

Turkey's Sports Success Assessment in The World Para Taekwondo Championships

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ABSTRACT

Aim: In this study, it is aimed to contribute to the literature by analyzing the success of Turkey participating in the Para Taekwondo World Championships.

Methods: In the study, Turkey's success over the years, which participated in the World Para Taekwondo Championships, the first of which was held in 2009 and the last in 2019, has been made. For this purpose, tables were created by using document analysis, one of the qualitative research methods.

Results: In the findings section, an evaluation was made by tabulating the years the championships were held and the number of participants in Turkey, the number of medals won and the world rankings of these years. As a result of the research, it was found that with the increasing number of participants in each championship, there was an increase in the number of medals won.

Conclusion: In the conclusion part, with the call of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)'s 1001-Scientific and Technological Research Projects Support Program "Sports Research", attention was drawn to the project studies aimed at improving disabled athletes and sports for the disabled. It was emphasized that research and project studies on para taekwondo branch could increase the number of elite athletes and thus the successes in the international World Para Taekwondo Championships could be continued increasingly.

Keywords: Para Taekwondo, Document analysis, World Para Taekwondo Championships

INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the participation of individuals with physical, emotional, mental, hearing or visual impairments due to prenatal or postnatal diseases or accidents, or multiple disabilities with a few of these, to participate in sportive activities is an issue that is also emphasized in our country. It is strongly supported by administrative structures, educators, non-governmental organizations and sports clubs. This support is given in order to improve the health status of people with any disability, to ensure or increase their recreational time by participating in sports activities. In addition to all these, to enable them to participate in national and international competitions and moreover, as professional athletes of sports clubs. It also aims to enable them to continue their sports life¹.

The sense of success in the lives of people with disabilities is seen as an important need. The sense of competition and competition enables individuals to achieve success with their presence in the natural atmosphere of the game and sports environment. The individual wants to experience the sense of success he/she experiences through games and sports, in addition to being eager for new experiences, in different areas as well².

Para taekwondo is a branch of sports in which special athletes with various disabilities compete. World Taekwondo established the Para Taekwondo Committee in 2005 to encourage and develop all disabled athletes in taekwondo. Initially, para taekwondo competitions were organized in the kyorugi (sparring) branch for athletes with limb deficiency and arm amputation in the upper extremity.

At the 4th World Para Taekwondo Championships held in 2013, a para taekwondo development committee consisting of CPISRA and INAS came together and decided that para taekwondo poomsae (martial art forms)

should be a competition format for mentally handicapped or visually impaired athletes. Para taekwondo poomsae competitions for mentally retarded athletes were held for the first time at the 5th World Para Taekwondo Championships held in Russia³. Athlete classifications have developed and changed over the years, and the last World Para Taekwondo Championship classifications made in 2019 are as follows:

The Para Taekwondo Kyorugi K40 Sport Classes (K41, K42, K43 & K44) are for athletes with a physical impairment. The 2019 World Para Taekwondo Championships is a G10 ranking event for Para Taekwondo Kyorugi⁴.

Kyorugi (Sparring) Sports Classification

Table 1: Kyorugi (Sparring)Sports Classification⁴

Impairment	Sport Classes
Physical Impairments	K41
Physical Impairments	K42
Physical Impairments	K43
Physical Impairments	K44

Poomsae P20 Sport Class: The Para Taekwondo Poomsae P20 Sport Class competitions for Intellectually Impaired athletes is recognized by INAS, the international sports federation for para-athletes with an intellectually impairment. The 2019 World Para Taekwondo Championships is a G10 ranking event for the P20 under 30 and over 30 events. The Junior P20 events will not be world ranking events⁴.

Poomsae P30 Sport Classes: The Para Taekwondo Poomsae P30 Sport Classes (P31, P32, P33 & P34) competitions for athletes with a motor impairment⁴.

Purpose of the Research: It is aimed to contribute to the

literature by analyzing the success of Turkey, which participated in the Para Taekwondo World Championships, which was held first in 2009 and lastly in 2019.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Model of the Research: In this study, the document analysis method, one of the qualitative research methods, was used. The tables in the findings section were created with the official documents from the World Para Taekwondo official site and the Turkish Taekwondo Federation.

