



## Researching the awareness of athletes in different branches in Turkey about their exposure to sexual abuse and harassment

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### Abstract

This study researching the awareness of athletes in different branches in Turkey about their exposure to sexual abuse and harassment. For this purpose, the data of the sexual harassment in sports inventory filled by 474 athletes were evaluated. The Ki-square test in statistical operations was performed. Significant differences were found in all parameters in the distribution of the sexual harassment and abuse behaviours of the athlete's different branches by gender ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$ ). While there was a significant difference in some parameters according to gender ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$ ), there was no significant difference in some parameters ( $p > 0.05$ ). It has been determined that male students have a higher rate of sexual harassment compared to female students in the questions differences. While there was a significant difference in the answers given to the statements "not wanting to prolong and being ashamed to tell" in the distribution of the reasons for not making a formal complaint by the athletes by gender ( $p < 0.05$ ), the answers to the other questions were found to be similar ( $p > 0.05$ ). Conclusion: It has been observed that there are differences in the perception of sexual abuse and harassment behaviours between male student-athletes and female student-athletes in the different branch athletes. The percentage of answers given to male and female student-athletes about sexual harassment in each question varies. It has been determined that male student-athletes are exposed to sexual abuse and harassment more than female student-athletes. A particular unit should be established to apply to victims of sexual abuse and harassment, and sexual abuse and harassment intervention programs for athletes should be designed and implemented.

**Keywords:** Athlete, gender, sexual harassment behaviour, sexual abuse

### *Türkiye'de farklı branşlardaki sporcularının cinsel ve psikolojik tacize maruz kalma farkındalıklarının araştırılması*

#### Öz

Bu çalışmanın amacı Türkiye'de farklı branşlardaki sporcularının cinsel ve psikolojik tacize maruz kalma farkındalıklarının araştırılmasıdır. Bu amaçla toplam 474 takım ve bireysel sporlarda yarışmalara katılan sporcuya cinsel taciz envanteri uygulanmıştır. İstatistiksel işlemlerde ki-kare testi kullanılmıştır. Sporcuların toplamda %74,65'i cinsel taciz davranışlarına maruz kalmadıklarını belirtirken, %9,12'si bir kez, %14,12'si ara sıra ve %2,58'i ise çok sık bu davranışlarla karşılaşmışlardır. Spor ortamında cinsel taciz davranışına uğrama durumu ve sıklığının takım ve bireysel sporlarda yarışma durumuna göre istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık göstermediği tespit edilmiştir ( $p > 0,05$ ). Takım ve bireysel spor yapma durumuna göre spor ortamında cinsel taciz davranışına uğrama sıklığında maruz kalınan cinsel içerikli şakalar ve cinsel ilişkiye zorlamaya uğrama sıklığında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılık bulunmuştur ( $p < 0,05$ ). Cinsel taciz davranışlarında resmi şikâyette bulunmama nedenlerinin takım ve bireysel spor yapma durumuna göre dağılımı birbirine benzerdir ( $p > 0,05$ ). Takım ve bireysel spor yapma durumuna göre spor ortamında cinsel taciz davranışına uğrama sıklığında ise "cinsel içerikli şakalar ve cinsel ilişkiye zorlamaya uğrama" durumunda farklılık bulunmuştur. Cinsel tacize uğrayan kişilerin başvuru yapacağı özel bir birimin oluşturulması gerekli görülmüştür. Bu birimde sporculara yönelik cinsel tacizin tüm failleri için sporculara ve antrenörlere büyük özen gösterilerek cinsel taciz müdahale programları tasarlanmalı ve uygulanmalıdır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Takım sporu, bireysel spor, cinsel taciz, psikolojik taciz

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## INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment includes non-consensual, sexually explicit words, attitudes or other behaviour made without bodily contact with the person (Özen et al., 2018). While sexual behaviour, disposition and orientation may represent the most sincere and profound expressions of a person's identity, they can also represent an essential vulnerability for all individuals (Chroni et al., 2012). It can mean the abuse of people whose consent is not accepted and the fact that they are unwillingly targeted using physical force, cheating, deception, or threat to the sexual orientation of others (Holman, 1995). People from all genders, social strata and occupational groups can be subjected to sexual harassment and abuse. However, it can be said that women and children are more exposed to sexual abuse in general (Yıldız, 2009). These expressions can be mimics, gestures, hand-arm jokes, physical contact, verbal expressions, glances, threats, blackmail, and rape (Şahin et al., 2012). Studies in sports have shown that the impact of sexual harassment, whether in mild or more severe forms, can be severe. Victims of sexual harassment; feelings of anxiety, humiliation and alienation, anger, fear, guilt, vulnerability, and helplessness; they experience a variety of symptoms, including decreased self-esteem, self-esteem and life satisfaction, fear of rape, and an overall increased fear of crime (Fasting et al., 2002). Although sexual abuse is primarily encountered in individuals with low self-protection skills, to satisfy sexual impulses, a child's sexual activity with abuse of power, trust, and authority Moreover, being exposed to behaviour (Kara et al., 2004). In sexual harassment policy documents, sexual harassment is handled in three types simple, continuous, and severe sexual harassment. Simple sexual harassment, making sexual jokes and compliments or using slang words, insisting on flirting, and asking questions about the person's sexual life, such as threatening, blackmailing, or insulting, but uncomfortable, unwanted environments. are the movements. Continuous harassment occurs when simple harassment is done continuously despite warnings. Severe sexual harassment is the actions aimed at controlling the behaviour of the person, which occurs through threats, blackmail or insults and similar acts in cases where it is stated that the person will pay the costs related to his work and sports life if he does not comply with the offer of sexual content, and if he does, he will gain undeserved gains. Examples of verbal abuse and harassment include unsolicited or derogatory candid questions about body, dress, or a person's privacy, sexually suggestive jokes, and offers or requests for sexual services or sexual relations. These may also be unsolicited phone calls, letters, text messages or other sexually explicit communications. Examples of nonverbal abuse and harassment include staring, gestures, and showing sexually suggestive pictures or objects. Examples of physical

harassment and abuse include unwanted, unnecessary, or forced physical contact of a sexual nature, such as squeezing into the body of others, trying to kiss or caress another person, sexual penetration, and rape (Chroni et al., 2012; Özen et al., 2018).

