

The Perspective of Sociology of Physical Education: The Support of PASI Officials As A Determining Factor In Enhancing Athlete Performance

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ABSTRACT

The abstract contains a brief description of the purpose: This study aims to analyze the role of organizational support provided by PASI officials as a key factor in enhancing athlete performance in Soppeng Regency through the perspective of the sociology of physical education. Methods: Using a qualitative case study design, data were gathered through participatory observation, in-depth interviews with PASI officials, coaches, and athletes, and documentation, then analyzed using thematic procedures with triangulation to ensure validity. Results: The results show that PASI officials contribute strategically to athlete development through managerial, logistical, and psychosocial support. They act as planners and coordinators of training programs, ensure the availability of facilities, equipment, and funding, and provide moral and emotional reinforcement that strengthens athlete motivation and discipline. The findings also highlight that synergy among officials, coaches, and athletes creates a collaborative and adaptive development system that fosters trust, transparency, and effective problem-solving. Implication: These forms of multidimensional support have important implications for building a conducive and sustainable development environment, improving athletes' technical performance, and strengthening their psychological resilience and confidence.

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INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, the Indonesian Athletics Association (PASI), as the governing body for athletics, holds a crucial role in policy formulation, training management, resource facilitation, and the establishment of supporting governance structures for athlete development. However, while national athletic achievement continues to be a major focus, research indicates that support from organizational officials such as facility resources, coach development, budgeting, scientific training, and psychological support often remains suboptimal in many regions, particularly those with limited infrastructure.

Athletics, as an integral part of physical education, is not merely about physical activity; it also encompasses social interactions involving various cultural actors,

institutions, structures, and power relations. The sociology of physical education emphasizes that athlete performance is not solely dependent on individual abilities, but is also shaped by the social and institutional support that facilitates or constrains the processes of learning and physical development (Nurkadri et al., 2024).

Furthermore, research conducted in Pesawaran (PASI Pesawaran Regency) indicates that the overall physical condition of athletes can be categorized as good; however, there is considerable variation among athletes, suggesting that training support, facilities, and specific interventions are still unevenly distributed. Organizational support from sports governing bodies (such as PASI) may include the provision of adequate facilities and infrastructure; the recruitment of coaches and support staff (including psychological and sport science training); funding and logistics; as well as data-based monitoring and evaluation systems.

In the 2025 PASI Congress, for instance, the Chairperson expressed a strong commitment to implementing a science-based approach to athletics training, including data monitoring and the use of technologies such as AI as tools for performance evaluation (Shalahudin & Sifaq, 2023).

Such support aligns with the concept of performance support teams in international studies, in which coaches and multidisciplinary support staff (including sport science, medical, and psychological professionals) work synergistically within a holistic support system to achieve high performance. A study by Burns, Collins, and Nolte (2024) demonstrates that the effectiveness of these support teams is highly dependent on how communication, collaboration, and resource allocation are organized.

In the context of Soppeng Regency, although no publicly accessible in-depth research has examined the support provided by local PASI officials, several indications suggest that athletes often face challenges such as inadequate training facilities, limited coaching support, and fluctuating budgets. This reflects a gap between the policies of the central organization and their implementation in the field. Therefore, through the lens of the sociology of physical education, this study aims to systematically examine the extent to which PASI officials in Soppeng Regency—through policies, facilities, coach development, psychological and scientific support, and organizational structure—serve as determining factors in improving athlete performance. The study also seeks to identify structural and social barriers that may hinder the effectiveness of such support (Christian, 2013). The discussion focuses on why the change in PASI leadership in Soppeng Regency is considered an important factor in improving athlete performance, and how the PASI officials in Soppeng Regency can provide various forms of support for athlete development.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative approach using a case study method. The case study method is one of the research approaches that holds significant academic and practical value. This approach allows the researcher to understand phenomena in greater depth and detail by focusing on a single case or a limited number of cases, with the objective of gaining a comprehensive understanding of the role of support provided

by the Indonesian Athletics Association (PASI) officials in enhancing athlete performance in Soppeng Regency, viewed from the perspective of the sociology of physical education. This approach was selected because it enables the researcher to examine the social dynamics and interactions that occur among officials, coaches, and athletes within real-life contexts (Poltak & Widjaja, 2024). The research was conducted at Hj. Andi Wana Laburawung Stadium. This study employs both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Quantitative research is empirical in nature, with data presented in numerical form, whereas qualitative research involves non-numerical data. Qualitative research represents a specific tradition within the social sciences that fundamentally relies on observing individuals in their natural settings and engaging with them in their own language and terminology (Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023).

