

Motivational Factors for Skateboard Adhesion

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to bring up the reasons that boost a skateboarders group from the Metropolitan Zone of Curitiba to join the sport. It was a descriptive, elaborated like a case study and qualitative approach survey, applied in 17 skateboarders, age between 18 and 40 years. The data collection was realized through a semi-structure interview and the analysis through content analysis. The reasons reported are connected to family, friendships, life style, and liked the sport, adrenaline sensation, location and fun. Stands out appearances of factors not found in the theoretical framework used, in addition the connections between the reasons found.

Key Words: Adhesion, Motivation, Motivational factors, Skateboard

1. Introduction

The skateboard practice is increasingly evident in Brazil, being considered one of the most popular sports in the country (Armbrust, 2008; Pimentel & Saito, 2010). This popularity is notice by the high number of practitioners presented in the last survey of DataFolha Institute (2009), counting 3.863.981 skateboarders in the country, including an increase, when compared to the same survey of 2002, when was established a population of 2,7 million skateboarders (Brandão, 2008).

Considering the raise in the skateboarders number in the country, it's understandable that they joined the sport because any or a lot of reasons, complementing, Barroso (2007); Vieira et al. (2011) report that all practitioners of any sport started due to one or more factors. However, it was noted through theoretical review, that the evidences showing the reasons of adhesion to skateboard are still dark.

In this approach, the adhesion reasons in a sportive practice are explained by the concept named motivation, consisting in a process that acts in the behavior, modulating and instigating the individual to realize some action according to your needs, wishes or assigned goals (Krebs et al., 2011; Paim & Pereira, 2004; Samulski, 2009; Weinberg & Gould, 2008). Still in this approach, Barroso (2007) points out that every individual, when choose a sport, physical activity or physical exercise is being conducted by specific reasons.

Based on the knowledge of the reasons that boost the practitioners to join the skateboard, is possible amplify the structuring possibilities of several intervention ways, projects and content elaboration applicable to the sport, based in the reasons that moved the practitioners to start particular activity.

Knowing this, this survey tried to put in the highlight why skateboarders started to practice the sport.

2. Materials and Methods

The study used the descriptive method, owning the qualitative character, developed like a case study.

Seventeen skateboarders were interviewed, regulars in skateparks in the Metropolitan Zone of Curitiba, being 14 males and 3 females, with ages between 18 and 40 years. They were informed that they should have at least one year of practice of the sport to be part of the survey. The skateboarders interviewed have practice time between 2,5 and 28 years.

The semi-structure interview was used, being elaborated by the researches, subdivided in two points; the first, understand the skateboarder profile. And the second present the join reasons.

The skateboarders were approached in their location of practice, usually public squares from the Metropolitan Zone of Curitiba, and invited to be part of the study after a brief presentation of the project and the survey procedures. After the confirmation of their participation, they were invited to read the Statement of Informed Consent, clarify their doubts and signed it, after reflection. The participants of the survey chose a nickname to preserve their identity when requested.

The interviews were realized in the same practice usual location of the interviewed. Data obtained was transferred to the paper containing the script of the interview previously elaborated and organized.

Obeying the procedure of content analysis, proposed by Bardin (2011), all the answers regarding adhesion reasons were read and reread, seeking to categorize then, parting from key words, favoring your frequency of showing. In the sequence, analysis and interpretation of the answers was done, ally to the categorization, seeking to find congruencies and, at the same time, particularities. Finally, data was compared and reflected regarding data from literature.

Under interpretative investigation, the mode study of case was chose to concretize the research, considering that one of the advantages of its use is the possibility of a depth, wide and integrated vision supply of a social unity, in this case the skateboarders (André, 2005).

The study was submitted to the Ethics Committee of Federal Technological University of Paraná under number: 13466113.0.0000.5547 and approved by the same according to established rules in the Resolution 196/96 of National Health Council.

3. Results

After questioning adhesion reasons, 13 motivational factors was found (chart 1). Part of the interviewed reported more than one reason that boosted itself to start the sport, being that some reasons were cited several times between the interviewed skateboarders, explaining the bigger amount of frequency of reports (F=26) than of interviewed (n=17). The reasons most cited were: liked the sport (reported seven times), Family (cited four times), Lifestyle (reported three times) and Differentiated sport and Friends influence related two times each.

