DIFFERENT VIEWS ON SPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: CHALLENGES, INNOVATIONS AND REALITY

DIFERENTES OLHARES SOBRE O ESPORTE PARA PESSOAS COM DEFICIÊNCIA: DESAFIOS, INOVAÇÕES E REALIDADE

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Abstract. Research on people with disabilities can create, per times, strangeness and discomfort. However, it is necessary to encourage and bring to the fore debates about how the lives of people with disabilities in society are thought. In this sense, this special issue brings to our readers original articles on relevant topics in health sciences and sports for people with disabilities. Within this large area, the reader can go through themes such as: public policies for people with disabilities; social and sports programs for people with disabilities; physical activity and health for people with disabilities; high performance sports for people with disabilities; technological innovations in favour of new teaching-learning processes for people with disabilities; universities and their role in training human resources to work with people with disabilities; disabilities, women and sports; the media's view on the disability and the para-athlete; and the social legacy of the sport for people with disabilities. In this section we also bring a presentation of the Brazilian Journal of Education, Technology and Society (BRAJETS) and its main evaluation processes for the publication of scientific articles. We invite all our readers to check out this special issue which was prepared and written by researchers and professors with expertise in sport to people with disabilities studies. We wish you an enjoyable reading!

Keywords: sports to people with disabilities; disability and health; disability and society.

Resumo. A pesquisa sobre as pessoas com deficiência paira sobre um ar de estranheza e desconforto. Todavia se faz mister incentivar e trazer à tona debates sobre como são pensadas as principais medidas que influenciam a vida das pessoas com deficiência na sociedade. Neste sentido, esta edição especial traz aos nossos leitores artigos originais sobre temas pertinentes na área das ciências da saúde e do esporte para pessoas com deficiência. Dentro desta grande área o leitor pode percorrer por temas como políticas públicas para pessoas com deficiência, programas sociais e esportivos para pessoas com deficiência, atividade física e saúde para pessoas com deficiência, esporte de alto rendimento para pessoas com deficiência, inovações tecnológicas a favor da deficiência, novos processos de ensino-aprendizagem para pessoas com deficiência, as universidades e seu papel na formação de recursos humanos para atuar com pessoas com deficiência, deficiência, mulher e esporte, o olhar da mídia sobre a deficiência e o atleta com deficiência e o legado social do esporte para pessoas com deficiência. Ainda nesta seção trazemos uma apresentação da Revista Brasileira intitulada *Brazilian Journal of Education, Technology and Society* (BRAJETS) e seus principais processos de avaliação para a publicação de artigos científicos. Convidamos a todos nossos leitores para conferir esta edição especial que foi preparado e escrito por pesquisadores e professores especialistas na área dos estudos do esporte para pessoas com deficiência. Desejamos uma boa leitura a todos!

Palavras-chave: esporte para pessoas com deficiência; deficiência e saúde; deficiência e sociedade.

INTRODUCTION

Persons with disabilities is a theme that is surrounded by discomfort and insecurity, for the society as well as for the academic community. In the 21st century, the misinformation is found to be the main obstacle for accepting what is considered "different". In a society that is individualist, intolerant and short-sighted, the different human being, whether body type, way of thinking or attitudes, still leads to estrangement to the other society members. Thinking and promoting actions that build a more harmonic and tolerant world in a more human society that accepts, and respects differences is one of the challenges of sports and health science fields.

In this context, athletic performances showed recently in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, the greatest multisport event for people with disabilities, were results from actions and developing programs for people with disabilities, which in part, little is known. Therefore, seize this moment of great visibility, emotion and enthusiasm of Rio 2016 Paralympic Games – even though the event had not contemplated all the sports for the people with disabilities – ratifies the importance of this theme to be discussed.

Recurrent accessibility and urban mobility problems and facility adaptations to a more harmonic interaction of people with disabilities in the society, opens the channel to debate a different respectful look to this theme. This society egalitarian applies to same opportunities, conditions and developing possibilities in relation to good health, good knowledge domain, economic security level and good social relations. These resources, obtained through egalitarian coexistence, will be able to build a less turbulent path, being able to use to greatest possibilities and decision-making power, which will be determinant to a more active participation in the society.