Evidence in the literature and reports has shown that male and female athletes are sexually harassed while participating in sports (Ifeanyichukwu et al., 2011). Several researchers have drawn attention to the problem of sexual abuse and abuse in sports (Chroni et al., 2012). In a study conducted in Australia, “31% of female athletes and 21% of male athletes were reported to have been sexually abused at some point in their lives. Of these, 41% of women and 29% of men have been sexually abused in sports” (Leahy et al., 2002). In cases where the sexual abuse and the abuser know each other, it becomes even more challenging to resist, fight and prevent it due to social values. In cases of sexual abuse, especially in family schools and similar educational institutions and workplaces, the effects of physical and mental trauma experienced by the abused person become more severe, and it may take longer for this abuse to be noticed, prevented, and evaluated in terms of forensic medicine (Fasting & Knorre, 2005; Fasting et al., 2013). It is possible to see examples of sexual harassment experiences between men and women, women and women, and men-men (Malloy & Zakus, 2004). Sexual harassment, which has become widespread daily, has brought a cost in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, and socio-psychological aspects in organizations (Mimaroglu & Özgen, 2008). When acts of harassment are repeated, they can have much more severe consequences for the individual. The grading of the impact of sexual assault may differ slightly between societies and cultures. However, it is a situation that is generally not welcomed anywhere and punished according to the degree of severity (Yıldız, 2009). The rate of sexual harassment suffered by some trainers, managers and spectators throughout their sports life is 56.2% (Grandson, 2016).

Sexual harassment and abuse are among the factors that threaten athletes to do sports in a safe environment. When we look at the sources of harassment and abuse in sports environments, studies show a risk factor arising from the trainer. It is thought that significant risk factors, such as the strength of the trainers and the performance superiority in the welfare level of the athletes, come from the sports environment or that the sports allow this abuse. At the relational level, coaches have a significant impact on athletes. This is primarily because the athlete sees his trainer as a parent (Stirling & Kerr, 2009; Bıyık & İmamoğlu, 2022). Since it is a form of gender discrimination and inequality in society against women, sexual harassment is directed chiefly against women. However, it is known that men are also victims of sexual harassment for various reasons. To combat sexual abuse and harassment behaviours in athletes,

athletes' perceptions on this issue should be clarified. In this study aimed to researching the awareness of athletes in different branches in Turkey about their exposure to sexual abuse and harassment.

## **METHOD**

### **Participants**

In the research, the surveys of 474 athletes in different branches, aged between 17-30, were evaluated. The participants are sports faculty students, 188 of whom are male (with an average of 8.5 years of CV/training year) and 286 of whom are female (with an average of 6.2 years of sports CV). Explanations about the inventory and the purpose of the research were made to the participants in their free time, and data collection was carried out face to face. An information form and research inventory regarding sexual harassment in sports were administered to the participants.

### **Sexual harassment inventory in sports**

The inventory of sexual harassment in sports was prepared by Özen et al. (2018). The questionnaire consists of four parts. In the first part, the participants were asked to indicate which of the 17 listed behaviours they consider sexual harassment/sexual assault with three options (Yes, Not Sure, and No). The second part consists of three questions; how often have they been subjected to sexual harassment (Never, once, occasionally, and very often)? In which places where they sexually harassed (For example, on the sports field, locker room, competitions, etc.) and by whom (For example, masseur, manager, coach, referee, audience, etc.) were asked. In the third part, the reactions shown when exposed to sexual harassment (For example, I perceived it as a joke and ignored it, I shouted out of fear, I left the environment, I made an official complaint, etc.) and the reasons for this, if no official complaint was made (For example, I was very scared, I was afraid of being dismissed from the team, a place I could apply to) did not exist, etc.), were asked. The fourth part of the questionnaire consists of three questions asking opinions about the precautions against sexual harassment (Özen et al., 2018).

### **Statistical evaluation**

Statistical calculations were made with SPSS 25.00 program. The normality assumption of the data obtained in the study was evaluated with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test ( $p > 0.05$ ). Chi-square ( $X^2$ ) analysis was performed on the data. The significance level was checked at  $p < 0.05$  level.

### Ethics committee report

Approval was received for the study “Investigation of Athletes’ Exposure to Sexual and Psychological Harassment in Turkey” with decision number 2023/106 of the Social and Human Sciences Research Ethics Committee of Ondokuz Mayıs University.

