



# Sport as a factor of tolerance formation in the student environment

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## Abstract

**Objective of the study** was to determine the impact of sports on the formation of tolerance among students.

**Methods and structure of the study.** At the theoretical stage of the study, the tasks of determining the role of mass sports as a tool for disseminating the idea of tolerant relations at the university were solved; disclosure of educational and social functions of sports activities of students; determining the educational potential of student sports in the formation of a culture of tolerance as its ability to ensure in the university environment the formation and development of a set of qualities of a tolerant personality in a student. At the applied stage of the study, a massive online survey of students from the Ural Federal University named after the first President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin (hereinafter - UrFU), whose tasks covered a range of issues related to the role of sports as a factor in the formation of tolerant relations at the university in the minds of students.

**Results and conclusions.** The educational potential of sport in the formation of a culture of tolerance among students is significant due to the fact that sport is a means of transmitting an international universal culture without prejudice, xenophobia, racial discrimination and gender prejudice. Promoting the educational and social function of sport means: developing access to sports practices; promote citizenship education; promote the social and professional integration of young people; participate in the prevention and fight against xenophobia and violence. From the study, it is obvious that in the views of students, sport is an important factor in the formation of tolerant relations at the university. In the student environment, the opinion prevails that joint sports contribute to the interracial and interethnic rapprochement of university students.

**Keywords:** *student sports, multicultural educational environment of the university, student sports clubs, tolerance, culture of tolerance.*

**Introduction.** In the 21st century, as people from different social, economic, cultural and political circles are involved in mass sports, it becomes a phenomenon of society, its role in public life acquires a new socio-cultural dimension. The basis of mass sports is school and student sports, focused on achieving basic physical fitness and optimizing general physical capacity in the system of education and upbringing. Mass, public sport contributes to the formation of a culture of self-expression and tolerance by increasing public awareness of such humanitarian problems as xenophobia, racism, gender inequality, inequality in education and the promotion of ideas of equality and tolerance.

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**Methods and structure of the study.** At the theoretical stage of the study, the tasks of determining the role of mass sports as a tool for disseminating the idea of tolerant relations at the university were solved; disclosure of educational and social functions of sports activities of students; determining the educational potential of student sports in the formation of a culture of tolerance as its ability to ensure in the university environment the formation and development of a set of qualities of a tolerant



personality in a student. At the applied stage of the study, a mass online survey of UrFU students was implemented, the tasks of which covered a range of issues related to the role of sports as a factor in the formation of tolerant relations at the university in the views of students.

**Results of the study and their discussion.** In 1995, UNESCO adopted liberalism as the only way to deal with ethnic, political, religious and confessional divisions. The concept of tolerance focuses on differences in demographic characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age, skin color, and advocates acceptance, respect and adaptation to "other" cultural practices [3, p. 392].

For decades, professional sports have been promoting multicultural justice, making a significant contribution to the development of understanding of sociocultural differences, respect and tolerance for them, and serving as a means to facilitate the understanding of "other" values and customs [5, p. 238]. Just like music, painting, cinematography, architecture and fine arts, sports develop the moral sphere of a person, fostering a sense of camaraderie, honesty, kindness [4, p. 285].

As a tool for spreading a culture of tolerance, sport has the advantage of being present at all levels of education. Sport creates social connections, it is massively practiced outside of school hours and is one of the rare activities where people meet voluntarily. This social mix is carried out on the basis of values based on respect for oneself and others. Promoting the educational and social function of sport means: developing access to sports practices; citizenship education; social and professional integration of youth; prevention and combating xenophobia and violence.

A survey of students (N=352), conducted at UrFU in June 2021, revealed that in addition to the fact that most of the students surveyed regularly engage in physical education to one degree or another, in their opinion, sports are a factor that increases the competitiveness of a university graduate in labor market [1, p. 53]. In May-June 2022, at UrFU, we conducted an online survey of students (N=627), the tasks of which covered a range of issues related to the role of sport as a factor in the formation of tolerance in students' minds.

Based on the fact that the formation of tolerance enhances the qualities that contribute to the identification of a person with a system of general civiliza-

tional values, the collective social identifications of students were studied.

Typical for the majority of respondents (more than 50%), students' social identifications are associated with the main primary groups. These are family (72%) and comrades in leisure hobbies (62%), also comrades in study (55%), associates in professional interests (52%), people with an active life position (51%) also got into "friends".

The second most common group of social identifications, covering 40-50% of respondents, is associated with large social groups: people who respect the traditions of their people, country (43%); fellow citizens (40%); people who respect the traditions of the community in which they currently live (43%); neighbors (44%); peers (41%); people with similar political views (40%); people of similar nationality, race (44%).

Identifications with lower prevalence (less than 40%) turned out to be associated with local communities: economic classmates (37%); "successful" (32%); "foreigners" (29%).

Thus, in the student's "friend or foe" coordinate system, sports partners ("comrades in professional interests") occupy a privileged position.

The interaction of students in sports can be built both on the basis of feelings of camaraderie and cohesion, and on the basis of competition and isolation on various grounds. On the basis of relationships, communicative tolerance is formed or not formed. It is important to identify sociocultural stereotypes that influence the formation of tolerant (intolerant) attitudes.

Most of the respondents tend to believe that interethnic sports are more likely to form mutual respect (78%) and cooperation (77%) than mercy (40%) and compassion (44%). Most of the students surveyed believe that playing sports together definitely contributes to the interracial and interethnic rapprochement of university students (61%) and joint activities of students of different races and nationalities contribute to the formation of tolerance among young people (67%).

The position of the students surveyed regarding the role of the university in enhancing the development of international university sports: unequivocally "for" - 51%, partially support this opinion - 38% of the respondents. About 1/3 of the respondents are of the opinion that professional sports divide, while amateur sports bring together university students of differ-



ent races and nations. Approximately one third of the students surveyed consider information and financial support for international university sports events at the university to be sufficient.

**Conclusion.** Sports activities of students are an essential factor in the formation of a multicultural educational environment of the university, an adequate tool for disseminating the idea of tolerant relations at the university.

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