Different tools can be used to rise the participation of people with disabilities in the society, whether educational, cultural, technological or sports participation. Important allies, such as physical activity and sports practice, have been promoting actions that make a huge difference in these people's life.

To open space for this discussion is a strategy to inform and qualify the academic society about the challenges to depict the efficiency behind the disability, and to foster the good will promotion that occurs in different contexts (associations, schools, universities, cities, state or countries). These good will actions should be the corner stone for public policies that serve the specific interests of this big part of the society, which approximately 24% of the Brazilian society (IBGE, 2012) and over one billion people in the world (WHO, 2011), which is needy for long-term effective actions, and not just short-term actions.

Therefore, this special issue have themes related to: public policies for people with disabilities; social and sports programs for people with disabilities; physical activity and health for people with disabilities; high performance sports for people with disabilities, technological innovations in favor to the disability; new teaching-learning process for the people with disability; universities and their role in the human resources formation to act with people with disabilities; disability, women and sport; media and the athlete with disability; and social sports legacy for people with disabilities.

BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

The Brazilian Journal of Education, Technology and Society (BRAJETS) is a scientific journal with quarterly frequency that has the goal to publish papers that favors researches and discussions about emerging themes in Education, Technology and Society fields.

In 2012, a ISSN was attributed, and it was guaranteed the scientific aspect of BRAJETS, being registered at National Library as national character scientific journal. Still at 2012, the journal was indexed to the Brazilian Institute of Science Information and Technology (Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia, IBICT) as well as four other international scientific bases: LatinIndex; GIF; BASE; e PKP.

With Education, Technology and Society as center themes, the editions concerned questions related to: science and technology in the Brazilian education scenario (Zeppelini & Barros, 2012); discussions about education and society in the modern era (Costa & Barros, 2014); considerations related to current practice applied in the education and society (Peixoto & Barros, 2013); conversations, perspectives and stories in art and philosophy (Barros, Brito, & Ciampi, 2015; Pereira, Henrique, & Barros, 2014; Ribeiro, Oliveira, & Barros, 2014); cultural interchanges (Costa, Barros, & Thereza Jr., 2016) and multiple connections, perspectives and sceneries (Braga & Barros, 2015; Paletta & Barros, 2016; Ribeiro & Barros, 2015); as well as discussions about corporeity, thoughts and governability (Zoboli, Barros, & Silva, 2016).

All original studies are submitted to evaluation in a blind peer-reviewed process, which the papers are analyzed to the following aspects: appropriate title to article content, publication organization, clarity and relevance to the goals, methods, results and discussion; intelligible information; appropriate citations and references to the journal norms and relevance to the editorial line of publication.

In the last edition (10th), the first issue had wide-ranging discussions in several areas with a focus on the Nethnography method approach as a way to promote the expansion and dissemination of qualitative investigation in the scientific community at the education, technology and society fields (Costa, Barros, Silva, Castro, & Pais, 2017). The others issues (2nd, 3rd and 4th) had wide-ranging discussions with a focus on Education and Technology in the contemporaneity (Curcio & Barros, 2017).

The journal is currently at its11th edition. The actual editorial brings the discussion of Disability and Sport under the center theme of "Different Views on Sport to People with Disability: challenges, innovations and reality". This special issue opens the possibility to the journal tailor a specific section about Disability, Education, Technology and Sport, enhancing the theme amplitude approached by this BRAJETS edition.

PAPERS SELECTION

The papers went through the submission process as described above, which 16 out of 20 submitted articles were approved to be at this special edition of BRAJETS. Public policies related to people with disabilities is the first article of this edition. Reis and Mezzadri (2018) analyzed action and policies developed by State Sports Department of Paraná (Secretaria Estadual de Esportes do Estado do Paraná) – Brazil, supporting the importance of the program Olympic Talents of Paraná (Talentos Olímpico do Paraná TOP2016) and implementation of the Paraná Parasport open Games (Jogos Abertos Paradesportivos do Paraná PARAJAPS) to develop parasport in the state. Beyond presenting the reality of the Paraná State, the authors also showed the need of structuring policies at schools, and the importance of qualifying teachers and coaches to work with parasport.

