



## Examination of the Factors Effecting the Use of Parks and Recreation Areas in Terms of Different Variables

Abdurrahman KIRTEPE<sup>1</sup>

Turan ÇETİNKAYA<sup>2</sup>

Fatih Mehmet UĞURLU<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Firat University Sports Sciences Faculty, Turkey

<sup>1</sup>Email: [abdurrahmankirtepe@gmail.com](mailto:abdurrahmankirtepe@gmail.com) Tel: 0533 766 20 05

<sup>2</sup>Email: [ugurlu76tr@hotmail.com](mailto:ugurlu76tr@hotmail.com) Tel: 0 535 620 71 77Tel: 053

<sup>3</sup>Ahi Evran University School of Physical Education and Sports, Turkey

<sup>3</sup>Email: [turan.cetinkaya@windowslive.com](mailto:turan.cetinkaya@windowslive.com) Tel: 0533 743 61 34



(✉ Corresponding Author)

### Abstract

The aim of this study was to determine the factors that are effective in the non-preference of Park and recreation areas in the city center of Gaziantep Metropolitan municipality according to different variables. There were no significant differences between the income and the variables affecting participation in activities in parks and recreation areas ( $p > 0.05$ ), and the absence of participation in activities in parks and recreation areas when women prefer park and recreation areas ( $p < 0.05$ ). There was no significant difference between health status of participants and reasons of not choosing park and recreation areas ( $p > 0.05$ ). Women in parks and recreation areas are more likely to be exposed to physical assault than men, and those who do not have the necessary spare time to participate in these areas are not very interested in recreation areas because of their family responsibilities they have not been able to use such areas.

**Keywords:** Park, Recreation, Local government, Leisure time.

**Citation** | Abdurrahman KIRTEPE; Turan ÇETİNKAYA; Fatih Mehmet UĞURLU (2018). Examination of the Factors Effecting the Use of Parks and Recreation Areas in Terms of Different Variables. Asian Journal of Social Sciences and Management Studies, 5(2): 60-64.

#### History:

Received: 23 February 2018

Revised: 30 March 2018

Accepted: 2 April 2018

Published: 4 April 2018

**Licensed:** This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

[Attribution 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

**Publisher:** Asian Online Journal Publishing Group

**Contribution/Acknowledgement:** All authors contributed to the conception and design of the study.

**Funding:** This study received no specific financial support.

**Competing Interests:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

**Transparency:** The authors confirm that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study was reported; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained.

**Ethical:** This study follows all ethical practices during writing.

### Contents

1. Introduction .....	61
2. Material and Method.....	61
3. Results.....	62
4. Discussion and Conclusion.....	63
References.....	64

## 1. Introduction

In line with the increasing technological developments, there has been an increase in free time and this has caused individuals to seek activities to evaluate this free time and the concept of recreation has emerged. Recreation English, create, Create, which means “create” in front of the verb; again, again, which means the “re” prefix with the arrival of “Recreation” (recreation), worn by labor and other factors, means that the revival of tired individuals (Axelsen, 2009). ‘The concept of recreation is, in a sense, an explanation of how free time can be assessed’ (Devere, 2010). Recreational activities contribute to the improvement of social behavior in meeting the person's psychological needs, making them feel good (Tinsley and Eldredge, 1995). Sports activities are also mentioned as a priority in recreation activities (Kul *et al.*, 2015). There are many factors that affect the individual's participation in leisure activities and preferences. There are many factors that affect the individual's participation in leisure activities and preferences. These can be grouped as individual and non-individual factors. Individual factors include needs, motives, perceptions, attitudes, experiences, concept of self, value judgments. Non-individual factors can be defined as culture, profession, family, reference groups (Tenekecioglu, 2003). In addition, it is important to note that the factors that affect the participation of the individual in leisure activities are cultural factors (culture, subculture, social class), personal factors (age and life period, occupation, economic characteristics, lifestyle), personality, social factors (reference groups, family, roles and status) and psychological factors (motivation, perception, learning, attitudes and beliefs) (Cömert and Durmaz, 2006). How the individual evaluates their free time; the characteristics of the social environment in which it is located, the facilities in place, the kinds of activities that are intensively performed around them, the living habits of the family, the income of the individual, the age, the subculture characteristics, the personality, physical structure, gender, education, possibilities and capabilities, it depends largely on the geographical characteristics of the area in question (Demir and Demir, 2006). How the individual evaluates their free time; the characteristics of the social environment in which it is located, the facilities in place, the kinds of activities that are intensively performed around them, the living habits of the family, the income of the individual, the age, the subculture characteristics, the personality, physical structure, gender, education, possibilities and capabilities, it depends largely on the geographical characteristics of the area in question (Demir and Demir, 2006). Recreational activities in which people participate in their free time seem to be very beneficial for the mental and physical health of the individual. Research shows that people do not participate in such activities that are so important for them because of different reasons, or they are prevented from different reasons (Çoruh, 2013). The behavior of individuals to assess their free time may be affected by a variety of changes from the traditions of the community in which they live to their needs. While participation in leisure time activities differs according to people's lifestyle, characteristics and use of time, the type of activities, the way in which they participate, and the amount of time individuals spend on these activities; race, social and personal characteristics, age and gender (Tolukan, 2010). One of the areas where recreation activities are most beneficial is the parks. Within the scope of the Regulation on the Duties and Works of the Directorate of Parks and Horticulture which is prepared on the basis of the Municipal Law no. 5393 under the Directorate of Parks and Horticulture, especially the Metropolitan and district municipalities, The aim is to serve the recreational activities of adults, young people and children on the borders of the province / district and to establish walkways, bicycle paths, sports areas, green areas within the parks and to carry out maintenance, repair and improvement works. When it looks at Turkey in general; it is seen that individuals from the walking and bicycle paths in the parks built by the municipalities and the fitness devices located in the sports fields have benefited individuals intensively. But compared to developed countries in Turkey could be said that not sufficient number of individuals benefiting from this style park. Turkey is also to increase the number of people who participate in sports are known to be many applications, these services are provided by municipalities, one of these applications. In order to determine the interests and tendencies of individuals, factors such as gender, age, income, heredity and education should be taken into consideration in the recreation program (Karaküçük, 1995). The aim of this study is to determine the factors affecting these preferences of individuals who do not use the park and recreation areas belonging to the Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep according to different variables.