Table 1 – Motivational factors for skateboard adhesion reported

Factors/reasons	Frequency in reports (F)	%
Friends Influence	2	8
Family	4	15
Liked the sport	7	27
Lifestyle	3	12
Challenges	1	4
Differentiated sport	2	8
Adrenaline sensation	1	4
Freedom sensation	1	4
Identity	1	4
Skateparks location	1	4
Easy access sport	1	4
Toy	1	4
Fun	1	4
Total	26	100

Source: Original compilation

4. Discussion

The point most reported by the interviewed skateboarders for adhesion was categorized how “liked the sport” reported in an isolated way and also with some reason connected or justifying why liked the sport. Initially the reason “liked the sport” was described in some interviews without justification, exemplified in the following speech: “I liked the sport (TITA)”. Some authors report that the taste for the sport could be connected to other factors. Beal & Weidman, (2003), says that skateboarders like the sport because it provides and stimulates a way to use creativity and expression, but the authors don’t clarify if this factor is a reason to practice it. In Bastos & Stigger (2009) study, the taste for the sport is connected to the present socialization in the skateboard universe. In another study Lopes & Nunomura (2007) interviewed young gymnasts, and they report had chosen artistic gymnastics because liked the sport, the authors explain that this taste reported through interviews is in the pleasure to see and execute the sport moves. Both studies shows how could happened and be explained the taste for the sport.

In others interviews the reason “to like the sport” was reported jointly to more factors connected to why liked the sport. In the interviews, one of the skateboarders reports that liked the sport because the “lifestyle” that the skateboard could provide in addition to have something different: “I liked the mode, because is different, a different lifestyle (MAGNO)”. Basically the mentioned skateboarder also shows having started the sport because it is “different” and because provides a “different lifestyle”.

Observing these points, the factor “lifestyle” also was present in the speech of another interviewed: “I joined because I became interested by the ‘style’ kind of ‘messy’ walking in groups [...] it was like make or build my identity (BARBA)”. In this point, it is observed that the skateboarder sought a life style which would shape his “identity” being another motivational factor detected.

Before the reasons “lifestyle”, “like the sport” and “identity”, it is possible identify that the skateboarders showed interest and taste for the sport due the life style and culture that the skateboard provides initially, instigating them to experiment and join the sport, with the intent to join the particular skateboard life style and culture. Such survey is similar to Arancibia et al. (2010) study, clarifying that skateboarders seek in skateboard a life style different than the daily life, seek the emotion generated by the sport. In fact, such quote is compatible to the skateboarder’s reports that mentioned the “life style” and “identity” like adhesion reasons. It is highlighted, still, that the skateboarders joined and seek in skateboard something that provides the differentiation of the most aiming the construction of an own style. This affirmation is similar to the studies of Oliveira, Camilo, & Assunção, (2003); Velozo & Daolio, (2013) revealing that certain individuals joins groups seeking new identity based in leisure, activities, attitudes and/or visual with the intent of be different from the others.

Other highlighted factor for some skateboarders was described by the interviewed like influence of “family”: “My dad is a skateboarder and he always encouraged me [...] my dad used to take me to the skatepark when he practiced (TICI)”. Also there are reports that the interviewed shows that started the sport because they were presented with a skateboard by someone in the family: “I won a skateboard from my grandpa, and then I started to practice (NUUTELA)”. It is possible to see that the reason “family” is manifested through family influences, highlighting the farther of Tici encourage, a female skateboarder, to join the sport. Her farther, in addition to encourage, was a skateboarder either, which may have contributed

with her skateboard adhesion. In the second report, is seen that Nuutela's grandpa gave him a skateboard, and is not detected a direct influence like in the case of Tici. It is noticed that the first contact of the interviewed with the skateboard was through their family. This evidence reveals that the family could be the main motivators for the practice of a sport (Lopes & Nunomura, 2007). Aronsson & Regnéll, (2008); Bastos, (2006) found similar results, revealing that skateboarders started to practice because they known the sport through their family. It is enhanced that the direct or not direct influence by the skateboarders family was decisive to the sport adhesion, still revealing different ways of family influence.