Ferreira, Vitor, Haiachi and Reppold-Filho (2018) showed a theme of extreme relevance to governmental development actions: resources decentralization through agreements, transfer and contracts. The largest resources centralization happened at the concession of grants to athletes and through Law of Sport Fostering (Lei de Incentivo ao Esporte). Between 2008 and 2014, the resource invested at the paralympic sport had your peak, however difficulties to find systematic information and a method of organizing these resource transfers through agreements was a big obstacle to the Federal Government. The destination public entities of these public resources (Committees, Confederations, Leagues, Federations, Clubs, Learning Institutions) applied these resources mainly in facilities and sports material to the preparation for the Rio 2016 Games. Therefore, the study contributed to build a system to the destination and ways of applying finance resources aiming to substantially collaborate with evaluation and formulating governmental actions and policies.

About innovation and technology use, Guimarães, Oliveira, Silva, & Lamosa (2018) described the process to develop an equipment specifically settled to Paralympic athletes. The National Institute of Technology (Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia, INT) upheld technical meeting with athletes, coaches and researchers aiming to capture the movement, 3D laser scans, 1D anthropometric measurements to project an appropriated equipment to the athletes' needs. It was essential to respect athletes' physical characteristics, sport-specific technical requirements and product logical elaboration to the development process of the equipment (throwing bench) to have a positive result of the project.

Cruz, Oliveira, Oliveira, Costa and Paes Neto (2018) followed the same trend to search at innovation a better way to evaluate wheelchair users' skills. The creation of a battery of tests involving different abilities that allows to identify motor dysfunctions, to notice pathologies related their limitation being important to the daily life routine of a wheelchair user. The wheelchair, as a mean of transportation for people with disability, still causes a lot of discomfort to the users and orientation regards to more appropriated use is necessary, mainly related to the overload process (superior members) due to the heavy propulsion required for locomotion.

Oliveira, Bione, Oliveira and Costa (2018) highlighted the importance of checking user + wheelchair the power output as a determinant condition for a good evaluation to this population. Knowing the manual propulsion capacity is possible to better know the conditioning state of these athletes. This experimental study helped to develop improvements in the physical and mechanical conjectures that impact directly the movement. To verify the reproducibility and applicability of this evaluation method, with a simple and easy administration procedure can be applied to wheelchair users for better ways to perform evaluations and conditioning training.

The media theme is very present at this special issue with a great diversity of studies presented. Very distinct realities are presented by Solves (2018), showing studies made in Spain about sports for people with disabilities and how the media contributes to their development, making these athletes socially known and admired. Cardoso, Haiachi, Poffo, Velasco and Gaya (2018) also used the media to reinforce the importance for the formation of Paralympic idols. The authors emphasized the investment done by the Brazilian Paralympic Committee since 2000 to give visibility to the Paralympic sport for the great

public. This strategy gave the possibility that many people with disability which were encouraged to initiate in the sport. Mazo, Begossi, Bertoldi and Assmann (2018) presented a specific reality in the State of Rio Grande do Sul by describing how the state media coverage related to Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and the State Paralympic athletes. The sports memories preservation need to be widely promoted. For Maturana-dos-Santos, Guimarães-Mataruna and Range (2018), every Olympic Games edition, the interest grows in athletes with disabilities to participate in this mega event. Since in other editions the Paralympic athletes had this opportunity, the authors tried to identify what could have been learned by the media coverage about the Paralympic athletes' try-outs to qualify to Olympic Games. The innovation aspect is presented at Santos, Fermino, Poffo and Seára (2018) study characterizing the content produced in the social network Twitter previously, during the opening and closing Rio 2016 Paralympic Games ceremonies. The authors concluded that the postings showed emotion, affection enchantment feelings or athletes' capacities and abilities recognition, as well as a criticism to the Paralympic Sports format as an inclusion and accessible space.

