportsman, the announcers may also be prejudiced while introducing contestants and may shout more than necessary overall, there is a limited number of towels/napkins to be used during wrestling, the meals served were unsavoury with inadequate drinking water supply as well.

The above-mentioned issues clearly indicate that oil wrestlers have a negative point of view regarding the wrestling organizations, and such future sports events require more care and attention for thorough planning and operation.

Oil wrestling, as a traditional sport having significant cultural heritage value, the absence of field of the contest –also regarded as “for the brave”- which should reflect the character and historical background of this sport is an important scarcity.

The reflection of this traditional sport in current practices unfortunately neglected as of today. The pioneering of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MoCT) and the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) in the creation and dissemination of good practices of oil wrestling in this regard will certainly provide the base ground for this cultural heritage’s journey into the future.

The fact that this study has been the first in the literature to be conducted on the expectations of oil wrestlers with regards to wrestling organizations clarify that the results and evaluations obtained within the scope of the study are original and unique..

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