RESULTS

Para Taekwondo World Championship, which was first held in 2009, was not held in 2011, but was held every year from 2009 to 2015, and every two years between 2015-2019. 2009 men's and women's team ranking information and 2014, 2015 general team rankings information could not be reached. The year 2012 is not included in the table, since no information could be obtained about Turkey in the Para Taekwondo World Championship held in 2012.

Distribution of Medals Won by Turkey in Para Taekwondo World Championships by Years

Table 2: Kyorugi (Sparring) Women Team⁵

Year	The Number of Participants	Golden	Silver	Bronze	Total	Ranking
2009	1	0	1	0	1	-
2010	1	0	0	1	1	5th
2013	3	1	1	1	3	1st
2014	4	2	0	2	4	1st
2015	6	1	2	1	4	2nd
2017	8	3	1	1	5	1st
2019	14	3	1	1	5	1st

When Table 2 is examined, it is observed that in 2009, when Turkey participated with the least number of (1) female para taekwondo players, the para athlete completed the championship by winning a silver medal, and in the following years, the number of medals increased with the increase in the number of participants, and they mostly took the first place in the world in the rankings. The ranking information of the women's team for the year could not be reached.

Table 3: Men Team⁵

Year	The Number of Participants	Golden	Silver	Bronze	Total	Ranking
2009	6	1	0	3	4	-
2010	8	2	0	3	5	2nd
2013	8	3	0	1	4	3rd
2014	8	2	0	1	3	3rd
2015	13	0	1	2	3	4th
2017	14	1	3	2	6	2nd
2019	29	3	1	4	8	2nd

When Table 3 is examined, in 2009, when Turkey participated with the fewest (6) male para taekwondo players, para athletes completed the championship by winning 1 gold and 3 bronze medals in total, and in the following years, the number of medals increased with the increase in the number of participation, and it was mostly second in the world in the rankings. observed to be achieved. 2009 men's team ranking information could not be reached.

Table 4: General Team⁵

Year	The Number of Participants	Golden	Silver	Bronze	Total	Ranking
2009	7	1	1	3	6	3rd
2010	9	2	0	4	6	3rd
2013	11	4	1	2	7	3rd
2014	12	4	0	3	7	-
2015	19	1	3	3	7	-
2017	22	4	4	3	11	2nd
2019	43	6	2	5	13	1st

When Table 4 is examined, 6 out of 7 athletes from Turkey who participated in the championship in the general classification in 2009 managed to get a medal and achieved the 3rd place in the world. When it comes to the championship in 2019, the highest number of participants in years has been reached and this is reflected in the number of medals won, and it has achieved the first place in the world with a total of 13 medals. The general team ranking information for 2014 and 2015 could not be reached.

Table 5: Poomsae⁵

Year	The Number of Participants	Golden	Silver	Bronze	Total	Ranking
2015	2	0	0	2	2	-
2019	9	1	2	2	5	3

Looking at Table 5, it is seen that Turkey has achieved the 3rd place in the general ranking in the Para Taekwondo World Championship Poomsae category, which Turkey participated for the second time.

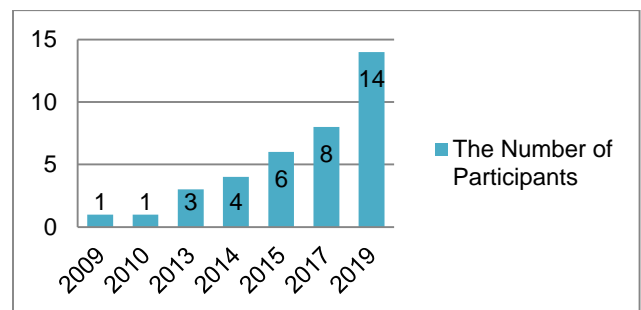


Figure 6: Number of Female Para Taekwondo Players Participating in Competitions by Years⁵

Looking at Table 6, it is observed that the number of female para taekwondo players participating in the World Championships has tended to increase over the years.