Taking advantage of the sports mega events surge performed in Brazil, the social legacy theme was covered by Kirakosyan and Seabra Júnior (2018). The authors presented the legacy as a challenge that needs to be better understood. Although activists of the people with disabilities rights hope that the Paralympic Games speed the inclusion agenda, studies show that the opposite is what truly happens. The Paralympics twist the nature and reality of people with disabilities and, consequently, reinforce the negative stereotypes as assessed by the authors in the 2012 and 2016 editions from the coverage of three periodics (The Guardian, Estadão e O Globo). The media, in general, does not discuss nor inform about the sports marginal position for people with disabilities comparing to the conventional sport, however helps to mold habits exposing people with and without disabilities benefiting from the sport.

Important experiences were done using sports practice. Lopes, Masdemont and Cruz (2018) used adapted surf as a tool to promote health (mental) and well-being (psychological) and social inclusion and interaction. The authors divided the adapted surf in three ways of intervention: as a recreation/leisure or fun; as a high performance/competition modality; or as therapeutic method or with therapeutic goals. The importance of engagement, support and partnership among governmental and non-governmental organizations are decisive to the adherence of more projects and programs that may contribute to the people with or without disabilities development.

Haiachi, Kumajura, Zoboli and Oliveira (2018) presented the importance of extension projects of a higher education institution (Federal University of Sergipe). To show the contribution of Sergipe Parasport Project (PPdSE) to the people with disabilities community, the authors reinforced the importance connected by the three bases (education, research and extension) promoted by the universities, aiming to influence the surrounding communities. Thus, the extension projects represent a powerful tool for the professional development (supervised learning) also as a research opportunity to foster the sports practices at different dimensions or interest, through Agon (contests, competitions) or Aratê (identified as what allows a person to live well or successful manner). Therefore, theses sport practices offer opportunities to acquire abilities to life and reach higher level of personal accomplishment, as an athlete as more participative and responsible citizen. The results showed that the participants of PPdSE have motor abilities, muscular tone, self-esteem, confidence, sociability improvements enhancing their own capacity of making decisions.

Following a similar trend, Brancatti (2018) presented and described pedagogical actions developed in a Higher Education Institution (UNESP/FCT) regarding issues related to the training of the Physical Education professional to work with a population with disabilities in the area of adapted sports, in the initial phase or in the continuity of long-term studies. Training actions such as the ones existing in the institution Physical Education Course serve for the University more than just a field of teaching and research, but as an environment, which is an experience that educational practices contribute in the process of academic training. The importance of initial and continuous training for the constitution of knowledge, the reinforcement of the value of activities and the development of skills are necessary for the whole professional exercise implementation.

Pereira, Romano and Esteves (2018) reinforced the importance of doing research in programs of sports activities for people with disabilities. Adequate food planning can minimize the trauma sequel and the risk of developing related illnesses, also can change the sleep pattern of wheelchair users, both athletes and sedentary. Thus, the study realized that the practice of physical exercise was relevant; presenting positive effects on the well-being and sleep pattern of the group that practiced it.

Finalizing the themes discussed in this issue, we have made room for the research by Juzwiak, Joaquim and Winckler (2018), which presented as an object of research the women athletes with disabilities. The focus of the research was based on the low energy available (LEA), the female athlete triad (FAT) and related conditions: eating disorders, menstrual dysfunction and bone health in athletes with disabilities. The authors concluded that it is essential to improve the methods used to evaluate EA components in this public. In addition, it is important for the interdisciplinary team to be aware of the health and performance consequences of the LEA and to promote athlete awareness of the importance of a healthy diet.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The sport presents important characteristics for the development in the physical, psychological and social aspects of the individuals (Labronici, Cunha, Oliveira, & Gabbai, 2000; Levermore, 2008). Its benefits are enhanced and in the case of people with disabilities represents an opportunity for change. The value of sport to athletes with disabilities is related to their potential to facilitate social integration, enhance fitness and promote self-efficacy, leading to a refinement in improved self-esteem and self-determination. According to Martin (1999), when armed with a strong and enduring sense of self-esteem and self-determination, athletes with disabilities can enjoy a better life expectancy.