Beyond "family" motivational factor, another reason was reported by some interviewed, being categorized like "friends influence". One of the skateboarders reveals that joined the sport because saw his friends practicing it: "my friends started to practice, so I started too (CISKO)". In this report is noticed that the skateboarder joined the sport because his friends had joined either, revealing a possible intent to belong a particular group, in the case, a skateboarder friends group. Another skateboarder also reported that began the sport due the friendship factor, but didn't give further details: "Friends influence (SANTOS)". Notice that in the "friendship" factor, the interviewed reports different ways of how their friendships had influence in the adhesion of the sport. Such motivational factor also is found in the researches of Balbim, Filho, & Junior, (2010); Galliano & Mayer, (2009); Pereira, (2006), which shows that the reason friendship/friends was one of the motivational factors to practice skateboarding, but there aren't clear evidences in literature highlighting how happens the "friendship" influences to starts this practice. However is noticed that the reason "friendship influence" also is characterized by the interaction aspect and participation in a particular group, where the integrants adopt a life style or desired features, and the new integrants seek for acceptance. According to Oliveira et al. (2003), the participation in these groups happens by the fact of the pursuit of acceptance in addition to share common interests between the individuals of a certain group.

Also was highlighted by the interviewed, reasons categorized like "adrenaline sensation" and "challenges". According to the first reason in the skateboarder Queijo report: "Main reason was by the adrenaline sensation [...]", the reason "challenges" was reported only for one skateboarder without further details. In these two points is noticed at first that the practitioners looked for a sport that could provide challenges and a particular sensation generated when facing challenges or risky situations, finding in skateboarding the source of this type of sensation, seeking the challenge overcoming and the pleasure by the adrenaline sensation. Machado (2012) enhances that skateboarding is capable to bring the "adrenaline" sensation through the sport's particular risks. According to Willig (2008), extreme sports practitioners look constantly for challenges, along the possibilities of testing their abilities and limits.

Also some motivational factors were presented, mentioned only one time each. One of these factors was highlighted by the skateboarder Cah, which reports that had started the sport looking for the "freedom sensation": "I was looking for a sport, because wanted something free". In her vision, we can notice the pursuit of a sport that offers the freedom sensation. She doesn't reveal further details about why this pursuit of freedom, however is noticeable that she was looking a sport with few restrictions, looking for something that doesn't restrict her during a pleasure or sportive activity. The skateboarder doesn't comment join the sport, because she felt trapped in a daily life or situation, but this pursuit of freedom sensation could be explained by Cantorani & Pilatti (2005) they highlighted that the sport could be a way of be free of routines and the repetitive daily life. Machado (2012) says that skateboarding could

provide this freedom sensation, but the author doesn't portray this sensation like a reason to join the sport. Complementing this research, Patterson (2012:29) says that: "to skate is to be free".

Another two motivational factors were presented, denominated "skateparks location" and "easy access sport", being noticed in the following interviews respectively: "Because used to have a skatepark next home (NIM)"; "By the easy of have access to an extreme sport. When I was little was hard to surf because of the location [...] (CÓIA)". Both skateboarders showed joined the sport thanks to the easy in practice the skateboarding due the locations of training, highlighting that the skateboarder Cória mentioned had a previously interest in surf but because of the location difficulties, chose another extreme sport, the skateboarding. This research is similar with Slee (2011) study which the author reports have observed the event of a skatepark construction. The author notice that after the construction, some kids started to practice the sport. In this point we notice that the presence of favorable locations for practice could attract new fans to the sport, turning them possible practitioners.

The last two reasons found for adhesion was categorized "toy" and "fun", saw in the skateboarder Garbe speech: "[...] like a toy and in the first week that I started I was yielding" and the skateboarder Simão: "For fun". We can observe that the skateboarders cited was looking at first for some activity that could be set like a game, in this perspective Bastos & Stigger (2009) say that the skateboarding could be used by your practitioners like a game, however they don't mention that this could be a reason for adhesion. In another study realized with another extreme sport, the surfing, Amaral & Dias (2008) found the reason "fun" like one of the factors that influenced in surf adhesion.

