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# Studying The Motivations For Practicing Competitive Sports For People With Mobility Disabilities

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#### Summary

This study aims to study the motives of practicing competitive sports for people with motor disabilities, and for that we adopted the descriptive method because of its suitability to the issue of the study, where the study sample consisted of 15 athletes with motor disabilities who practice competitive sports, we used a questionnaire, and to analyse the results we used appropriate statistical formulas Our study found that the psychological and social domain are the most important motives, reasons and motivating factors for practicing competitive sports among people with motor disabilities, and we also concluded that economic and professional motives are weak and few motives for practicing competitive sports for people with motor disabilities. Therefore, we recommend the need to focus on the psychosocial field in raising awareness and sensitising people with disabilities in order to attract them to participate in competitive sports.

Keywords: Motivation, mobility impairment, competitive sport.

## I - Introduction:

Motivation is one of the important topics in sports psychology, due to the rule that 'every behaviour is motivated by a motive', i.e. behind it lie certain motivational forces. Therefore, psychological factors are considered an important element for success in all sports games and events, as Allawi points out that when players of higher levels of sports converge in physical, skill, and tactical aspects, the psychological factor determines the outcome of the competition, and one of the important psychological factors in sports progress and achievement is motivation. (Allawi, 1998)

The field of motivation is also important for the sports coach to know why some individuals are willing to practice competitive sports while others are content to watch; or why an individual practices a certain game without others; or why some individuals continue to try to reach the highest levels of sports while others abandon the practice and retire halfway (Allawi H., 1992). Motor disability is a category that belongs to the category of physical or physical disabilities and includes many types of disabilities that affect the body systems, the most important of which is the motor system and other related systems, such as the bone system, the articular system, the muscular system, and the central nervous system. A motor handicap is an individual who suffers from a defect in his motor abilities or motor activity that affects the manifestations of his mental, social and emotional development and calls for the need for special education (Farouk Al-Roussan, 1998, p. 24).

Adler pointed out that individuals with motor disabilities struggle to overcome their deficiency by compensating for it in a specific field, as his theory is based on the link between organ deficiency and psychological overcompensation, as the deficiency of some organs increases the feeling of anxiety and insecurity, but it is this same feeling that inflames the will and provokes the motivation to establish personality and self-affirmation (Al-Sayed Mohammed, 2004, p. 15).

Hence, the importance of the research lies in trying to identify the motives of practicing competitive sports for people with motor disabilities, to develop the positive ones and modify the negative ones to reach high levels of achievement motivation, which is considered an important psychological variable, to improve the results of sports for people with disabilities.

Specialists also believe that the interest in competitive sport and the motives for its practice is limited despite the multiplicity of these motives and their different degrees, as the interest in throwing competitions for the mobility impaired is focused on the physical and skill aspects only, and there is an omission of the psychological and socio-economic aspects that are important for all workers in this sport, especially coaches, if they can identify and understand the motives and reasons for practice that enable them to understand the behaviour of the athletes. (Osama and Baghdad, 2016, p. 3), and the study of (Rachdi Tawfiq, 2012), which addressed the motivations for excellence in adapted sports activity for wheelchair basketball players of the two states of Ouargla and Biskra. The results of the study found that there are several motivations that contribute to sports excellence for people with mobility impairments, namely psychological preparation,

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adapted training, material incentives and social surroundings. (Tawfiq, 2012) and (Kahli Kamal et al., 2018): The study found that the nature of the motives that motivated individuals with motor disabilities to practice the sport of swimming was primarily psychological and physical, followed by social and technical motives. (Kahli, Jabouri, & Bouaziz, 2018)

Through contact and follow-up of athletics sports, we noticed that the number of medals obtained by the non-disabled group is greater than that of the able-bodied, and therefore this study came, through which we seek to identify the motives of practicing competitive sports for people with motor disabilities, and therefore we ask the following question:

- General Question: What are the motivations for people with motor disabilities to engage in competitive sport?
- **Sub-questions**:- Are the motivations for playing competitive sport for people with mobility impairment economic and professional motivations?
  - Are the motivations for playing competitive sport for people with motor disabilities psychosocial?