The sports movement for people with disabilities went through transformations that have brought a lot of progress to the lives of these athletes. Its therapeutic role transcends the social aspects turning into high performance, reinforcing the high sportive abilities demonstrated by the athletes.

Thus, the major areas of disability are represented by sports events that leverage the participation of athletes, opening space for clubs, schools, associations and specialized institutions to use the sport as a tool for transposition of barriers, consolidating their role as a vehicle for social transformation. By inspiring, exciting and presenting to the world its possibilities, there is room for a more active participation of the disabled person in society. Amateurism gives room for high performance, which makes the concern about athletes, training and their longevity of the sports career at the center of the discussions (Azevedo & Barros, 2004; Haiachi, 2015).

An important feature is that the chronological age of the individual is not determinant for their insertion or withdrawal from the sport. On the contrary, the great longevity of the athletes causes the sport to be seen as a work activity. The athlete's career becomes an option, since nowadays he receives incentives, financial resources and supports that help his full-time dedication to the sport. The financial autonomy so desired, today is a reality for some disabled athletes (Azevedo & Barros, 2004).

Investments aiming at results and medals for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games made the Brazilian sports policy invest in the preparation of athletes, offering better conditions for their sporting development. This scenario of many possibilities did not reach all the deficiencies, hence the importance of understanding the breadth of the sport phenomenon for a whole population, not only for the few, is necessary. Obviously, the requirements, characteristics and predispositions necessary to be an athlete of income do not depend solely and exclusively on the will of the individual. A favorable environment that promotes conditions for this goal to be achieved is not yet a reality throughout the Brazilian national territory.

The physically and visually disabled athletes take advantage of this good moment to consolidate a sports career and guarantee their empowerment and autonomy through sport. But what happens to those who cannot get results? One cannot forget also those athletes in transition and who are in the post-career phase. This is a sensitive issue that needs to be analyzed in the light of more structuring public policies that focus not only on the sporting outcome or on a single type of disability (Haiachi, Cardoso, Reppold Filho, & Gaya, 2016). The lack of structure, incentive and information evidences the need for a profound change of perception and thinking of sports managers in relation to sports for people with disabilities (Seron, de Arruda, & Greguol, 2015).

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS EVENTS IN THE LIFE COURSE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

To understand sport as an important event in the life course of the disabled person is to enable, from their involvement, structural changes in subsistence that leads to empowerment, that is, the person becomes responsible for building his own path in of the opportunities gained from living together in an

equal way with society (Gutierrez, 1990; Campeão, 2011). By having the freedom to make maximum use of its potentialities, a new path opens up to express its hidden efficiency, often behind disability.

By exposing themselves to society through sport, there is room for a change in the perception of disability, focusing on possibilities, training and own personal development as an individual. The sport needs greater attention from the academic community in order to reveal its reality in order to construct tools that can guide the course to be followed (Haiachi, 2017).

The approach with higher education institutions as a basic structure for the development of sports for people with disabilities brings several benefits and challenges for both parties. The professional growth possibility is huge for the use of the tripod: teaching, research and extension. Several actions can be developed in partnership with the universities and the proximity specifically to different areas provides a necessary leap in quality to improve athlete performance and training. This way, when using research, technology and innovation, the character of high performance is confirmed, mainly with the possibility of accomplishing a multidisciplinary task (Pensgaard & Sorensen, 2002; Berger, 2008; Burkett & Mellifont, 2008; Diaper & Goosey-Tolfrey, 2009; Burkett, 2010).

Due to the investments made for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, many athletes started taking advantage of sport as an opportunity for social advancement and a way to build a career. However, this work activity seems to benefit only some disability groups, such as physically and visually impaired, than others (intellectual and deaf). According to the latest 2010 census (IBGE, 2012), 45.6 million people reported having some type of disability. The visual impairment appears with 19% of the population, followed by the physical impairment (7%), hearing loss (5%) and intellectual impairment (1.5%).