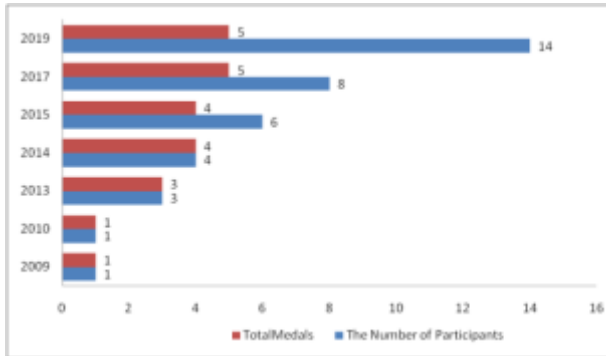


Figure 7: Number of Medals Won by Female Para Taekwondo Players in Ratio of Participation by Years⁵

When Table 7 is examined, it is observed that the number of medals won has increased with the increase in the number of female para taekwondo players participating in the World Championships.

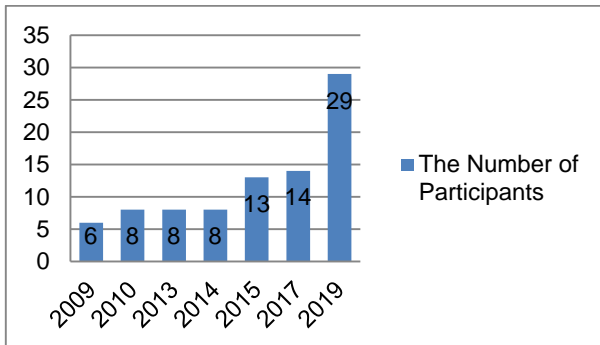


Figure 8: Number of Male Para Taekwondo Players Participating in Competitions by Years⁵

Looking at Table 8, it is observed that the number of male para taekwondo players participating in the World Championships has tended to increase over the years.

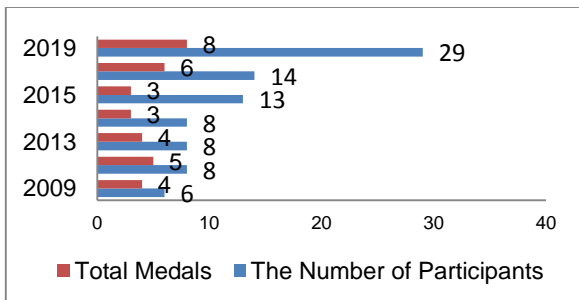


Figure 9: The Number of Medals Won by Male Para Taekwondo Players in Ratio of Participation by Years⁵

When Table 9 is examined, it is observed that the number of medals won with the increase in the number of participation of male para taekwondo players in the World

Championships also increased.

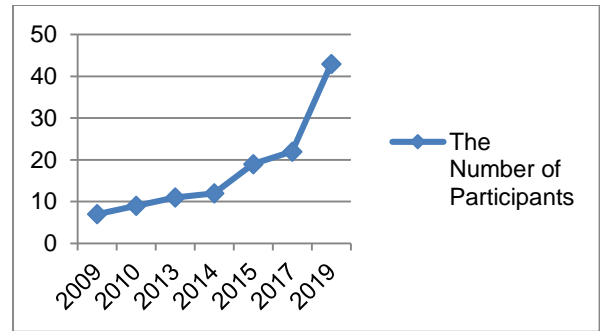


Figure 10: Number of Participation of Para Taekwondo Players by Years in the General Classification⁵

Looking at Table 10, it is observed that the number of para taekwondo players in the world championships has increased over the years.

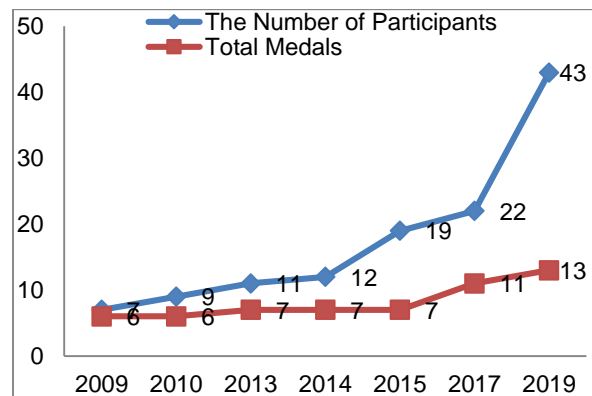


Figure 11: Number of Medals Won by the General Team in Ratio of Participation by Years⁵

When Table 11 is examined, it is observed that the number of medals won with the increase in the number of participation of para taekwondo players in the World Championships in the general classification also increased.