### RESULTS

**Table 1. Distribution of sexual harassment behaviours of athletes by gender**

Behaviours	Gender	Yes		Not sure		No		<sup>2</sup>	P
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Sexually explicit jokes (SEJ)	Male	105	55.9	32	17.0	51	27.1	24.14	0.001**
	Female	100	35.0	48	16.8	138	48.3		
Compliments of a sexual nature (CSN)	Male	106	56.4	46	25.4	36	19.1	38.06	0.001**
	Female	118	41.3	36	12.6	132	46.2		
Annoying remarks (AR)	Male	70	37.2	61	32.4	57	30.3	13.47	0.001*
	Female	88	30.8	64	22.4	134	46.9		
Persistent questions about your lover (PQL)	Male	75	39.9	58	30.9	55	29.3	36.69	0.001**
	Female	62	21.7	66	23.1	158	55.2		
Asking questions about your sex life (AQSL)	Male	84	44.7	44	23.4	60	31.9	23.63	0.001**
	Female	108	37.8	30	10.5	148	51.7		
Making sexist remarks about women and men (MSRWM)	Male	72	38.3	47	25.0	69	36.7	11.32	0.003*
	Female	96	33.6	44	15.4	146	51.0		
Using sexually explicit remarks about your body (USERB)	Male	103	54.8	33	17.6	52	27.7	35.94	0.001**
	Female	142	49.7	10	3.5	134	46.9		
Sexually suggestive glances (SSG)	Male	114	60.6	29	15.4	45	23.9	37.93	0.001**
	Female	142	49.7	10	3.5	134	46.9		
Being disturbed by sexually explicit material (BDSEM)	Male	121	64.4	14	7.4	53	28.2	15.99	0.001**
	Female	146	49.7	12	4.2	132	46.2		
Persistent invitations despite refusal (PIDR)	Male	107	56.9	30	17.0	49	26.1	21.17	0.001**
	Female	122	42.7	30	10.5	134	46.9		
Insistent behaviours to flirt (IBF)	Male	111	59.0	40	21.3	37	19.7	41.87	0.001**
	Female	124	43.4	26	9.1	136	47.6		
Sending offensive messages containing a flirting request (SOMCFR)	Male	122	64.9	31	16.5	35	18.6	45.17	0.001**
	Female	137	46.2	18	6.3	136	47.6		
Feeling/discourse of special interest and gain when sexually explicit offer is complied with ((F/SISEC)	Male	130	69.1	17	9.0	41	21.8	29.52	0.001**
	Female	140	49.0	14	4.9	132	46.2		
Making you feel that you will pay a price if the sexually explicit offer is not complied with (MFSEC)	Male	125	66.5	27	14.4	36	19.1	54.93	0.001**
	Female	144	50.3	6	2.1	136	47.6		
Touching any part of your body without your consent (TPBC)	Male	135	71.8	17	9.0	36	19.1	52.56	0.001**
	Female	148	51.7	2	0.7	136	47.6		
Kissing, hugging without your consent (KHC)	Male	138	73.4	14	7.4	36	19.1	54.71	0.001**
	Female	150	52.4	0	0	136	47.6		
Forced into sexual intercourse (FSI)	Male	52	27.8	97	51.9	38	20.3	25.57	0.001**
	Female	99	34.7	84	29.5	102	35.8		

\*p<0.05 and \*\*p<0.001

Significant differences were found in the gender distribution of the answers given as “yes, I am not sure and no” about the sexual harassment behaviours of the student athletes according to their gender ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 2. Sexual harassment status and frequency distribution of athletes by gender**

Behaviours	Gender	Never	Once	Occasionally	Very Often	X <sup>2</sup>	p
		N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)		
SEJ	Male	110 (58.5)	18(9.6)	46(24.5)	14(7.4)	20.94	0.001**
	Female	204 (71.3)	30 (10.5)	50 (17.5)	2(0.7)		
CSN	Male	92 (48.9)	32 (17.0)	60(31.9)	4(2.1)	25.99	0.001**
	Female	206(72.0)	26 (9.1)	50(17.5)	4 (1.4)		
AR	Male	100 (53.2)	20(10.6)	55(29.3)	13(6.9)	14.08	0.003*
	Female	198 (69.2)	14 (4.9)	62 (21.7)	12(4.2)		
PQL	Male	122(64.9)	16(8.5)	40(21.3)	10(5.3)	4.23	0.238
	Female	206(72.0)	14(4.9)	56(19.6)	10(3.5)		
AQSL	Male	110(58.5)	30(16.0)	39(20.7)	9(4.8)	24.32	0.001**
	Female	226(79.0)	22(7.7)	34(11.9)	4(1.4)		
MSRWM	Male	102(54.3)	20(10.6)	54(28.7)	12(6.4)	20.35	0.001**
	Female	212(74.1)	20(7.0)	44(15.4)	10(3.5)		
USERB	Male	116(61.1)	28(14.9)	32(17.0)	12(6.4)	25.83	0.001**
	Female	230(80.4)	12(4.2)	36(12.6)	8(2.8)		
SSG	Male	134(71.3)	18(9.6)	33(17.6)	3(1.6)	7.40	0.06
	Female	212(74.1)	24(8.4)	34(11.9)	16(5.6)		
BDSEM	Male	130(69.1)	22(11.7)	34(18.1)	2(1.1)	7.87	0.049*
	Female	222(77.6)	20(7.0)	36(12.6)	8(2.8)		
PIDR	Male	137(72.9)	22(11.7)	27(14.4)	2(1.1)	1.56	0.663
	Female	218(76.2)	24(8.4)	40(14.0)	4(1.4)		
IBF	Male	129(68.6)	34(18.1)	25(13.3)	0(0.0)	14.51	0.002*
	Female	212(74.1)	28(9.8)	34(11.9)	12(4.2)		
SOMCFR	Male	134(71.3)	22(11.7)	24(12.8)	8(4.3)	6.98	0.07
	Female	232(81.1)	18(6.3)	28(9.8)	8(2.8)		
F/SISEC	Male	138(73.4)	18(9.6)	26(13.8)	6(3.2)	20.24	0.000**
	Female	248(86.7)	6(2.1)	30(10.5)	2(0.7)		
MFSEC	Male	150(79.8)	10(5.3)	24(12.8)	4(2.1)	3.65	0.301
	Female	244(85.3)	10(3.5)	30(10.5)	2(0.7)		
TPBC	Male	144(76.6)	14(7.4)	25(13.3)	5(2.7)	10.54	0.014*
	Female	250(87.4)	14(4.9)	20(7.0)	2(0.7)		
KHC	Male	146(77.7)	15(8.0)	23(12.2)	4(2.1)	6.68	0.083
	Female	246(86.0)	18(6.3)	20(7.0)	2(0.7)		
FS	Male	151(80.3)	10(5.3)	23(12.2)	4(2.1)	17.02	0.001**
	Female	262(91.6)	4(1.4)	20(7.0)	0(0.0)		

\* $p < 0.05$  and \*\* $p < 0.001$

Significant differences were found in the distribution of the sexual harassment status and frequency of the athletes according to their gender, and the distribution of their responses to some statements ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 3. Distribution of places where sexual harassment behaviours are encountered by gender**