At 2012, according to Benfica (2012), there were 3,996 athletes registered in the Brazilian Paralympic Committee (CPB), which portrays the difficulty of achieving sporting excellence. In consultation with the CPB, this number in 2015, increased to 6,682 athletes registered in all sports. The high-performance sport, besides not extending to the entire population, must still be understood as an activity full of peculiarities (positive and negative aspects). Not all people with disabilities have the necessary qualities to become a high-performance athlete, a scenario similar to what is found in Olympic sports, where not all practitioners of various sports can reach the top or the highest level often desired. The commitment required to maintain results, on one hand, can lead the athlete with disabilities to live with injuries throughout their training which possibly will shorten their career, bringing a series of consequences. Sports longevity have been much debated among athletes, coaches and managers in order to provide a more adequate orientation, monitoring and planning for a greater sports competition phase and in the transition to the post-career process (CPB, 2015; Reação, 2015).

The need to broaden the debate about the future of the disabled athlete runs into the mistaken view of thinking only about the sporting result in the short term. More than medals, the improvement of human development should be the foundation of the discussions since the difficulty of building a life outside of sport and the acceptance of the right moment to promote their sporting transition generates a feeling of insecurity and a new sense of incapacity.

CONCEPTUAL ISSUES: ADAPTED SPORT OR PARALYMPIC SPORTS?

The sports movement for people with disabilities has been gaining attention in the international scene. The organization of sporting events brings great visibility and stimulates the adhesion of new participants. Its organization generally follows a broad calendar, periodicity and types of disabilities involving specific competitions for each sport, by regions, South American events, continental, world and multisport championships.

This growing sporting ascendance is embodied in the Paralympic Games, considered the second largest multisport event in the world (Brittain, 2010). It is very common then to associate any sporting competition with this event. However, this conceptual misunderstanding evidences the lack of knowledge and lack of information on sports related issues for people with disabilities.

Adapted sport and Paralympic sport are distinct manifestations of sport for athletes with disabilities, although they sometimes include the same type of disability. Both manifestations work on the issue of sports performance, adaptation of the rules, the use of adapted equipment or materials. Goalball is the only sport created specifically to the visually impaired athlete. The crucial difference is that Paralympic sports are part of the official Paralympic Games program while adapted sports are not.

At each Paralympic cycle it is possible to see changes in the sports (inclusion or withdrawal), which makes possible the constant alterations of sports that are part of this group. We can cite as an example canoeing and triathlon, which qualified to be part of the official program of the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro 2016. In this same movement, badminton and taekwondo have qualified for 2020, but football 7-a-side and sailing will leave the Paralympic program from Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games (ANDE, 2016).

The change of the *Paraolympic* term caused a lot of repercussion in 2011 when being modified to *Paralympic* by the Brazilian Paralympic Committee. The justification for the change lies in a determination of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), which proposed to change the term. Although its use is not part of the spelling vocabulary of the Portuguese Language, both terms are seen as correct. However, the Secretariat of Social Communication (Secom) of the Federal Senate directs the use of the Paralympic term as its proper name, either to refer to the Brazilian Paralympic Committee or to the Paralympic Games (Senado Federal, 2012).

Haiachi and Kumakura (2013) point out the contradictions in the use of the *Paraolympic* and *Paralympic* terms by presenting the event as a parallel to the Olympic Games and this change shows no benefits for any Olympic movement. While preaching a world without barriers, again it is returned to the old discussion of separating what is inseparable, softening what needs to be shown and that often the right way is the division so that it can be added.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The present editorial exposes a theme that is part of life in society. Not respecting the difference refers us to the Middle Age where "the different" had no time, voice and opportunities for development. In bringing this discussion to CETs we seek to draw the attention of the scientific community to the importance of building a more and egalitarian society.

We hope that this special issue promotes reflections not only in relation to an object or research theme, but also in the perspective of building a society more tolerant to the different, welcoming towards the deficient and protective in relation to the struggle for the right to equality. No better, no worse, just different.

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