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**UDK: 797.212.2:303.622****DOI: 10.7251/SIZEN1802016H****ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ABOUT SWIMMING****Summary**

*Sample consisted of 30 (16 male and 14 female) participants born in year 2000 +6 months and -6 months who attended Gymnasium in Prijepolje in period May 2018. The research concerned with introduction of swimming into elementary and high schools, as well as universities and the questionnaire on knowledge about 100 m free style swimming.*

*Likert scale was used and it consisted of a number of statements which cause positive or negative attitude towards swimming. Participants were asked to express the level of agreement on a scale with odd number of units. Total attitude is obtained by summing up the answers. Scale is designed in the following manner: application of statements on a group of assessors who express their level of agreement with every statement on scale 1–5. Statement: Swimming should be introduced as course at universities was assessed affirmatively by 100% of male students and 85.71% female students, whereas the statement: swimming should be introduced as subject at elementary and high schools was assessed affirmatively by 87.5% of male students and 71.42% of female students.*

*Key words: research, questionnaire, scale, free style swimming, Gymnasium*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Marković (2018) stated: “each swimmer should have the ability for fast and efficient acquisition of new movements and more efficient performance of complex movements and coordination of all swimming techniques as well as starts, turns and reaching the finish line. Such ability therefore helps the swimmer to advance faster and hence achieve better results.”*

*Čokorilo, R., Jovanović, M., Čokorilo, N. (2003), analysed the results of research performed on high school students about Physical education classes on sample of 421 students of first and third grade of high schools in Sombor and Apatin. Contingency coefficient was used for testing the relationships in value and affective, value and conative and affective and conative component of attitude. Statistically significant connection was established between the value and affective component of attitude. Statistically significant link was also established between affective and conative component of attitude*

whereas there was no statistically significant link established between value and conative component of attitude. Results obtained in this research are different from results by other authors who dealt with research of links between conative, emotional and conative component of attitude. In those cases there was established more significant link between individual components of attitude. Reasons should be found in the fact that the attitudes were subject of research at one specific area – classes of Physical Education where students already take part. In such situation some components are conditioned by opposing social interactions, organisational elements used in classes, equipment in the gyms, teacher's ability to motivate the students and keep them interested and so on. They also added that the research was conducted at students at adolescence when the attitudes are still being formed and are not stable enough; in this light the results become clear.

*Malacko, Popović (1997)* Scaling as a technique of measuring is relatively contemporary procedure and it is used for evaluation of personal and social attitudes."In the beginning, scaling was used for research mainly when conducting research on attitudes of individuals or groups towards society ideology of society). However, at contemporary level of development of methodological techniques, it is successfully used for assessment of other characteristics of personality conditioned by physiological and genetic basis. When conducting a research on attitudes, main difficulty lies in their complexity because they consist of three basic components:

- Emotional, as included emotion towards the object of attitude from positive to negative – from liking and admiration over understanding and compassion to discomfort and hate,
- Conative, as tendency towards action in relation to action towards the object – from help and cooperation in positive attitude, independence in neutral attitude to critic, aggression and attack in negative attitude,
- Cognitive, as creation, knowledge and value of judgement on object – from providers of education and socialisation (parents, teachers, means of communication etc.) over creating own system of value to, so called, personal view of the world (personal philosophy)."

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Subject of research**

Subject of research in this paper is the introduction of swimming to elementary schools, high schools and universities.

### **Problem of research**

Problem of the research is with regard to: questionnaire with possibility to answer with: I totally disagree, I partially disagree, I have no opinion/I am not sure, I partially agree and I totally agree to offered answers of students of high school that swimming should be introduced as subject in elementary and high schools as well as at universities.

### **Aim of research**

Aim of research is to establish the attitudes of participants from Gymnasium in Prijepolje in school year 2018 in May.

## Hypotheses

According to the established aim of research the following hypotheses were set:

H<sub>0</sub> – I disagree that swimming should be introduced at elementary schools, high schools and universities.