This study employs a descriptive qualitative design, focusing on an in-depth and contextual depiction of social phenomena. This approach allows the researcher to examine how structural and cultural support from a sports organization (PASI) influences athlete development and performance within the framework of the sociology of physical education. The research was conducted as a case study in Soppeng Regency, South Sulawesi. This site was selected because it has an active athletics development program that involves direct participation from PASI officials. The case study strategy provides flexibility for the researcher to explore various social, educational, and managerial aspects that deeply influence athlete development. Data collection techniques consisted of observation, interviews, and documentation. Initial observations were conducted at the research site, followed by in-depth semi-structured interviews. The data analysis process employed a thematic analysis approach, which consisted of five stages: transcribing interview data, reducing data to highlight essential information, categorizing data into themes such as financial, motivational, and structural support, interpreting the meaning within each theme, and constructing a narrative of findings connected systematically to theories within the sociology of physical education.

To ensure data validity, source triangulation was conducted by comparing information from various informants, including officials, coaches, and athletes, to ensure data consistency. In addition, member checking was applied by confirming the researcher's interpretations with the informants to guarantee the accuracy and credibility of the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The Strategic Role of PASI Officials in Supporting Athlete Development

In-depth interviews with various informants revealed that the officials of the Indonesian Athletics Association (PASI) in Soppeng Regency hold a highly strategic role in supporting the athlete development process in the region. This role is not only administrative in nature but also encompasses managerial support, logistical assistance, and the provision of essential facilities and infrastructure required for the implementation of training programs and the sustainable development of athletes. One

PASI official stated that their primary responsibility is to ensure the availability of proper training equipment and facilities, as well as to organize athletic activities in a systematic manner. (Ismail et al., 2025). The officials strive to ensure that all athlete needs, both physical and non-physical, are adequately fulfilled. These needs include the provision of sports equipment such as shoes, uniforms, and training tools, as well as the management of structured and well-organized training schedules.

The officials also play a role in bridging communication between coaches and relevant government institutions to secure funding support and formal recognition for the development activities being carried out. This is essential because the sustainability of athlete development programs depends on the involvement of multiple stakeholders. In this regard, the officials function as coordinators and facilitators who connect the interests of stakeholders with the actual needs observed in the field. (Iskandar, 2017). From a logistical perspective, the officials are also responsible for managing funds whether sourced from the regional budget (APBD) or sponsors to support athletes' participation in competitions, training programs, and other developmental activities. In this context, the officials are required to possess strong managerial competencies to ensure that all stages of athlete development run effectively and efficiently. This reflects the importance of organizational leadership quality and strategic planning in athlete development.

Furthermore, PASI officials in Soppeng Regency also serve as motivators. Their involvement in providing moral and emotional support has a positive psychological impact on athletes. This support is demonstrated through their presence during training sessions, their appreciation of athletes' achievements, and continuous communication that fosters emotional closeness between officials and athletes. The officials' proactive and open attitude contributes to creating a conducive environment for nurturing athletes' enthusiasm and loyalty toward the organization.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the presence of active and highly committed PASI officials greatly influences the continuity and success of athlete development programs. Their strategic role extends beyond administrative responsibilities and is reflected in concrete actions that directly impact athletes' performance and motivation. Thus, PASI officials are not merely organizational managers, but also agents of change in regional sports development, particularly in creating a progressive and performance-oriented athletic ecosystem.

Table 2

The Strategic Role of PASI Management in Supporting Athlete Development in Soppeng Regency

NO.	Aspects of the Roles of PASI Management	Findings from Interviews and Analysis	Impact on Athlete Development
1	Provision of Facilities and Infrastructure	The management plays a role in ensuring the availability of training support equipment, including shoes, uniforms, and sports gear, as well as ensuring that training facilities are kept in proper and usable condition..	The availability of adequate facilities ensures that athletes' physical needs are met, thereby supporting the creation of an optimal and efficient training environment.

