

Nenad Živanović¹

Petar Pavlović²

Nebojša Ranđelović¹

Momir Ćirić¹

¹*University of Nis, Faculty of Sport and Physical Education*

²*University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport*

Review

ROLE OF SCHOOL SPORT IN THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUTH

School sport as part of school physical education has a vital role in the education of young people. As an indispensable extracurricular activity of the pupils, school sport can inspire the youth to the heights which help one see and understand better the words of Achilles' father: „Strive always to be the best and excellent among others not to shame the line of your fathers, the finest men by far...” (1). These words remind one of something that in these global modern times is a *forgotten value*. For sport has for a long time forgotten its value attributes such as health, socialization and education, and has turned to some new ones – profit and professionalism.

That is why it is once more important to remind why the all-time terminological fight about the term: **school sport or sport in school** was so important, and that wisdom and foresight have fortunately for the domain of sport won over hedonistic – profit interests. That is why we can still talk about long-abandoned attributes of sport – health, socialization and education that are nowadays value categories of the school sport.

In the syntagma *school sport*, the attribute school clearly denotes its priority. It determines its value categories and actually guards those values that once were in the core of sport. This means that such an organizational scheme for school sports activities primarily emphasizes education, and everything is subdued to the education of our schoolchildren. Such determination of its objectives, where education has a prime role, sports results being the primal task in sport becomes just an incentive for the school sport and pupils to turn to, of their own will, and to be engaged in school sports groups and school sports competitions. Through the engagement in school sports groups and in their school sport dreams quite unnoticed pupil will build up their social skills, friendliness, respect and love for other fellow beings.

Also through physical exercise and exercising pupils will perfect their body and their health. And all of these are going to be built into their personality – one and only, unique and irreproducible. This very personality will, due to school sports

dreams mature more easily and prepare for the life that will bring them ups and downs, successes and failures. That is the value of school sports which cannot be measured by material means.

Education is not just: planned and systematic activity ... (2), or, maturing process ... (3), this is also an old Slavonic word for feeding. And this means that physical exercise, which is the basic means of all three realms of physical culture – education, sport and recreation, represents specific food, first of all for the physical part of our being. Therefore, it is important to know how to use this specific food – physical exercise. And as it is always in life, all kinds of over-nurturing in one or other sense is not useful; it is detrimental for health of each individual. Over-emphasized physical activity which is basic for the building of new cults such as: **cult of sports results**, **cult of the body** and **cult of the profit** should at no cost be present in the school sport. Quite contrary, underestimating and scorn for physical exercise and physical engagement can frequently be found in everyday life, which is also not acceptable. Due to these controversies that are ultimately cruel, school sport gives a chance to find the right measure in consuming this specific food – physical exercising. This fact contains one of the most essential values of the school sport. By educating i.e. nurturing young school athletes by means of physical exercising, school sport helps in adequate growing up and maturation of young people. This growing up encompasses immeasurable importance of parents and our PE teachers.

School sport as its name denotes clearly is connected to school and is a part of regular teaching process. Within physical education (4), it covers the area of extracurricular activities and is a very important segment. Variability of school sports groups is a treasure of each school because it meets various demands of the pupils. Likewise, this is a chance to get familiar with some sporting activity and to like it and accept it. Such an opportunity is a precious one for the pupils and each of them can find what his or her young personality favours most. And through togetherness and school sports trainings, one learns all that organized and planned physical exercising enables.

Model of organized school sport in Serbia shows that a large number of children are included in different sports activities at different levels (5). In a pyramid-like structure of the organization starting from its basis, competing in school all the way to the top which is a state level competition, a large number of pupils has a chance to compete and show their abilities. Of course as all the systems this one shows its drawbacks. All the drawbacks do not reflect in the lack of will and knowledge to organize and implement school competition and the functioning of the school sports groups. What poses a problem is setting up of the structure of school sport. For the time being, the only values of the results achieved at the communal, regional and republic levels are taken into account. If one adds up the problem relating to the

right of the pupils to take part in these competitions (schoolchildren athletes or those not participating in sports club) it rounds off the problem altogether. The problem is reflected in the drawbacks of the teacher's work in the very base of the pyramid-like structure of the school sport – in the school itself. One does not evaluate the results of the teacher in his or her school nor does one insist on the pyramid basis foundation. Until one applies this principle, one cannot expect to get any improvement in the school sport. Of course, in emphasising the awareness, the most important role belongs to the field expertise organizations of the PE teachers and the Ministry responsible for the school sport.