## 3- Research Objectives:

- To identify the motivations of people with motor disabilities to engage in competitive sport.
- Identify the role played by economic and occupational motives in motivating people with motor disabilities to engage in competitive sport.
- Revealing the importance of psychological and social motivations in increasing the desire to engage in competitive sport among people with motor disabilities.

## Key terms of the research:

#### 7-1- Motivations:

Terminology: Motives are the motives that stand behind the behaviour of individuals and animals alike, there is a reason or several reasons behind each behaviour, and these reasons are related to the internal state of the organism when the behaviour occurs on the one hand and the variables of the external environment on the other hand. (Saleh Mohammed, 2005, page 22)

Procedurally: Motivations are a state or forces that we do not directly observe but rather extract them from the individual's behaviour. They include sporting activity and other social aspects such as security, work and others.

**7-2- People with disabilities:** A disabled person is an individual who has an impairment as a result of an organic, sensory or mental illness, which may be due to genetic or acquired causes as a result of diseases or accidents, which makes the individual unable to perform his basic requirements, which affects his normal development, his ability to learn, work, or social adaptation. (Medhat, 2005, page 24,23)

## 7-2-1- Motor disability:

**Terminology**: A person who suffers permanently or chronically from an injury at the level of movement that limits his/her activities and behaviours. (Gharib, 1996, page 190)

**Procedurally**: A person who has a cause that hinders his movement and vital activity as a result of a defect, impairment or accident.

**-Competitive sport:** A sporting situation or event defined by recognised laws, rules and regulations, in which the athlete tries to bring out the maximum of his abilities, skills and preparations as a result of organised training processes, to try to achieve success or victory, or to try to achieve the objective performance level expected of the player or the sports team. (Allawi, 2002, p. 27)

**Procedurally**: It is a social system that includes players, referee, coach, manager, administrator, media and audience, and it is a high intensity testing situation in which all the experiences and skills of the player or team acquired through his training life are highlighted, with the aim of outperforming the opponent or team in a meeting governed by local and international laws.

#### Π - Method and Tools:

**Research method**: We used the descriptive survey method to fit the research problem.

**Research community**: The original population of the study consisted of 29 mobility impaired people practising competitive sport for throwing competitions at the level of sports clubs for people with disabilities in the state of Oran, which was estimated to be 29 mobility impaired people.

The research sample: The sample was selected by purposive sampling method, where we took a sample of 21 mobility impaired people at the level of sports clubs for people with motor disabilities participating in sports competitions for throwing competitions for the state of Oran, but 6 of the athletes did not return the form, so the final sample consisted of 15 mobility impaired athletes.

## Research areas:

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**1- Spatial area**: The study was conducted at the level of sports clubs for people with disabilities in Oran governorate participating in sports competitions for throwing competitions (Wahran Disability Sports Association)

2- Temporal domain: The period of work between the beginning of 21 April until 03 July 2022.

**Research tools**: Questionnaire: This questionnaire was built based on the theoretical background related to this field and using previous studies and similar research, and was judged by a group of experts and specialists, in addition to conducting the exploratory study. The questionnaire was divided into two sections:

**The first axis**: Economic and professional motivations. **Second axis**: Psychological and social motivations. Scientific treatments of the questionnaire: We conducted an exploratory experiment on a sample of 08 athletes practicing throwing competitions with motor disabilities from the amateur sports club Al-Arada in Oran, where the questionnaires were distributed to them after explaining the method of answering, and a week later the same process was repeated on the same individuals under the same conditions, the same time and the same means:

#### 7- Scientific bases of the instrument:

- 1- **Stability**: We used Pearson's correlation coefficient, and the results recorded below in Table 01 showed that the questionnaire has high degrees of stability, and the calculated stability values ranged from (0.97-0.98), which is greater than the tabular value of 0.666 at the degree of freedom 05.
- 2- Reliability: We used two methods: Content validity subjective validity.

**Content validity**: by presenting it to several professors, doctors and experts in the field of adapted physical activity, people with mental disabilities and educational sciences.

- B. Subjective validity: From Table 01, the calculated reliability value (0.98-0.99) is greater than the tabular value of 0.666 at the significance level of 0.05 and the degree of freedom of 07, so the questionnaire has a high degree of reliability
- 3- Objectivity: Not influenced by the subjective judgements of the raters (Belkhair, 2016)

All paragraphs of the questionnaire are easy, clear and simple, and the questions are not subject to guessing or interpretation.