Place	Gender	Never	Once	Occasionally	Very Often	P	
		N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)		
Sports fields and course fields, Competitions	Male	108(57.4)	62(33.0)	7(3.7)	11(5.9)	8.97	0.030*
	Female	179(62.6)	79(27.6)	22(7.7)	6(2.1)		
Locker room, massage room, trainer room	Male	109(58.0)	70(37.2)	5(2.7)	4(2.1)	5.76	0.126
	Female	177(61.9)	94(32.9)	14(4.9)	1(0.3)		
Travels and coaching vehicles	Male	108(57.4)	58(30.9)	6(3.2)	16(8.5)	6.83	0.07
	Female	176(61.5)	77(26.9)	20(7.0)	13(4.5)		
Camping, club, and hotel rooms	Male	95(50.5)	63(33.5)	8(4.3)	22(11.7)	8.97	0.03*
	Female	175(61.2)	88(30.8)	7(2.4)	16(5.6)		
Environments where athletes spend time with their friends (cafe, cinema etc.)	Male	106(56.4)	67(35.6)	7(3.7)	8(4.3)	0.72	0.869
	Female	172(60.1)	94(32.9)	10(3.5)	10(3.5)		

\* $p < 0,05$

In the distribution of places where sexual harassment behaviours are encountered according to gender, significant differences were found in the categories of “Sports fields and course areas, Competitions” and “Camp, club and hotel rooms” ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 4. Distribution of the participants by gender, by whom they were exposed to sexual harassment behaviour**

People	Gender	Never		Once		Occasionally		P	
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Coach, Masseur, Manager, Referee	Male	159	84.57	15	7.98	14	7.45	2.19	0.781
	Female	242	84.62	28	9.79	16	5.59		
Any athlete	Male	154	81.91	15	7.98	19	10.41	8.75	0.032*
	Female	246	86.01	24	8.39	16	5.59		
Spectator In the Sports Field A person I do not know, People who come to the gym occasionally	Male	162	86.17	14	7.45	14	7.45	3.50	0.498
	Female	248	86.71	21	7.34	17	5.94		
Administrative Staff, Persons Working Outside of Official Work in the Sports Field	Male	164	87.33	9	4.79	13	6.91	5.21	0.120
	Female	256	89.51	10	3.5	20	6.99		

\* $p < 0.05$

The difference in the category of “any athlete” is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) in the distribution of sexual harassment by whom the participants are exposed to.

**Table 5. Distribution of their reactions to sexual harassment by gender**

Behaviours	No				Yes				2	P
	Male		Female		Male		Female			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
I took it as a joke	152	80.85	274	95.80	36	19.15	12	4.20	2.66	0.199
I told you not to	145	77.13	275	96.15	33	17.55	11	3.85	0.610	0.557
Physical response	170	90.43	279	97.55	18	9.57	7	2.45	0.560	0.547
Don't shout out of fear	180	95.74	257	89.86	8	4.26	29	10.14	0.480	0.623
Request for help from the environment	186	98.94	279	97.55	2	1.06	7	2.45	3.600	0.240
Don't leave the environment	182	96.81	268	93.71	6	3.19	18	6.29	0.097	0.890
Disregard	164	87.23	257	89.86	24	12.77	29	10.14	2.91	0.155
Making a formal complaint	178	94.68	277	96.85	8	4.26	9	3.15	0.010	0.945

The difference in the distribution of their responses to sexual harassment by gender is insignificant ( $p>0.05$ ).

**Table 6. Distribution of participants reasons for not making a formal complaint by gender**

Behaviours	No				Yes				2	P
	Male		Female		Male		Female			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
I was so scared	179	95.21	279	97.55	9	4.79	7	2.45	0.819	0.456
Fear of affecting the future of sports	174	92.55	277	96.85	14	7.45	9	3.15	0.012	0.989
Fear of suspension from the team	171	90.96	282	98.60	17	9.04	4	1.40	0.873	0.698
disbelief that anything will be done	166	88.30	256	89.51	22	11.70	30	10.49	0.899	0.555
Don't be afraid of others hearing	184	97.87	275	96.15	4	2.13	11	3.85	0.125	0.798
disbelief and disregard	183	97.34	269	94.06	5	2.66	17	5.94	1.459	0.420
I don't want to prolong	148	78.72	257	89.86	40	21.28	29	10.14	6.903	0.015*
Don't be shy to tell	188	44.04	280	97.90	30	15.95	6	2.10	7.892	0.003*
Not sure if it's sexual harassment	186	98.94	275	96.15	2	1.06	11	3.85	0.067	0.815
I had no place to apply	182	96.81	280	97.90	6	3.19	6	2.10	0.279	0.798
I got used to it a lot	186	98.94	279	97.55	2	1.06	7	2.45	0.159	0.893

\* $p<0.05$

In the distribution of the reasons for not making a formal complaint by the participants by gender, the difference in the expressions “not wanting to prolong it and being ashamed to tell” is statistically significant ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Table 7. Distribution of participants application types for support by gender**

Behaviours	No				Yes				2	P
	Male		Female		Male		Female			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
I received psychological support	180	95.74	261	91.26	8	4.26	25	8.74	1.597	0.267
I got support from my friends	182	96.81	262	91.61	6	3.19	24	8.39	2.679	0.1794
I got legal support	186	98.94	274	95.80	2	1.06	12	4.20	2.509	0.170
I got security support	186	98.94	278	97.20	2	1.06	8	2.80	0.129	0.812
I received medical support	187	99.47	280	97.90	1	0.53	6	2.10	3.1900	0.169
I got support from my family	184	97.87	285	99.65	4	2.13	1	0.35	0.010	0.978
I did not do anything	142	75.53	247	86.36	46	24.47	39	13.64	5.68	0.035*