These are the reasons to start with the school class and school grade as the basic unit when one organizes sports competitions showing the advancement of schoolchildren. This must be the foundation when thinking about school sport and the organized system of working and competing. (6)



Table 1. Represented sports in school sports competitions

Athletics	Handball
Gymnastics	Basketball
Swimming	Volleyball
Shooting	Futsal
Table tennis	

Appendix 1

In the systematic organization of school sport, of course it is very important to have a support from the state through their ministries. Basically, one takes into account ministries of education and sport of the youth (6). But this support is important not only because of the financial support, but also because of the possible determination of legislative regulations of the very organization of school sport and school sports competitions, and it has its drawbacks. These drawbacks taken from the state's angle are identification of school sports competitions with competitions in the registered sport. This sense of sameness causes the formation of the opinion, not only of the PE

teachers but children as well, that sports results are valuable in their own right and that to achieve them, all means of obtaining them are allowed.

This is completely wrong and tragic.

School sport is a chance and it has to be a chance to satisfy the need for movement and socializing and to occupy free time of young people. Therefore, one has to pay equal attention to the regional and state competitions as well as the school ones. Because the purpose of the presence of school sport is satisfying the needs of the youth and these are more and more emphasized. New technology and new concepts of the (programmed) development of man and society at large offer quite the opposite – individualization and destructive humanization. In order to defy this trend, the school and school sport can with the help of parents slow down and stop altogether such inclinations of the neo-globalist and neo-liberal ideologies.

- Therefore, our PE teacher **cannot be a coach but a torch holder** who will light the theo-humanistic path to his/her pupils.
- Therefore, our PE teacher will know that class and grade competitions in his school are most important; more important than all the regional and state competitions and Olympiads.
- Therefore, our PE teacher will try hard to stir all the pupils in his/her school to exercise and compete having in mind the Latin maxim: *Urbi et orbi!* (7) and the best among them will constitute their representative school teams.
- Therefore, our PE teacher will follow the theo-anthropocentric approach in PE field approach (8). He will try to find in each pupil that spark that will trigger him or her and direct them into physical exercising and thus to socializing with their friends.
- Therefore, our PE teacher will know that competitions in school sports meetings are typical life school for the pupils. He or she will teach them not to be lofty in their success or ashamed in their failures. He or she will teach them to gain success by working – exercising.

In a word, our PE teacher will teach the pupils that school sport (and for the chosen ones registered sport) is just a part of their own youth and life joy and their school sports are constituent part of their growing up.

Our PE teacher will be a role model for his or her pupils and thus will testify about the values of the school sport that are not just winnings and awards, achieved points and good sports results but socializing, regular training and school sports dreams that stir and lift. He or she will testify to that in teaching their pupils not to win by fraud and violence but with their own efforts and capabilities.

Participants of the republican school sports competitions

	year	athletics	gymnastics	swimming	shooting	table tennis	handball	basketball	volleyball	futsal	Total
Elementary schools - girls	2003/04	130	105	260	58	48	108	90	90		
Elementary schools - boys	2003/04	130	51	292	63	60	108	90	90	90	
Secondary schools - girls	2003/04	112	27	79	54	57	108	90	90		
Secondary schools - boys	2003/04	125	20	101	58	54	108	90	90	90	
total	2003/04	497	203	732	233	219	432	360	360	180	3216
Elementary schools - girls	2004/05	123	115	212	65	66	108	90	90	90	
Elementary schools - boys	2004/05	106	54	270	69	69	108	90	90	90	
Secondary schools - girls	2004/05	108	36	78	61	60	72	90	90		
Secondary schools - boys	2004/05	115	28	99	68	60	108	90	90	90	
total	2004/05	452	233	659	263	255	396	360	360	270	3248
Elementary schools - girls	2005/06	112	166	223	76	54	108	90	90	90	
Elementary schools - boys	2005/06	114	89	259	71	57	108	90	90	90	
Secondary schools - girls	2005/06	106	35	74	55	51	108	90	90		
Secondary schools - boys	2005/06	113	36	93	68	60	108	90	90	90	
total	2005/06	445	326	649	270	222	432	360	360	270	3334
Elementary schools - girls	2006/07	118	92	268	63	66	108	90	90	90	
Elementary schools - boys	2006/07	109	75	301	67	69	108	90	90	90	
Secondary schools - girls	2006/07	100	30	79	59	63	108	90	90		
Secondary schools - boys	2006/07	110	22	105	68	69	108	90	90	90	
total	2006/07	437	219	753	257	267	432	360	360	270	3355

Contribution 1

They will testify by their own example that they do not care for rewards and prizes and that they do not come before the pupils. Therefore, he or she will decorate their teaching room with the pictures of their pupils and not with their rewards.