Table 01 represents the reliability and validity coefficient of the questionnaire.

The t-value is 0.666 at a significance level of 0.05. n=08

Themes	Sample size	Degree of freedom	Significance level	Stability coefficient	Honesty coefficient	Table r
Economic and Professional Motivations	08	07	0.05	0.97	0.98	0.666
Psychological and Social Motivations				0.98	0.99	

#### ΠΙ - Results:

#### 1-1- Economic and professional motivations:

## 1.1.1 - Because it is profitable for me.

Table (2): Frequencies, percentages, and k2 values for Ali's return on investment.

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Answers	Extremely	Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	Agree very	Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree	agree	Agree	slightly	
Kinesthetically challenged	00	00	00	05	10	15
Percentage	%00	%00	%00	%33,33	66,67%	100%
Calculated k2	26,66					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 2, it is clear that there are significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at a significance level of 0.05 and degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

**Conclusion**: We conclude that the majority of mobility impaired people do not agree that they are motivated to participate in competitive sports for financial gain.

# 1.1.2 - Because I would like to be a coach in the future.

Table (3): Frequencies, percentages, and k2 values for I would like to be a coach in the future.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	03	03	03	06	00	15

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Percentage	%20	%20	%20	%40	00%	100%
Calculated k2	06					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 3, it is clear that there are no significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at a significance level of 0.05 and degree of freedom 4, so that the calculated k2 is lower than the tabular k2.

**Conclusion**: We conclude that some mobility impaired people are not motivated to become trainers in the future (40%), and the rest of the responses were divided into moderately, highly and very highly (20%).

## 1.1.3 - Availability of possibilities and special tools to practice this specialisation.

**Table (4):** Frequencies, percentages and k2 values for the mobility impaired regarding the availability of possibilities and special tools to practice this specialisation.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	04	04	05	00	02	15
Percentage	%26,67	%26,67	%33,33	%00	13,33%	100%
Calculated k2	5,32					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 4, it is clear that there are no significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at a significance level of 0.05 and degree of freedom 4, so that the calculated k2 is lower than the tabular k2.

**Conclusion**: We conclude that some mobility impaired people moderately agree that the availability of possibilities and special tools to practice this specialisation motivates them to practice it.

## 1.1.4 - Because it gives me the opportunity to get a job in this field.

**Table (5):** Frequencies, percentages and k2 values for the mobility impaired in relation to it gives me the opportunity to get a job in this field.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	00	00	06	05	04	15
Percentage	%00	%00	%40	%33,33	26,67%	100%
Calculated k2	11,66					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 5, it is clear that there are significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at a significance level of 0.05 and degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

Conclusion: We conclude that the majority of mobility impaired people do not agree that their motivation is to get a job in this field.

#### 1.1.5 - For the large number of material privileges granted to athletes.

**Table (6):** Frequencies, percentages, and k2 values for the mobility impaired regarding the frequency of material benefits granted to athletes.

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Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	00	00	02	07	06	15
Percentage	%00	%00	%13,33	%23,33	40%	100%
Calculated k2	14,33					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 6, it is clear that there are significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at a significance level of 0.05 and degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

**Conclusion**: We conclude that most mobility impaired people do not care about the material privileges granted to athletes, and that they are not motivated to practice sports.

## 1.2 - Psychological and social motivations:

## 1.2.1 - Helps me to be self-reliant.

**Table (7):** The frequencies, percentages and k2 values for the mobility impaired in relation to helping me to rely on myself.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	08	04	03	00	00	15
Percentage	%53,33	%26,67	%20	%00	%00	100%
Calculated k2	13,66					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 7, it is clear that there are significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at the significance level of 0.05 and the degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

**Conclusion**: We conclude that the majority of people with motor disabilities believe that their motivation to practice is to increase and improve their self-reliance, and that being a player helps them to do so.

# 1.2.2 - Improving my social status.

**Table (8):** Frequencies, percentages and k2 values for the question of improving my social status.

Answers	Extremely	Strongly	Moderately agree	Slightly	Agree very	Total
	Strongly Agree	Agree		Agree	slightly	
Kinesthetically challenged	00	01	04	08	02	15
Percentage	%00	%6,67	%26,67	%53,33	%13,33	100%
Calculated k2	10,32					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as shown in Table 8, it is clear that there are significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at the significance level of 0.05 and the degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

Conclusion: We conclude that most of the mobility impaired people see the motivation not to improve their social status.