## 2. Material and Method

### 2.1. Universe and Sampling

The aim of the research is to determine the obstacles to the use of recreational areas of the local government in the provincial center of Gaziantep according to different variables. The sample group of the study consisted of 247 people, 131 male and 116 female, who were randomly selected and did not use recreational areas belonging to the local government in the city center of Gaziantep. The results of the study were collected with 17 questions and 5 subscales developed by Gümüş and Alay (2017) and validity and reliability studies were conducted with participation inhibition scales related to the use of the recreation area.

### 2.2. Analysis of Data

The data obtained from the study were analyzed using the SPSS 22 packet program. In order to make the analyses accurate, the normality test was performed. According to this, Kruskal-wallis was used in multiple groups in the analysis of the data with no normal distribution and Mann whitney-u test was applied in comparison of the binary groups in which the difference occurred. Significance level was accepted as  $p < 0.05$ .

Looking at Table 1, 53% of the respondents were men and 47% women. According to the distribution of participants among age groups, 43.7% of the participants were aged 19-29, 36.8% were aged 30-40, 13% were aged 41-51, and 6.5% were aged 52 or over. According to the income status, it is determined that 12,6% of them are between 0-1500 TL, 81,8% of them are between 1501-3000 TL, and those with income of 3001 TL and above are 5.7%. When it is considered that the participants have a special intermediate, it is determined that 6.9% are primary schools and 40.3% of them have a median of 59.7%. My health condition is bad of those who say 2.4%, of those who say it's not bad 10.5% sure of the health status of non-5.3% of those who say my health condition was very good by

55.9 per cent of those who said is good % 25,1 about 0.8 percent of those who say my health condition is excellent. A total of 247 participants participated in the study.

### 3. Results

**Table-1.** Personal information belonging to Participants

	N	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	131	53,0
Women	116	47,0
<b>Age</b>		
19-29	108	43,7
30-40	91	36,8
41-51	32	13,0
52 and over	16	6,5
<b>Monthly Income (TL)</b>		
0 -1500	31	12,6
1501-3000	202	81,8
3001 and over	14	5,7
<b>Special Vehicle</b>		
Yes	100	40,3
No	147	59,7
<b>Health situation</b>		
Bad	6	2,4
Not bad	26	10,5
I am not sure	13	5,3
Good	138	55,9
Very good	62	25,1
Excellent	2	0,8
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table-2.** Results of the Mann Whitney-U Test to test the significance of the difference between participant barriers to recreational area use according to gender variable of participants.