\*p<0.05

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study aimed to investigate the awareness of being exposed to sexual abuse and harassment of different branch athletes aged between 17-30. This study found a significant difference in all parameters in the distribution of athletes' views on sexual abuse and harassment behaviours by gender ( $p<0.05$  and  $p<0.001$ ). In the study of Aşık (2020), a significant difference was found in some expressions in the distribution of the sexual harassment behaviours of the participants according to the gender of the athletes, while the difference was found insignificant in others. In this study, sexual jokes, sexual compliments, disturbing addresses, persistent questions about your lover, asking questions about your sexual life, sexist remarks about women and men, using sexually explicit words about your body, sexually suggestive glances, and sexually explicit material being rejected, persistent invitations to flirt, persistent behaviours to flirt, sending disturbing messages containing the desire to flirt, making you feel special attention and gain when sexually explicit offers are followed, making you feel like touching any part of your body without your consent, Women gave more no answers than men when they were kissed, hugged and forced into sexual intercourse without your consent. According to this study, it was observed that male athletes and female athletes differ in their perception of sexual harassment behaviours. In our study, factors such as psychological state differences and the different perception of the other person's behaviour by men and women may play a role in the different perception of sexual abuse and harassment behaviours by male and female students.

This study determined that the highest rate of not being sexually harassed was 80.3% in men and 91.6% in women, with the behaviour of being "forced to have sexual intercourse". In the study, according to the sum of "once, occasionally and many times", it was determined that

those who stated that they were subjected to “forced sexual intercourse” behaviour were 19.6% of male athletes. In comparison, it was 8.4% of female athletes. The highest rate of sexual harassment behaviour was seen as “once, sometimes and many times”, with 53.1% in total for men, while “compliments with sexual content” were seen as 28.7% for women. In the parameters included in the research in this study, sexually explicit jokes, sexual compliments, addresses, asking questions about your sexual life, asking questions about your sexual life, saying sexist words about women and men, using sexually explicit words about your body, according to gender, in terms of not being sexually harassed or the frequency of exposure. A significant difference was found in the questions of being disturbed by sexually explicit material, insistent behaviours for flirting, making you feel special attention and gain when a sexual offer is complied with, touching any part of your body without your consent, and being forced into sexual intercourse ( $p<0.05$  and  $p<0.001$ ). The frequency of not being sexually harassed or exposed to the research; There was no significant difference according to gender in the questions of persistent questions about your lover, glances suggesting sexuality, persistent invitations despite rejection, feeling that you will pay the price if the sexual offer is not complied with, kissing without your consent, hugging ( $p>0.05$ ). It has been determined that men have a higher rate of sexual harassment compared to women in the questions differences. A study of elite female athletes in Norway found that 28% of the sample had been sexually abused or harassed in sports (Fasting et al., 2004). Similarly, a study in the United Kingdom reported that 29% of the athletes representing all competitive levels had been sexually harassed, and 3% had been sexually abused (Alexander et al., 2011). Aşık (2020) stated in his study that approximately one-third of women and men have been sexually harassed. Bjornseth and Szabo (2017) reported in their study that girls are exposed to more sexual harassment and violence in the sports environment. Vertommen et al. (2016) reported that 17.2% of women had experienced sexual harassment and violence in organized sports as children, while this figure was 10.2% for men. A 2014 study found that 14.7% of female students studying in the physical education and sports department were victims of sexual harassment (Fasting et al., 2014). In the study of Grigoriou (2010), it was reported that women are exposed to sexual harassment more than men. In some studies, conducted in Turkey, it was stated that sexual harassment is more common in women than in men (Yıldız, 2009; Öz, 2019; Onağ et al., 2022). Again, in the study of Çetin and Hacısöftaoğlu (2023), the exposure rate to sexual abuse is 18.3% in men and 43.5% in women. In this study, for each question asked about sexual harassment behaviours, the proportions of those who did not experience sexual harassment and those who were

subjected to it once, occasionally, and often varied between men and women. In our study, the reason why male student-athletes are exposed to more sexual harassment can be attributed to the fact that male participants have more sports backgrounds and are more in sports fields. More sports backgrounds will likely result in more participation in competitions and training sessions and more exposure to sexual jokes, sexually explicit compliments, and offensive addresses. It is also considered that female participants could not give an entirely correct answer to sexual harassment questions because they were afraid of others.

In this study, a statistically significant difference was found in the questions covering the expressions “sports fields and course areas, competitions” and “camp, club and hotel rooms” in places where sexual harassment behaviours are encountered according to gender ( $p < 0.05$ ). Sports halls are where athletes are exposed to sexual harassment the most, with 45.5% in Turkey (Grandson, 2016). One of the places where sexual abuse incidents occur most frequently is the sports field (Cundul, 2016). It has been revealed that spatial order in sports poses a severe risk of sexual harassment. Notably, the fact that indoor and sports environments and locker rooms lose their feature of being private areas provides convenience for the perpetrator of abuse. Again, camps and accommodations outside where children live and away from family and institutional controls have been where sexual abuse is experienced the most (Ecorys & Vertommen, 2019; Çetin & Hacsoftaoğlu, 2020). Perpetrators of sexual harassment are primarily teammates, and it mainly occurs during training sessions (Yücel et al., 2014). In a study conducted in Turkey, 27% of male athletes revealed that they were exposed to sexual harassment in locker rooms, and 26.3% of female athletes were exposed to sexual harassment in sports fields (Özen et al., 2018). Yıldız (2009) stated in her study that the places where they are exposed to sexual harassment are mainly in the living room/field, locker room for women, and in the hall/field, locker room for men. The study of Aşık (2020) determined that the places where the abused people were exposed did not change according to gender, except for the competitions. In our study, more sexual harassment was experienced in camps, club and hotel rooms, and environments where athletes spent time with their friends (cafes, cinemas, etc.). In this study, men stated they were sexually harassed more than women in “sports fields and course areas, competitions, camp, club and hotel rooms”. Among the reasons for this, men’s use of slang words and gestures more often can be counted, as well as the fact that they go to away games more than women or must stay in areas outside the home.