H<sub>1</sub>– I totally agree that swimming should be introduced at elementary schools.

H<sub>2</sub>– I totally agree that swimming should be introduced at high schools.

H<sub>3</sub> – I totally agree that swimming should be introduced as course at universities.

## Sample

Sample consisted of 30 (16 male and 14 female) participants born in year 2000 +6 months and -6 months who attended Gymnasium in Prijepolje

## Sample of variables – questionnaire

Sample of variables related to seven (7) questions from the questionnaire.

Questionnaire had options to provide answer in form of:

- I totally disagree,
- I partially disagree,
- I have no opinion/I am not sure,
- I partially agree,
- I totally agree.

General data, write “X” into empty field.

Gender	Male	Female	Year of birth	School	Grade
X	16		2000. +6-	Gymnasium in Prijepolje	3

Only one “X” in the table is used for correct answer.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Likert scale of attitudes consists of series of statements which evoke positive or negative attitude towards the object of attitude. Participants are asked to express level of agreement on a scale with odd number of units. Total attitude is obtained by summing all the answers. Scale is constructed in the following manner:

Application of statements on a group of assessors who express their agreement with each statement on scale from 1 to 5.

Assessment of level of correlation between each statement and total result;

Elimination of all the statements without sufficient level of correlation with total result.

Likert scale is psychometric scale used to determine level of agreement or disagreement of participants with a statement (their attitude towards the statement) on continuum from absolutely positive to absolutely negative towards the subject of research of interest. It is applied in research where questionnaires are used (or structured interview) for obtaining the required data. Scale was developed by Rensis Likert who described it in paper entitled “A Technique for Measurement of Attitudes” in 1932 in the magazine “Archives of Psychology”. In addition to expressing agreement, the participant is also able to assess frequency, quality, importance and other constructs. The scale usually has 5 degrees (according to Likert), rarely 7 or 9. We can therefore define Likert scale as a group of statements (units) that participant agrees or disagrees with on a scale of assessment. Agreement with the statements is considered to be an indicator of latent attitude we can not directly evaluate.

Likert scale with five degrees was used for the purpose of this research.

variables – claims	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
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Table 1, Attitudes of male students towards swimming 100m crawl

Upon completion of high school education students should be able to swim 100m crawl	Total points and percentage %	total
	Male participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	1 6.25%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	1 6.25%	Count % of total
I partially agree	2 12.5%	Count % of total
I totally agree	12 75%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results presented in this Table suggest that there is significant difference in percentages between the attitudes, where the highest percentage (75%) was “I totally agree”, whereas the lowest percentage was “I totally disagree” with 0% and “I partially agree” had 12,5%, whereas “I have no opinion/I am not sure” had 6.25%.

Basic elements of swimming should be introduced to elementary school

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
			2	14

Table 2, Attitudes of male students towards swimming in elementary schools

Basic elements of swimming should be introduced in elementary school	Total points and percentage %	total
	Male participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially agree	2 12.5%	Count % of total
I totally agree	14 87.5%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results in this Table suggest that there is significant difference in percentages between the attitudes, where the highest percentage (87.5%) was for “I totally agree”, whereas the lowest percentage was for statement “I totally disagree“ with 0% and for ”I partially agree“ there was 12.5%, and “I have no opinion/I am not sure” and “I partially disagree” scored 0%.

Swimming should be introduced in high schools

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
			2	14

**Table 3, Attitudes of male students about swimming in high schools**

Attitudes of students about swimming in high schools	Total points and percentage %	total
	Male participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially agree	2 12.5%	Count % of total
I totally agree	14 87.5%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results in this table suggest that there is significant difference between the attitudes where the highest percentage was for “I totally agree” (87.5%) and the lowest percentage was for statement “I totally disagree” with 0%; “I partially agree” scored 12.5%, and “I have no opinion/I am not sure” had 0%.