## 1.2.3 - It helps me to enhance and strengthen some psychological qualities such as courage and boldness.

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Table (9): The frequencies, percentages and k2 values of the mobility impaired in relation to helping me to enhance and

strengthen some psychological qualities such as courage and boldness.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	10	04	01	00	00	15
Percentage	%66,67	%26,67	%6,67	%00	%00	100%
Calculated k2	24					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as presented in Table 9, it is clear that there are significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at the significance level of 0.05 and the degree of freedom 4, so that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

Conclusion: We conclude that most people with motor disabilities believe that being a player helps them to enhance and strengthen some psychological qualities such as courage and boldness, and this is their motivation

## 1.2.4 - I play sports in order to increase my network of friends and acquaintances.

Table (10): The frequencies, percentages and k2 values of the mobility impaired in relation to I exercise in order to increase my network of friends and acquaintances.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agre sligh		Total	
Kinesthetically challenged	12	03	00	00		00		15
Percentage	%80	%20	%00	%00		%00		100%
Calculated k2	36							
Tabulated k2	9,49							
Degree of freedom	4							
Significance level	0.05							

According to the results of the statistical analysis as presented in Table 10, it is clear that there are significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at a significance level of 0.05 and degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

Conclusion: We conclude that most mobility impaired people practice competitive sports for the purpose of increasing their network of friends and acquaintances.

# 1.2.5 - It contributes to reducing the manifestations of anxiety and psychological stress.

Table (11): The frequencies, percentages and k2 values of the mobility impaired in terms of their contribution to reducing the manifestations of anxiety and psychological stress.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	12	02	00	01	00	15
Percentage	%80	%13,33	%00	%6,67	%00	100%
Calculated k2	34,66					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as presented in Table 11, it is clear that there are significant or statistically significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at the significance level of 0.05 and the degree of freedom 4, so that we find that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

Conclusion: We conclude that most people with motor disabilities believe that competitive sport contributes to reducing their anxiety and psychological stress, and this is a motivation for them to practice it.

## 1.2.6 - Competitive sport provides me with local recognition.

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**Table (12):** The frequencies, percentages and k2 values of the mobility impaired in relation to competitive sport provides me with local fame.

Answers	Extremely Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Moderately agree	Slightly Agree	Agree very slightly	Total
Kinesthetically challenged	08	04	03	00	00	15
Percentage	%53,33	%26,67	%20	%00	%00	100%
Calculated k2	14,66					
Tabulated k2	9,49					
Degree of freedom	4					
Significance level	0.05					

According to the results of the statistical analysis as presented in Table 12, it is clear that there are significant differences between the responses of the mobility impaired at the significance level of 0.05 and the degree of freedom 4, so that the calculated k2 is greater than the tabular k2.

#### **Conclusion:**

We conclude that the majority of mobility impaired people believe that competitive sport provides them with local fame, and this is what motivates them to practice it.

#### - General conclusions:

After presenting, analysing and discussing the findings, we have concluded the following:

- The psychosocial domain is the most important reasons, motivations and motivating factors for people with motor disabilities to engage in competitive sport for throwing competitions.
- Economic and professional motivations are weak and few motivations to practice sports for people with motor disabilities
- The practice of sports activity and participation in sports competitions for people with disabilities has a positive impact on relationships and social support from their colleagues and friends, thus gaining confidence that enables them to overcome the difficulties that affect them due to their disability.
- The practice of competitive sports activity for people with motor disabilities makes them in the best psychological state, which reduces the burden of disability and overcoming the difficulties resulting from it, improves psychological compatibility and reduces emotional arousal and psychological indecision.
- Motivation stems from psychological and social needs such as self-reliance, satisfaction, and freedom from life's worries.
- Lack of material and professional support for the mobility impaired.

#### Discuss the hypotheses:

#### Hypothesis 1:

The motives for practising competitive sport for throwing competitions for people with motor disabilities are economic and professional motives.