In the study conducted by Özen et al. (2018), a significant difference was found in the distribution of sexual harassment behaviour by gender in the questions of “spectator and

someone you do not know in the field of sports”. According to Gündüz et al. (2002) studies, 56.2% of female athletes declared that their male teammates sexually harassed them, spectators, and coaches. In the study of Onag et al. (2022), the students who were sexually harassed and abused and the types of exposure, respectively, the highest 62.9% were answered by their coaches by telephone, letters, and messages, 55.3% of them asked questions, sexual jokes, and expressions among their teammates. It was stated that 50.1% of them were exposed to sexual abuse by their trainers as coming on or approaching, 49.2% of them by the masseurs and 49% of them by the trainers as a soft touch to the body. Toftegaard-Nielsen (2001) found in his study that athletes were exposed to sexual harassment behaviours by their coaches. Parent et al. (2016), in their study with high school adolescents, determined that 5.3% of the participants who declared that they had been exposed to any abuse throughout their lives pointed to the sports coach as the perpetrator of abuse. In the study of Çetin and Hacısöftaoğlu (2023), the individuals exposed to abuse were identified as the perpetrators of “older athletes”.

This study determined that 15.43% of male students and 15.38% of female students were abused once or more by coaches, masseurs, referees, and administrators. Those who were sexually harassed once or more by the athletes were found to be 18.09% of male students and 13.83% of female students. A significant difference was found in the distribution of sexual harassment by the participants according to gender, “influenced by athletes” ( $p < 0.05$ ). Özen et al. (2018) in their study women, were most exposed to spectators, a person they did not know in the field of sports, a referee, and any athlete, while men were exposed to any athlete, trainer, masseur, and spectator. Volkwein et al. (1997) found that more than 33% of the students participating in their study played a “potentially frightening for sexual harassment” role in athlete-coach interactions. Fasting and Knorre (2005) found that 30% of participants experienced sexual harassment from a coach and 17% from a teacher. Ifeanyichukwuve et al. (2011) reported that among the athletes who were sexually harassed, 8.97% were sports directors, 34.31% were coaches, 55% were athletes, and 4.33% were spectators. In the study conducted by Yıldız (2009), women were exposed to sexual harassment mostly by a coach, teammate, any athlete, manager, and spectator, while men were exposed to sexual harassment by a coach, any athlete, supporter and manager. Fasting et al. (2002) stated that the results of their qualitative research with 19 female athletes were sexually harassed by their male trainers. Fasting et al. (2003) found that 39% of the athletes exposed to sexual harassment were exposed to sexual harassment by individuals outside the sports environment and 28% by individuals in the sports environment. In the Aşık (2020) study, it was determined that the sexual harassment

of the participants was caused mainly by the referee and administrative staff, men, and women, by a person you do not know in the field of sports and administrative staff. According to a study conducted in six European countries, peers were the highest perpetrators of sexual violence (Hartill et al., 2021). In Turkey, Baştuğ et al. (2021), in their study, found that teammates or athletes were perpetrators at a higher rate. The same study determined that the trainer was in second place as the perpetrator of sexual violence. Female athletes mainly stated that they were sexually harassed by the audience 40%, then by their male teammates 33.1% and by their coaches 24.8% (Smiley, 2016). It is seen that the results of the studies are different. This difference may vary depending on the countries where the research is conducted and the socio-cultural structure of those countries. The time the athletes spend in the sports fields and their sportive backgrounds may have an impact. It is thought that because the athletes move more freely among themselves, they may lose control and show harassing behaviours.

In this study, no significant difference was found in the responses given by the athlete students according to their gender and sexual harassment; in the questions of “ignoring, I perceived it as a joke, I told him not to do it, physical reaction, shouting out of fear, asking for help from the environment, leaving the environment, and making an official complaint”(p>0.05). Özen et al. (2018), in a study they conducted, found that while women expressed that they reacted or did not react to sexual harassment by warning, men perceived sexual harassment as a joke and ignored it or showed a physical reaction. In the study of Yıldız (2009), the men’s reactions to sexual harassment, “I reacted physically, I perceived it as a joke and ignored it, I told it not to do it and told my teammates”. I ignored it”. In the study of Aşık (2020), some sexual harassment behaviours differed according to gender, while no significant difference was found in others. The fact that there is no gender difference in the reactions given by the athlete students may be because they come from the same cultural environment, they are in the same age categories, and the education they receive is similar. In some studies, it has been stated that the personality traits, body perceptions, quality of life and fitness levels of the students of the Faculty of Sports are generally similar (Yamak et al., 2016; Koca et al., 2018).

In this study, while there was a significant difference in the distribution of the reasons for not making a formal complaint by the athlete students according to gender, there was a significant difference in the case of “not wanting to prolong it and being ashamed to tell” (p<0.05). At the same time, the answers to the other questions were found to be similar (p>0.05). In their study, Rodriguez and Gill (2011) stated that women exhibit behaviours such as avoiding, receiving social support from friends and family, confronting them verbally,

resisting and seeking institutional support (applying legal ways, making official complaints) in order to cope with sexual harassment and its consequences. Ozen et al. (2018), In the study it was stated that men did not make an official complaint, did not want to prolong it, were not sure whether there was sexual harassment and did not believe that anything would be done. It is stated as not wanting to prolong it, not believing that anything will be done, and being afraid of what others will hear. In the study of Donnelly et al. (2016), it was claimed that many of the athletes who were exposed to sexual harassment stated that they did not believe that anything would be done even if they made an official complaint and that they did not believe that their information would be kept confidential. In the study of Çetin and Hacısöftaoğlu (2023), 33.3% of the participants who declared that they were exposed to abuse types shared, and 66.7% stated that they did not share their experiences with anyone. According to the Narin (2019) study and literature reviews, it was concluded that power holders should not tell anyone about sexual harassment; otherwise, they threaten to disclose their names. Although most of the athletes preferred to remain silent after these threats to not damage their place in society and avoid problems in their family and kinship relations, very few of the participants in the research sought their rights. In the Aşık (2020) study, it was suggested that among the reasons why the participating athletes did not complain about being subjected to sexual harassment, they might not want to deal with it, they do not want to harm their sports life, the feeling of shame, the fear of not being believed, the thought that nothing can be done, and the lack of knowledge about their legal rights. Has been driven.