They will testify by showing everyone that their class and school competitions are most important and that all their pupils take part in them; that their gym and open door facilities are full of their pupils included into the activities of the sports groups. They will show that for them it is most important that all the pupils do exercises, try to master and perfect themselves and that they fantasize to – ***be the best and try not to bring shame to their school, their parents and their friends***. This is not utopia, this is the task for our good teacher. (9) This task that our teacher has accepted when stepping on the threshold of the school is a lofty task of each and every PE teacher-pedagogue. In their school everybody can exercise and the best will represent the school, class. This is the obligation of the PE teacher.

In the world we live in and which for the sake of hedonistic objectives finds all means allowed for the task accomplishment, we think about the role and the significance of school sport. Besides, neo-Darwinist theory omnipresent and interwoven in all aspects of our lives is consistently destroying this segment of school as well. It uses words: ***tear it up, tear it up*** and tries to incorporate all characteristics of the registered sport and all its negative sides into the school sport. And by forcing only town's and republic competitions and by rewarding teachers only for the results achieved there one tries to blur the role of school sport and follows neo-Darwinist theory of today's world.

Therefore our PE teacher and pedagogue, the torch bearer of our specific domain of knowledge knows well what to do.

And to show that ***one educates with the help of love and being a role model***.

REFERENCE

1. Homer, Iliad, VII 208-210
2. Education is a planned and systematic activity of leading a child and the grown up in physical and spiritual sense. (Zivanovic, N. 2000. Contribution to the epistemology of physical education. Panoptikum: Nis.)
3. Education is a process of forming a personality with the organized actions of the family, school and other factors (Small encyclopedia of education. Vol.1, Belgrade, 1896.)
4. Physical education is a part of general education which means that this is a planned and systematic activity which by means of physical movement-exercise as a specific food develops human personality. (Zivanovic, N. 2000. Contribution to the epistemology of physical education. Panoptikum: Nis.)

5. According to the available data it is estimated that school sport competitions comprise around 500.000 pupils. And in the finals, taking republic level into consideration, there are around 3.200 and 3.400 pupils. (See the contribution 1).
6. Organizational scheme can be seen on a site of the Association of school sport and Olympic education.
7. In Serbia a responsibility for education and sport of young people falls within two separate Ministries: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sport and Youth
8. To all and each!
9. Approaches to the development of the theories of physical education: ethnocentrism, biocentrism, egocentrism, anthropocentrism, theoanthropocentrism.
10. It may sound like utopia for all the pupils to be included into the functioning of school sports groups. But this is feasible if there is a wish of the teacher to motivate his or her pupils. Organizational problems can be solved. This is verified by some teachers in some schools in Serbia as well as one of the authors of this paper in his early teaching days in one of the schools.

ABSTRACT

School sport as a part of school physical education has a vital role in the education of young people. As an indispensable extracurricular activity of the pupils, school sport can inspire the youth to the heights which help one see and understand better the words of Achilles' father: „Strive always to be the best and excellent among others not to shame the line of your fathers, the finest men by far...” (Homer, Iliad, VII 208-210). School sport differs from the sport in school in that it uses such messages to build most valuable school sport dreams as a part of youth. Also, school sport dreams make a basis for easier maturation and facing the reality where success and failure make up normal course of our lives. Therefore, school sport competitions should be under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sport and Youth and school as well. Naturally, this cannot take place without parents and pupils. Without their help and enthusiasm it is not possible to organize school sport especially at the level of school. That is why this segment of school sport deserves the greatest attention. Citing the organization of school sport in Serbia, we will point to the bad and good sides of it and give our opinion on how to improve the organization of school sports competition.

Key words: *School sport, education, youth*