Security barriers	Gender	Order average	U	z	p
	Male	104,60	5057,000	-4,553	0,00*
	Women	145,91			
Time barriers	Male	122,48	7398,500	-,363	0,717
	Women	125,72			
Friend barriers	Male	119,03	6947,000	-1,176	0,239
	Women	129,61			
Sports area barriers	Male	120,63	7157,000	-,795	0,426
	Women	127,80			
Individual barriers	Male	134,65	6202,500	-2,506	0,012*
	Women	111,97			

P<0,05

In **Table 2**, non-parametric Mann Whitney-U test was conducted to determine whether there was a significant difference between the scale of safety, time, friend, sport area and individual barrier subscale and gender variation. In the subscale of safety and individual disability between men and women, 0.05 level, respectively.

**Table-3.** Results of the Kruskal Wallis test to test the significance of the difference between participation inhibitor scale for recreational area use according to participants' income status variable

Security barriers	Income status		Order average	p
		0-1500		
	1501-3000	121,57		
	3001 and over	119,25		
Time barriers	0-1500	145,11	0,200	
	1501-3000	121,07		
	3001 and over	119,57		
Friend barriers	0-1500	116,24	0,586	
	1501-3000	124,10		
	3001 and over	139,71		
Sports area barriers	0-1500	133,00	0,699	
	1501-3000	123,18		
	3001 and over	115,86		
Individual barriers	0-1500	96,03	0,063	
	1501-3000	128,26		
	3001 and over	124,50		

P<0,05

There was no significant difference between the income levels of the individuals included in the study and the subscales of the scale ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Table-4.** Results of the Mann Whitney-U Test to test the significance of the difference between the participation inhibition scales for recreational area use according to participants' mediating variable.

Security barriers	Private vehicle	Order average	U	z	p
	Yes	108,87	5818,500	-2,559	0,011*
	No	132,42			
Time barriers	Yes	105,78	5515,000	-3,164	0,002*
	No	134,48			
Freind barriers	Yes	111,24	6051,000-2,147	0,032*	
	No	130,84			
Sports area barriers	Yes	111,64	6089,500-2,071	0,038*	
	No	130,57			
Individual barriers	Yes	134,66	6060,500-2,115	0,034*	
	No	115,23			

P<0,05

There is a difference in the security, time, friend and sports disability subscales between those who do not have a car and those who do not. There was a significant difference between individuals with and without special intervention in the individual barrier subscale ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table-5.** Results of the Kruskal Wallis test to test the significance of the difference between participant barriers score and recreational area use according to health status variables.

Security barriers	General health status	Order average	p
	bad	90,92	0,264
	not bad	121,65	
	I am not sure	115,77	
	good	129,55	
	very good	114,72	
	excellent	212,00	
Time barriers	bad	36,50	0,062
	not bad	126,75	
	I am not sure	126,23	
	good	127,64	
	very good	121,46	
	excellent	164,00	
Friend barriers	bad	81,42	0,063
	no bad	147,56	
	I am not sure	101,69	
	good	128,55	
	very good	110,66	
	excellent	189,75	
Sports area barriers	bad	68,58	0,065
	no bad	120,87	
	I am not sure	114,88	
	good	132,67	
	very good	110,69	
	excellent	204,50	
Individual barriers	bad	141,25	0,440
	no bad	125,35	
	I am not sure	132,62	
	good	116,53	
	very good	137,65	
	excellent	91,00	

P<0,05

There was no significant difference between the general health status of the participants and the subscales of the scale ( $p > 0,05$ ).

#### 4. Discussion and Conclusion

Parks and recreation areas belonging to local governments are areas of activity that they use for purposes such as moving away from the materialistic expectation that people voluntarily participate in their leisure time within the borders of the city they live in, and for strangeness, leisure, recreation, wellness and socialization. It is known that these areas are not used adequately at present and the expected participation is not achieved. In this section, the factors which are effective in the preference of the parks and recreation areas belonging to the local administrations of the individuals are examined and discussed according to the different variables. It was seen that the women in the scope of the research carried safety concerns about park and recreation areas (Table 2). Women in parks and recreation areas were more likely to be exposed to physical assault than men and that succulent slopes preferred these areas and had a fear of being sexually assaulted. Demir and Demir (2006) found that there are many factors that affect people's participation in leisure activities, and the study showed that the degree of influence of each factor varies according to gender. Today, it can be said that the women who are subjected to violence have little interest in such activities. There was no significant difference between the income status of the participants and the variable affecting their participation in activities in the park and recreation area (Table 3). According to a survey conducted by Çankırı on habits of people's leisure time evaluation, it is seen that the participants with