#### Swimming should be mandatory course at universities

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
				16

**Table 4, Attitudes of male students about swimming at universities**

Swimming should be mandatory course at universities	Total points and percentage %	total
	Male participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially agree	0 0%	Count % of total
I totally agree	16 100%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results presented in this Table suggest that there is significant difference between the attitudes where the highest percentage (100%) answered “I totally agree”; “I partially agree” had 0%, “I have no opinion/I am not sure” had 0%, “I partially disagree” had 0%, and “I totally disagree” had 0%.

#### Attitudes of female students of Gymnasium in Prijepolje

Upon completion of high school education students should be able to swim 100m crawl

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
		1	4	9

**Table 5, Attitudes of female students about swimming 100m crawl**

Upon completion of high school education students should be able to swim 100m crawl	Total points and percentage %	total
	Female participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	1 6.25%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	1 7.14%	Count % of total
I partially agree	4 28.57%	Count % of total
I totally agree	9 64.28%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results presented in this Table suggest that there is significant difference between the attitudes where the highest percentage 64.28% of answers was “I totally agree”, whereas the lowest percentage of answers was “I totally disagree” with 0%; “I partially agree” had 28.57%, whereas “I have no opinion/I am not sure” had 7.14% and “I partially disagree” had 6.25%.

**Basic elements of swimming should be introduced to elementary school**

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
			4	10

**Table 6, Attitudes of female students towards swimming in elementary schools**

Basic elements of swimming should be introduced to elementary school	Total points and percentage %	total
	Female participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially agree	4 28.57%	Count % of total
I totally agree	14 71.42%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results presented in this Table suggest that there is significant difference between the attitudes where the highest percentage 71.42% of answers was “I totally agree”, whereas the lowest percentage was for answer “I totally disagree” with 0%; “I partially agree” had 28.57%, whereas “I have no opinion/I am not sure“ and “I partially disagree” had both had 0%.

**Swimming should be introduced to high school**

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
			4	10

Table 7, Attitudes of male students about swimming in high schools

Basic elements of swimming should be introduced to high school	Total points and percentage %	total
	Female participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially agree	4 28.57%	Count % of total
I totally agree	14 71.42%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results presented in this Table suggest that there is significant difference between the attitudes where the highest percentage 71.42% answered “I totally agree”, and the lowest percentage answered “I totally disagree” with 0%; “I partially agree” had 28.57%, whereas “I have no opinion/I am not sure” and “I partially disagree” had 0%.

#### Swimming should be mandatory course at universities

I totally disagree	I partially disagree	I have no opinion/I am not sure	I partially agree	I totally agree
			2	12

Table 8, Attitudes of female students about swimming at universities

Swimming should be mandatory course at universities	Total points and percentage %	total
	Female participants	
I totally disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially disagree	0 0%	Count % of total
I have no opinion/I am not sure	0 0%	Count % of total
I partially agree	2 14.28%	Count % of total
I totally agree	12 85.71%	Count % of total
Total		100.00%

Research results presented in this Table suggest that there is significant difference between the attitudes where the highest percentage 85.71% of answers was “I totally agree”, and the answer “I totally disagree” had 0%; answer “I partially agree had 14.28%, and “I have no opinion/I am not sure “ and “I partially disagree” had 0% of answers.

## CONCLUSION

Sample of participants who were subject to research using the questionnaire was 30 (16 male and 14 female participants) born in year 2000, +6 and – 6 months, students of Gymnasium in Prijepolje in May 2018. In the paper the research was aimed at swimming, i.e. introduction of swimming to elementary schools, high schools and universities and questionnaire on knowledge about swimming 100m free style.

Established hypotheses were confirmed in the following manner:

H<sub>1</sub>– I totally agree that swimming should be introduced as subject in elementary schools: 87.5% of male students and 71.42% of female students.

H<sub>2</sub>– I totally agree that swimming should be introduced as subject in high schools: 87.5% of male students and 71.42% of female students.

H<sub>3</sub>– I totally agree that swimming should be introduced as course at universities: 100% of male students and 85.71% of female students.

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