NO.	Aspects of the Roles of PASI Management	Findings from Interviews and Analysis	Impact on Athlete Development
2	Coordination and Communication	The management performs a coordinative function by integrating communication between coaches, athletes, and government institutions to ensure policy support and funding for athlete development.	A strong collaborative relationship is established among the parties, facilitating the smooth implementation of athlete development programs.
3	Leadership and Organizational Planning	The management is required to possess strong managerial and leadership skills in designing long-term development programs.	The development process becomes more structured and oriented toward achievement.
4	Agents of Change in Sports Development	The management not only serves administrative functions but also contributes directly to creating a progressive and achievement-oriented development environment.	A dynamic regional sports ecosystem is established, supporting the improvement of athletes' performance.

The Impact of Organizational Support on Athlete Motivation and Performance

Findings from the in-depth interviews indicate that the support provided by PASI officials in Soppeng Regency has a significant impact on athletes' motivation, discipline, and performance. This support is not limited to the provision of physical or material needs, but also includes emotional and moral support that is directly felt by both athletes and coaches throughout the development process. One of the interviewed coaches emphasized that the active involvement of officials in accompanying the training process creates a positive psychological effect on the athletes (Simons & Bird, 2023). The presence of officials during routine activities, along with the attention they provide, is perceived as enhancing athletes' sense of being valued and recognized by the organization. This, in turn, indirectly strengthens their internal motivation to train harder and deliver their best performance in every opportunity. Such moral support becomes one of the contributing factors to the development of discipline and consistency in adhering to the training program.

In addition, the emotional support provided by the officials also plays a role in building athletes' confidence, especially when facing competitions. One athlete stated that when officials offered direct encouragement whether in the form of praise, verbal support, or their presence during competitions he felt more confident and motivated to deliver his best performance. Athletes felt they were not alone in their efforts, and this created a strong emotional bond between the athletes and the organization. Material support, such as the provision of training equipment, financial assistance for transportation to competitions, and opportunities to participate in training outside the region, was also identified as an important factor contributing to performance improvement. Athletes felt that the organization's investment represented a tangible expression of trust in their potential. With their basic needs in training and development adequately fulfilled, athletes were able to focus more fully on enhancing their technical and physical abilities.

From the coaches' perspective, the attention provided by PASI officials affects not only the athletes but also the training process itself. When coaches feel supported by the

organization both in terms of facilities and moral encouragement it enhances their enthusiasm in designing and implementing training programs. A harmonious relationship between coaches and officials creates a productive working environment, which subsequently contributes to more effective training and greater athlete progress. (Husain et al., 2024).

Overall, the emotional, moral, and material support provided by the PASI Soppeng Regency management has been shown to contribute positively to enhancing athletes' motivation and performance. The combination of personal attention, appreciation for their efforts, and the fulfillment of practical needs creates a conducive training environment. This reinforces the argument that organizational factors play a central role in the development of athletic achievement, particularly at the regional level. With comprehensive support from the management, athletes grow not only physically and technically, but also mentally and emotionally, ultimately enabling them to achieve optimal performance.

Table 2

Impact of Organizational Support on Athlete Motivation and Performance in Soppeng Regency

NO.	Aspects of PASI Management Roles	Findings from Interviews and Analysis	Impact on Athlete Development
1	Moral and Emotional Support	The active participation of management during training and competitions is reflected through moral support and communication that strengthens social closeness with athletes.	Enhances athletes' sense of being valued, boosts training enthusiasm, and increases intrinsic motivation to achieve.
2	Material/Facility Support	Provision of training equipment, uniforms, transportation costs, and training opportunities outside the region.	Adequate facilities and essential support enable athletes to focus on improving technical skills and maintaining sustainable physical conditioning..
3	Psychological Support	The active presence of management throughout the development process fosters a sense of security and emotional support, thereby enhancing athletes' psychological resilience when facing challenges.	Improves self-confidence and mental readiness for competitions.
4	Improvement of Discipline and Training Consistency	Moral encouragement from management nurtures athletes' discipline and commitment to training schedules.	Athletes demonstrate improved discipline, focus, and continuity within the development program.
5	Organizational Role as a Determining Factor of Achievement	Organizational support serves as a determinant factor in optimizing athletes' physical, psychological, and social development.	Shapes athletes who are not only technically strong but also mentally and emotionally mature.