In this study, women gave no more answers to the statements “not wanting to prolong it and not being ashamed to tell” than men. This situation can be thought to be caused by gender differences and gender-specific cultural differences between men and women in Turkey. It is thought that the female and male participants did not make a formal complaint because they did not believe anything could be done and did not want to prolong it. Again, it is thought that the lack of official or club-level support for the athletes, their unwillingness to prolong it, the lack of belief that anything can be done, the tolerance to sexual harassment and the insufficient privacy policy for the victims of sexual harassment prevent the athletes from showing the necessary reaction.

In this study, there was a significant difference in the answers given to the question “I did not do anything” in the distribution of the application types to get support according to gender ( $p < 0.05$ ), I received psychological support, I received support from my friends, Legal support, security support and family support were similar ( $p > 0.05$ ). In the study of Özen et al. (2018),

only 4.1% of women were exposed to sexual harassment, and 3% of men stated that they received psychological support after sexual harassment behaviour. In the Aşık (2020) study, 58.6% of female and 41.4% of male participants answered that I received psychological support, and 67.9% of female and 32.1% of male participants answered that I received support from my friends. In this study, the rate of female participants who said they did nothing is higher than male participants (86.36% for women and 75.53% for men). In this study, the high rate of doing nothing for female athletes can be attributed to the fact that they seek their rights and are more hesitant about sexual matters than men in Turkey.

It has been observed that there are differences in the perception of sexual abuse and harassment behaviours between male student-athletes and female student-athletes in the different branch athletes. The percentage of answers given to male and female student- different branch athletes about sexual abuse and harassment in each question varies. It has been determined that male student-athletes are exposed to sexual abuse and harassment more than female student-athletes. It can be recommended to investigate sexual abuse and harassment behaviours in male and female athletes according to sports branches. A more comprehensive study can be done, including geographical regions. Athletes should be supported to express such behaviours clearly and easily. It may be necessary to work on a more specific sanction law for sexual abuse and harassment behaviours in sports. It may be recommended that no one be allowed inside the areas where sports activities such as sports and training areas are held, except the officer (with their name badges to be identified). In this unit, sexual abuse and harassment response programs should be designed and implemented for all perpetrators of sexual abuse and harassment against athletes, with great care given to athletes and coaches.

□ □ □

Cinsel taciz, rızaya dayanmayan cinsel içerikli söz, tavır veya davranışları içeren bir fenomendir (Özen ve ark., 2018). Cinsel davranış, kişinin kimliğini derinlemesine ifade ederken aynı zamanda savunmasızlığı temsil edebilir (Chroni ve ark., 2012). Holman'a (1995) göre, rızası olmayan veya rızası kabul edilmeyen bireylerin cinsel yönelimlere maruz kalması, fiziksel güç, hile, kandırma veya tehdit kullanımını içerir. Cinsel taciz, cinselliği düşündüren veya cinsel içerikli ifadeler ve davranışları içerir (Şahin ve ark., 2012). Spor alanındaki çalışmalar, cinsel tacizin hafif veya şiddetli formlarının ciddi etkileri olabileceğini ortaya koymuştur. Mağdurlar, çeşitli semptomlar yaşarlar, bu da kaygı, aşağılanma, suç, özgüven azalması ve artan suç korkusunu içerir (Fasting ve ark., 2002).

Cinsel taciz genellikle toplumsal cinsiyet ayrımcılığı ve kadınlar aleyhine toplumsal eşitsizlikle ilişkilendirilmiştir, ancak erkekler de çeşitli sebeplerle mağduriyet yaşayabilir. Sporcuların cinsel istismar ve tacizle mücadelede, farklı branşlardaki sporcuların farkındalığını araştırmak önemlidir, çünkü bu, sporcuların konuyla ilgili algılarını netleştirmeye yönelik adımların atılmasına katkıda bulunabilir. Bu çalışmada Türkiye’de farklı branşlardaki sporcuların cinsel istismar ve tacize maruz kalma konusundaki farkındalıklarını araştırmak amaçlanmıştır.

□

Çalışmada yaşları 17-30 yaş aralığında değişen toplam 474 katılımcının anketleri değerlendirilmiştir. Katılımcılar spor fakültesi öğrencisi olup 188’i erkek (Spor özgeçmişleri ortalama 8,5 yıl) ve 286’si (Spor özgeçmişleri ortalama 6,2 yıl) kadındır. Katılımcıların serbest zamanlarında envanterle ilgili, araştırmanın amacı hakkında açıklamalar yapılarak veri toplama işlemi yüz yüze olarak şekilde gerçekleştirilmiştir. Katılımcılara bilgi formu ve sporda cinsel taciz araştırılması envanteri uygulanmıştır.

### **Sporda cinsel taciz envanteri**

Sporda cinsel taciz envanteri Özen ve arkadaşları (2018) tarafından hazırlanmıştır. Anket dört bölümden oluşmaktadır. Birinci bölümde, katılımcılara listelenen 17 davranıştan hangilerini cinsel taciz/cinsel saldırı olarak değerlendirdiklerini üç seçenekle (Evet, Emin Değilim ve Hayır) belirtmeleri istenmiştir. Üç sorudan oluşan ikinci bölümde; cinsel taciz davranışlarına ne sıklıkla maruz kaldıkları (Hiçbir zaman, bir kez, ara sıra ve çok sık), hangi mekanlarda cinsel tacize maruz kaldıkları (Örneğin spor sahasında, soyunma odasında, yarışmalarda vb.) ve kim tarafından maruz bırakıldıkları (Örneğin masör, yönetici, antrenör, hakem, seyirci vb.) sorulmuştur. Üçüncü bölümde cinsel tacize maruz kalındığında gösterilen tepkiler (Örneğin şaka gibi algılayıp yok saydım, korkudan bağırdım, ortamı terk ettim, resmi şikâyette buldum vb.) ve resmi şikâyette bulunmadığı takdirde bunun sebepleri (Örneğin çok korktum, takımdan uzaklaştırılmaktan korktum, başvurabileceğim bir yer yoktu vb.) sorulmuştur. Anketin dördüncü bölümü ise cinsel tacize karşı alınması gereken önlemlere yönelik görüşlerin sorulduğu üç sorudan oluşmaktadır (Özen ve ark., 2018).