income status between 2001-3000 TL have a more positive perception of the adequacy of the recreation areas in Çankırı according to the participants in other income levels (Öztürk and Tecimen, 2017). It is thought that the results of the research in different directions are due to differences between provinces. A significant difference was observed between the individuals who participated in the study and those who did not participate in the activities in the park and recreation areas (Table 4). The participants stated that those who do not have a particular vehicle were hesitant about safety in these areas, but also that they did not have any spare time to participate in these areas, or that they did not have any friends who would spend time in these areas, but also that the activities in these areas were inadequate and the sports equipment. It has been observed that the participants with special tools are not very interested in recreational areas and they cannot use such areas because of their family responsibilities. In a survey, the majority of the participants stated that they were walking (75.1%) to the areas within the city, but it was observed that the picnic areas were used in transportation, private car or public transport vehicles, and those who were close to these areas were able to reach them on foot. The most commonly used vehicle for transportation to the areas around the city is the private highway (65.1%). The rate of people using public transport is 33.8% (Talay *et al.*, 2010). Park and recreation areas are generally located in city centers, so people cannot be disturbed due to transportation, and people who do not prefer these areas can be told not to participate in activities because of different reasons, not because of transportation. The participants stated that their health status is good in general. It has been determined in some studies that active leisure, which has spent its leisure time at the same time as physical activity, has an effect on physical health, with unobserved elements such as enjoyment, time preference, time cost (Komlos *et al.*, 2004). It has been shown through studies that recreational activities have positive effects on health.

As a result; The fact that women do not prefer parks and recreation areas of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality due to their security concerns and that income is not an important factor in choosing activities in these areas and that they do not have an important factor in not choosing these areas is usually due to inadequate leisure time, , it is seen that the sports equipment in the field are obstacles to participation in parks and recreation areas due to their inadequate and neglected status and that those who have a car in particular have excessive family responsibilities and lack of knowledge in recreation areas cause them to prefer these areas.

## References

- Axelsen, M., 2009. The power of leisure: I was an anoëxic; i'm now a healthy triathlete. *Lesiure Sciences*, 31(4): 330-346. [View at Google Scholar](#) | [View at Publisher](#)
- Cömert, Y. and Y. Durmaz, 2006. An integrated approach to factors affecting consumer satisfaction and buying behaviors and a field study in Adıyaman Province. *Journal of Yasar University*, 1(4): 351-375.
- Çoruh, Y., 2013. The preventing participation of recreational tendencies and recreational activities of university students: Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University, Unpublished Doctorate Thesis, Gazi University Institute of Health Sciences, Ankara.
- Demir, C. and N. Demir, 2006. The relationship between factors influencing the participation of individuals in leisure activities and gender: An application for undergraduate students. *Ege University. Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Ege University Journal of Academic Perspective Magazine*, 6(1): 36-48.
- Devere, Ş.Ö., 2010. Sport sociology: Sport and society with historical and contemporary dimensions. *Istanbul/Turkey*: 235.
- Gümüş, H. and Ö.S. Alay, 2017. Development of participation barriers and preference factors scales for recreation area use. *Journal of Human Sciences*, 14(1): 865-882. [View at Publisher](#)
- Karaküçük, S., 1995. Recreation evaluation of leisure time concept, scope and research. Ankara: Gazi University School of Physical Education and Sports.
- Komlos, J., P.K. Smith and B. Boğın, 2004. Obesity and there rate of time preference's there a connection? *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 36(2): 209-219. [View at Google Scholar](#) | [View at Publisher](#)
- Kul, M., F. Çatıkkaş, M. Türkmen and H. Akyüz, 2015. The role of sports in recreational activities. *Tojras*, 4(1): 40-47. [View at Google Scholar](#)
- Öztürk, Y. and M. Tecimen, 2017. People's leisure habits: The case of Çankırı. *Journal of Management, Economics and Marketing Research*, 1(2): 1-14.
- Talay, İ., F. Kaya and N. Belkayalı, 2010. The effects of socio-economic structure on recreational tendency and demands: The case of Bartın City *Geographic Sciences Magazine*, 8(2): 147-156.
- Tenekecioğlu, B., 2003. General business. Eskisehir: T.C. Anadolu University Open Education Faculty Publication.
- Tinsley, H. and B. Eldredge, 1995. Psychological benefits of leisure participation: Taxonomy of leisure activities based on their need-gratifying properties. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 42(2): 123-132. [View at Google Scholar](#) | [View at Publisher](#)
- Tolukan, E., 2010. University students studying in special departments determination of the elements that may prevent participation in recreational activities. Higher Education Thesis, Institute of Social Sciences, Nigde University, Nigde.