Comparatively with other sports (not extremes), this study didn't show similar results to others surveys that approach several collectives and individuals sports. In Krebs et al. (2011) study is revealed that the two main reasons in teenagers practitioners of several sports were the factors "health" and "fitness". In another study, Interdonato et al. (2008) interviewed a youth group, divided in six sportive modes, revealing that the reason "health" followed by "sport competence" was the main factors to young people practice sports. In continuity, in Carmo et al. (2009) research were interviewed 385 athletes of nine sportive modes, collective and individual. In collective sports the main reasons were "fun", "friends practitioners of the same sport" and "practices in their living neighborhood". In individual sports the most evidenced factor was "self overcoming". In this study we can observe the presence of similar reasons to this research; however these are reported in collective sports.

Is noticeable that part of the reasons found are similar to others in another studies involving skateboarding and extremes sports in general, being them the motivational factors "friends influence" (Balbim; Filho & Junior, 2010; Galliano & Mayer, 2009; Pereira, 2006), "family" (Aronsson & Regnéll, 2008; Bastos, 2006) "adrenaline sensation" and "challenges" (willig, 2008), "skateparks location" (slee, 2011) and "fun" (Amaral & Dias, 2008). Among these reasons, only the factors "family" and "skateparks location" were mentioned like possible reasons to adhesion according to the studies, other reasons above weren't attributed to a period that the motivational factors manifest. In addition to this point, is also evident that the reasons "friends influence", "family", "adrenaline sensation", "challenges", "skateparks location" and "fun" found in the literature are similar with the reasons found in this study, revealing a possible reason predominance for the skateboarding practice specifically. According to Balbinotti et al. (2012), is clarified that each sport could present predominance in certain motivational factors, featuring a profile of typical reasons according to each sport.

Some of the reasons presented still aren't clear in literature, like the case of reasons "life style", "identity", "differentiated sport", "toy" and "freedom" being necessary further studies to the explanation of them. However the reason "liked the sport" presented connection with the reasons "life style", "identity" and "differentiated sport" in some interviews, showing that the reason "liked the sport" could be connected to the features and style of the sport, pointing that skateboarding could have awakened the taste and interest of the interviewed, due the life style and differentiation. Possible factors to like the sport are also described by Bastos & Stigger (2009). The authors report that the taste for skateboarding is thanks to the socialization that occurs in the sport, adding one more possible explanation of why skateboarders like the sport, beyond the possibility of using creativity and expression through the skateboard described by Beal; Weidman (2003).

Complementing, is highlighted that skateboarders could present more than one reason for adhesion to the sport, taking like example the speech of the skateboarder Queijo: "Main reason was because of the 'adrenaline' sensation and also my brother that was already a practitioner", indicating that he initiated the sport because of the "adrenaline sensation" and the influence of "family", agreeing with the interpretation of Weinberg; Gould (2008), that say to make part of a sport, physical activity or physical exercise is possible multiple reasons.

5. Conclusion

In synthesis, this study allowed knowing the reasons, in a 17 skateboarders group, for adhesion to skateboarding and the connections noticed between the reasons reported. The researches reveal mostly that the interviewed skateboarders were looking for something that satisfied their aspirations, beyond being noticeable the adhesion to the sport due external influences.

The reported reasons for adhesion to the sport are described how "friends influence" and "family", reasons turned to the sensation generated by the sport like "adrenaline" and "challenges", beyond the reasons "skateparks location", "easy access sport", "fun", "toy" and "freedom sensation", and the reason "liked the sport" being the most reported between the interviewed.

This study also noticed some reasons not reported specifically like motivational factors by the literature being described like "life style", "identity", "differentiated sport", "toy" and "freedom". Is evidenced as well that some reasons could be justify and connected to others, like example the connection between "liked the sport" with "life style", "identity" and "differentiated sport". The interviewed skateboarders reported that joined skateboarding because they liked the sport, assigning this to a pursuit of identity modulation or life style choice. This connection between the reasons evidences further details of why practitioners of a sport chose that activity and how this choice may have occurred.

The reasons found were possible to be noticed due the method used, which allowed the interviewed to report your reasons for adhesion in an informal way. However, the study doesn't enable the measurement of the reasons intensity, which would allow highlight the reasons that were more important for each interviewed when they reported more than one. Studies with different methods applicable to this research field are suggested for further details. Anyway, the study allowed knowing better how skateboarders joined the sport, the motivation procedure and the actual reasons, clarifying possible ways of manifestation of them and their possible connection with other motivational factors.

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