İstatistik hesaplamalar SPSS 25.00 programıyla yapılmıştır. Araştırmada elde edilen verilerin normallik varsayımı Kolmogorov-Smirnov testi ile değerlendirilmiştir ( $p>0,05$ ). Bu çalışmanın çarpıklık ve basıklık değerleri hesaplanmış ( $\pm 2$ ) ve verilerin normal dağılım gösterdiği anlaşılmıştır (George, 2011). Verilere Ki Kare ( $X^2$ ) analizi yapılmıştır. Anlamlılık düzeyi  $p<0,05$  düzeyinde bakılmıştır.

## **BULGULAR**

Bu çalışmaya göre erkek sporcular ile kadın sporcuların cinsel taciz davranışlarını algulamaları konusunda farklılıklar olduğu görülmüştür. Bu çalışmada sporcuların cinsel taciz davranışlarının neler olduğu konusunda sporcu görüşlerinin cinsiyete göre dağılımında tüm parametrelerde anlamlı farklılık bulunmuştur ( $p<0,05$  ve  $p<0,001$ ). Bu çalışmada araştırmaya dâhil edilen parametrelerde cinsel tacize uğramama veya uğrama sıklıklarında cinsiyete göre cinsel içerikli şakalar, cinsel içerikli iltifatlar, hitaplar, cinsel yaşamınızla ilgili sorular sorulması, cinsel yaşamınızla ilgili sorular sorulması, kadınlar ve erkekler hakkında cinsiyetçi sözler söylenmesi, bedeninizle ilgili cinsel içerikli sözler kullanılması, cinsel içerikli materyal ile rahatsız edilmek, flört etmek için yapılan ısrarcı davranışlar, cinsel içerikli teklife uyulduğunda özel ilgi ve kazancın hissettirilme, rızanız olmadan bedeninizin herhangi bir yerine dokunulması ve cinsel ilişkiye zorlanmak sorularında anlamlı farklılık bulunmuştur ( $p<0,05$  ve  $p<0,001$ ). Araştırmaya cinsel tacize uğramama veya uğrama sıklıklarında; sevgilinize ilgili ısrarlı sorular, cinsellik ima eden bakışlar, reddetmeye rağmen ısrarlı davetler, cinsel içerikli teklife uyulmadığı takdirde bedeller ödeyeceğin hissettirilmesi, rızanız olmadan öpülmek, sarılmak sorularında cinsiyete göre önemli bir farklılık bulunmamıştır ( $p>0,05$ ).

## **VE**

Bu çalışmada, cinsel tacizin genellikle takım arkadaşları arasında ortaya çıktığı ve çoğunlukla antrenmanlarda meydana geldiği belirtilmiştir. Türkiye’de yapılan bir çalışma, erkek sporcuların %27’sinin soyunma odalarında, kadın sporcuların ise %26,3’ünün spor alanlarında cinsel tacize maruz kaldığını göstermiştir (Özen ve ark., 2018). Tacize uğrayan kişilerin maruz kaldıkları mekânlar cinsiyete göre farklılık göstermemekle birlikte, cinsel taciz davranışlarının görüldüğü yerler arasında “spor sahaları, ders alanları, yarışmalar” ile “kamp, kulüp ve otel odaları” arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklar bulunmuştur.

Çalışma, cinsel tacize uğrama oranlarının kamp, kulüp ve otel odalarında, sporcuların arkadaşları ile vakit geçirdikleri ortamlarda daha yüksek olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Erkekler, spor sahaları, yarışmalar, kamp, kulüp ve otel odalarında kadınlara göre daha fazla cinsel tacize uğradıklarını ifade etmişlerdir. Bu durumun arkasında, erkeklerin müsabakalar için daha fazla deplasmanlara gitmeleri veya ev dışındaki alanlarda konaklamaları gibi faktörlerin yanı sıra, argo kelimeleri ve hareketlerini daha fazla kullanmaları gibi nedenler de bulunmaktadır.

Baştuğ ve arkadaşlarının (2021) çalışmasına göre, takım arkadaşları veya sporcuların cinsel tacizde daha yüksek oranda fail olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Kadın sporcular, seyirciler (%40), erkek takım arkadaşları (%33,1) ve antrenörler (%24,8) tarafından en çok cinsel tacize uğradıklarını belirtmişlerdir.

Sonuç olarak, cinsel istismar ve taciz konusundaki farklılıkların incelenmesi, spor branşlarına göre analiz edilmesi ve geniş kapsamlı bir coğrafi çalışmanın yapılması önerilmektedir. Sporcuların bu tür davranışları ifade edebilmeleri için desteklenmeleri, spesifik yaptırım kanunlarının oluşturulması,

spor alanlarına yalnızca görevlilerin alınması, cinsel istismar ve tacize müdahale programlarının tasarlanması ve uygulanması önemlidir.

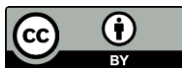
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Tasarım <i>Design</i>	Yöntem ve araştırma desenini tasarlamak <i>To design the method and research design.</i>	Erol DOĞAN
Literatür Tarama <i>Literature Review</i>	Çalışma için gerekli literatürü taramak <i>Review the literature required for the study</i>	Metin BAYRAK
Veri Toplama ve İşleme <i>Data Collecting and Processing</i>	Verileri toplamak, düzenlemek ve raporlaştırmak <i>Collecting, organizing and reporting data</i>	Gülşah SEKBAN Erol DOĞAN
Tartışma ve Yorum <i>Discussion and Commentary</i>	Elde edilen bulguların değerlendirilmesi <i>Evaluation of the obtained finding</i>	Osman İMAMOĞLU
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