DISCUSSION

In Table 2, the number of participants of Turkey's Para Taekwondo women's national team by years, the distribution of medals and the number of medals they have won, as well as the world rankings in the championships, have been created, and it has been determined that with the increase in the number of participants, the increase in the number of medals won and an increase in the world rankings occur.

When Table 3 is examined, as in the women's national team, the number of participants of Turkey's Para Taekwondo men's national team by years, the distribution of medals and the number of medals they have won, as well as the world rankings in the championships have been created, and it has been determined that with the increase in the number of participants, the increase in the number of medals won and an increase in the world rankings occur.

When Table 4 is examined, the first Para Taekwondo World Championship held in 2009, the Turkish national

team won one gold, one silver and three bronze medals in the general classification and started with the third place in the world. It is observed that the increase in the number of athletes in the championships held in the following years is also reflected in the number of medals. With the increase in the number of participants and the number of medals won between 2009-2019, the Turkish national team ranked first in the world in 2019 in the general classification, it has been found that it continues to increase its success.

In the light of the findings obtained in this research, it was found that the number of participants and the number of medals increased in each championship that Turkey participated, from the first World Para Taekwondo Championship to the last championship, and accordingly, an upward trend was observed in the world rankings.

It is shown by the upward trend in the tables prepared from the first Para Taekwondo World Championship that Turkey participated by homegrown qualified athletes in Para Taekwondo branch to the last championship. In the World Para Taekwondo Championship held in 2019, where he participated in the most medals (13 medals) with the most athletes (43 athletes), he won 6 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronzes and became the world champion.

The number of medals won is one of the most important criteria for success. In this study, it was tried to draw attention to the relationship between the increase in the number of medals won and the number of athlete participation.

The most effective factors at the high level in the sports achievements at the international level; are the human populations and economic conditions of the countries participating in the competition^{6,7,10, 12-15}.

According to Rathke and Woitek¹⁶, the sportive success of a country depends on having the economic resource that can respond to this population, rather than its human population, and transferring the resources it has to sports and its athletes effectively. Many studies on sports performance^{6-9,12,14,16,17} specifically state that the per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP), that is, national income per capita, should be taken into account together with the human population.

There are many variables that affect the success factor in international sportive competitions, and the coexistence of these variables brings a high level of success to the countries on the international platform.

The fact that Turkey can train elite athletes in the para taekwondo branch can be seen in this research with the number of medals and team rankings won in the Para Taekwondo World Championships.

In recent years, many sports policy and project studies have been initiated in Turkey to increase the participation of disabled individuals in sports activities and amateur sports branches.

Finally, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey TUBITAK 1001-Scientific and Technological Research Projects Support Program called for a special project called "Sports Research".

The purpose and scope of the call, as stated in the Development Plan, is to reach a level where sports become a habit of life, where anyone who requests can access sports activities, which has success in international championships, which hosts prestigious sports

organizations, and thus can compete worldwide in all branches of sports. is the main goal that our country wants to achieve in the field of sports. Within the framework of current social problems, factors such as the global epidemic that deeply affect not only our country but also global societies cause significant changes and that all these changes are individual, institutional, social, economic, environmental, etc. In this context, it is thought to have/will lead to many results. The field of sports and the goals that our country wants to achieve in this field are directly and indirectly affected by all these processes. Today, due to the interaction of sports with many different disciplines, it is of great importance to approach sports science studies with a more holistic and inclusive perspective and to carry out qualified scientific research on sports and sports-related subjects in this interaction environment. In this framework, it was decided to launch a special call titled "Sports Research"¹⁸.

Projects and research that can be done for individuals with special needs are included in the scope of this call and its scope is as follows:

Under the Title of Sports for Individuals with Special Needs

Method to increase inclusiveness and strengthen competition in disability sports

and technology development-oriented research

Specific and general factors that support the success of successful athletes with special needs

research on

Methods to strengthen the international competition of athletes with special needs and

research on techniques

Researches on organizational structure and functioning in disabled sports^{18,19,20}.

As in the call of Tubitak, it is thought that increasing the number of athletes to be brought to the para taekwondo branch through talent selection research to be conducted on individuals with special needs throughout Turkey, and orientation to para sports branches as well as sportive and recreational activities for disabled individuals will increase international success.

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