Synergy Among Administrators, Coaches, and Athletes in Achieving Excellence

This section examines the collaborative relationship formed among the three key elements in athletic development and how their synergy creates a conducive environment for enhancing athlete performance. Findings from this study indicate that the

achievement of athletic performance in Soppeng Regency is closely linked to the strong synergy established among the three main components of the development system, namely the PASI administrators, coaches, and athletes. The collaborative relationship among these parties serves as a crucial foundation for creating a developmental environment that is conducive, progress-oriented, and capable of producing optimal athlete performance. (Lukmantoro et al., 2023). This synergy is evident in how each party understands its roles and responsibilities within an interconnected and mutually supportive system. The PASI administrators serve as facilitators and organizational policy managers, ensuring that the needs of both coaches and athletes are optimally fulfilled. Meanwhile, the coaches act as direct intermediaries between organizational policies and technical implementation in the field. The athletes, as the primary subjects of the development process, demonstrate a positive response to the support and guidance provided, which is reflected in their increased motivation and performance.

One tangible manifestation of this synergy is the openness of communication among the involved elements. Coaches have effective access to convey evaluations and technical needs to the administrators, who then respond promptly and appropriately. For instance, when a coach proposes an increase in training intensity or requests additional training equipment, the administrators respond by facilitating the required tools or adjusting facility usage schedules. This illustrates that the administrators do not merely perform administrative functions but are also responsive to the dynamic needs of the development process in the field.

From the athletes' perspective, they feel that they receive comprehensive support both from the coaches, who provide technical guidance and instruction, and from the administrators, who ensure the smooth implementation of training programs and competitions. The athletes perceive the presence of coaches and administrators not only as mentors and managers, but also as partners in the process of achieving success. This relationship fosters mutual trust and a shared sense of responsibility throughout each stage of development. One informant stated that the success of athlete development is not solely determined by the quality of training programs, but also by the harmonious collaboration among all parties involved. When administrators, coaches, and athletes share the same vision and are able to work together consistently, the development process becomes more focused and productive. Furthermore, this synergy also accelerates the process of adapting to various challenges that arise in athlete development. When obstacles occur such as budget constraints or changes in competition schedules the three elements can engage in discussion and find solutions together without placing blame on one another. This demonstrates a collective commitment to maintaining the continuity and quality of the development system.

Thus, the synergy between administrators, coaches, and athletes is the key to creating an effective and sustainable athlete development system. Their strong collaboration forms a sporting ecosystem that not only supports the growth of athletes' potential but also cultivates a positive and long-term culture of achievement in Soppeng Regency.

Table 3
Synergy Between Management, Coaches, and Athletes in Achieving Performance Excellence

NO.	Aspects of PASI Management Roles	Findings from Interviews and Analysis	Impact on Athlete Development
1	Collaboration Among the Three Key Elements (Management-Coach-Athlete)	A close and mutually supportive working relationship is established between PASI management, coaches, and athletes within the development system.	Creates a harmonious, productive, and achievement-oriented training environment.
2	Interpersonal Relationships and Social Support	Athletes experience dual support: technical guidance from coaches and administrative-logistical assistance from management. The relationship is characterized by partnership rather than rigid hierarchy.	Enhances athletes' confidence, motivation, and shared responsibility to excel.
3	Enhances athletes' confidence, motivation, and shared responsibility to excel.	All three elements share a unified vision for regional athletics development: improved performance, professionalism, and sustainable athlete development.	Fosters a sense of belonging and collective commitment to achieving shared targets.
4	Ability to Adapt to Challenges	When encountering obstacles (e.g., budget limitations or competition schedules), all parties discuss solutions collaboratively without blaming one another.	Strengthens organizational resilience and increases the effectiveness of collaborative decision-making.
5	Synergistic Roles as a Key to Development Success	Strong collaboration becomes the primary factor in the success of athlete development, surpassing the influence of training programs or facilities alone.	Leads to comprehensive improvements in athlete performance technically, mentally, and socially.

CONCLUSION

The support provided by the PASI leadership in Soppeng Regency plays a significant role in enhancing athletes' performance through emotional, material, informational, and reward-based approaches that help create a conducive social climate for sport development. From the perspective of the Sociology of Physical Education, athletic achievement is the result of social interactions among organizations, coaches, athletes, and the wider community.

The transformation of PASI's leadership in Soppeng reflects the importance of adaptive, empathetic, and professional governance in establishing a development system that prioritizes performance excellence and character formation. This model can be replicated in other regions to strengthen a more inclusive and sustainable national sports ecosystem.

Similarly, the restructuring of PASI Soppeng's organizational management has become a strategic step to support athletes' success. This renewal is expected to bring new momentum, increase organizational activeness, and improve the quality of training provided. With a more solid organizational structure, athletes are able to receive more optimal support, allowing training processes to be more focused, efficient, and oriented toward achieving peak performance.

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