

EDITORIAL

Many studies have focused on the role played by organized sport and youth sport coaches in providing solid grounds for positive developmental outcomes such as personal and social skill development as there is a generalized consensus on the complex nature of this endeavor. Ultimately, the goal of these studies has been to understand how to equip coaches with the necessary coaching skills to increase positive athlete outcomes across a range of coaching contexts (e.g., recreational, elite). This has been a main concern for several research groups on a global scale. Further, many fields such as sport and exercise psychology have contributed to an increase understanding about how to structure sport settings in a way that is conducive to positive developmental outcomes. However, there are emergent challenges that could be addressed while moving this field forward in order to increase sports systems' ability to use this knowledge and spread guidelines for Positive Youth Development (PYD)-based programs across a range of countries.

PYD is an asset-based approach that has served the purpose of bridging the gap between sports' potential and actual contribution to youth development. The theoretical lenses behind PYD add insight into the notion that 'not all sport builds life skills'. Instead, PYD increases awareness about the need to deliberately develop life skills such as leadership, perseverance, among others. Nevertheless, a PYD approach within certain cultures and sport systems is still novel as several challenges could be considered in order to expand to PYD to other countries and sport systems. I will attempt to describe some of these challenges and potentially provide suggestions for researchers and sport and exercise psychology professionals interested in integrating and researching PYD within sport. First, for a PYD culture to become tangible for a broad range of sport systems there is the need to increase the number of studies conducted in different cultures, coach development systems and countries.

These studies could serve the purpose of increasing our understanding about the

contextual nature inherent to fostering PYD through organized sport. This type of research endeavors is a necessary step for PYD to become a more commonly used framework within a larger set of 'research to practice' projects that involve sport organizations worldwide. Researchers have shed light on how PYD should be viewed as a culturally situated endeavor. Second, research on coach development systems could be framed in order to provide insight on how to help youth sport coaches within various sports systems become more capable to foster PYD and promote the on-going debate on how to develop PYD-focused coaches. As an example, PYD within Portuguese-speaking countries has started to expand to sport organizations and federations in an attempt to train coach developers to help coaches promote PYD.

Finally, knowledge transfer frameworks within the sport arena could be further investigated to provide clarity on the barriers and challenges related to disseminating PYD specific knowledge and enhancing sport systems ability to generate PYD outcomes. Hence, a PYD culture could be constructed with novel insights and more research efforts that ultimately lead to more PYD-based programs based on evidence-based principles. We should have in mind that developing and researching knowledge transfer plans is a complex process but a necessary future direction for researchers. If this research avenue is not fostered that could be. Moving forward, investigating the processes behind knowledge transfer could add to the contributions made by previous research on PYD processes and help researchers have a 'real world' impact.

Research on PYD through sport has been crucial for increasing our knowledge on how to generate sound PYD guidelines for sport organizations worldwide. Hence, this editorial aims to outline possible avenues for future research endeavors within this line of inquiry that may inspire more widespread knowledge transfer plans within various sport systems and enhance our ability to understand how to have a positive contribution to the status quo.

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