From the results recorded in Tables 2 to 6, and by calculating the percentage of responses, we find that those that were between slightly agree to very slightly agree represented 48%, very strongly agree to very strongly agree represented 30.22%, and moderately agree represented 21.77%. From this we conclude that the majority of athletes with motor disabilities in our sample believe that the motives for practicing competitive sports are neither economic nor professional motives in the first place, that is, they are secondary motives rather than primary motives for the athlete, and this is confirmed by the study of (Majed Salim Al-Saleh 2014) where the ranking of economic and professional motives was the last in the ranking of the motives found in his study, as well as the study of (Kahli Kamal, Jabouri Ben Omar and Bouaziz Mohamed 2018) which confirms the ranking of these motives. (Ben Kadwad Mohammed 2017), which believes that psychological preparation, adaptive training and social surroundings play a role in athletic excellence and then incentives, and the two research students attribute this to the lack of material incentives, the absence of sponsors and the lack of interest in sports for the disabled by the authorities concerned and in charge of the disabled, as well as their lack of integration in sports institutions for people with disabilities, not even in training or judging in the same field as them. Therefore, we conclude that the first hypothesis was not fulfilled.

- Hypothesis 2:

The motives for practicing competitive sport for throwing competitions for people with motor disabilities are psychosocial motives.

From the results recorded in Tables 17 to 31, and by calculating the percentage of responses, we find that those that were between strongly agree to very strongly agree represented 72.44%, slightly agree to very slightly agree represented

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16%, and moderately agree represented 11%. From this, we conclude that most of the athletes with motor disabilities in our sample believe that the motives for practicing competitive sports are psychological and social motives in the first place, and this is confirmed by the study of (Rachdi Tawfiq 2012) who believes that there are several motives that contribute to the athletic excellence of people with motor disabilities, namely psychological preparation, adapted training, material incentives and social environment, as well as the study of (Sheikh Fateh 2017) who says that the most important sources of athletic excellence for the disabled group is the suitability of psychological and social factors for this group. Kahli Kamal, Jabouri Ben Omar and Bouaziz Mohamed (2018) found that the nature of the motivations that led disabled individuals to practice sports was primarily psychological and physical, followed by social and artistic motivations. The researchers attribute this to the fact that competitive sport helps them in the process of adaptation to society, and by achieving adaptation, the psychological state of this group improves, so they work hard to achieve results to attract the attention of the social environment, prove themselves and improve the image of this group in front of members of society and gain their respect, as well as the interest and encouragement of the family is a motivation to practice and excel, and competitive sport helps in self-reliance and enhance psychological qualities such as strength of character, courage and boldness and contribute to reducing anxiety and psychological stress and stay away from daily problems suffered by the disabled, in addition to the contribution of sport in terms of its contribution to the social and artistic development of the disabled.

From all this, we conclude that the second hypothesis has been fulfilled.

- General Hypothesis:

Psychosocial, socioeconomic and occupational factors are the motivations for playing competitive sport in throwing competitions for people with mobility impairment.

From the results recorded in Tables 2 to 31, as well as from the results of the first and second hypotheses and conclusions, it is clear to us that the motives for practicing competitive sport for throwing competitions for people with motor disabilities are psychological and social motives, and as for economic and professional motives, their results were low to very low and moderate, so it can be said that the general hypothesis part of it, which is the psychological and social motives part, and the other part, which is the economic and professional motives part, was not fulfilled.

Through this study, we reached a general and important conclusion that the most important sources of motivation for athletes with motor disabilities to engage in sports competition are psychological and social factors for this group.

# - Suggestions and Recommendations:

After reviewing the research findings and extrapolating them from several aspects, we offer some suggestions:

- 1. The need to focus on the psychological and social field in educating and sensitising people with disabilities in order to attract them to participate in competitive sports.
- 2. The family's interest in the disabled individual and his integration into sports clubs.
- 3. The need to create a culture in society about people with disabilities and how to deal with them.
- 4. The presence of important sports and political figures in sports competitions to provide moral and material encouragement to sports for people with disabilities.
- 5. Paying attention to the material aspect, which is a great support for enhancing psychological and social motivations.
- 6. The framing of psychologists by the concerned authorities in order to provide psychological comfort that makes people with disabilities achieve good results.
- 7. Studying other areas of motivation, such as physical motivation.
- 8. Conduct comparative studies between team and individual games.

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