ANNALS OF RESEARCH IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Perceived equal opportunities in sport careers of italian managers and Sport Sciences University professors

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4 • CIÊNCIAS SOCIAIS/SOCIAL SCIENCES

PERCEIVED EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
IN SPORT CAREERS OF ITALIAN
MANAGERS AND SPORT SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

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INTRODUCTION

In considering the persistent gender imbalance in sport organization boards (International Working Group on Women and Sport, 2012) and in academics (European Commission, 2009), this study aimed to examine equal opportunities in career progression in Italian sport management and in sport sciences academic careers through a quantitative and qualitative approach.

METHODS

A 20-items semi-structured on-line questionnaire (i.e., 15 closed-ended items, 5 open-response items, and 3 comments to closed-ended items) was created to examine perceived gender imbalance in Italian sport and academic career paths. Female sport managers (n=36) and university professors of sport sciences (n=123) were invited to fill the questionnaire in. Chi-square and Mann-Whitney U tests were applied to verify differences ($p<0.05$) in relation to respondents' position (managers vs. professors). A qualitative approach was applied to open response items and comments.

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RESULTS

Thirty-one managers and 51 university professors completed the questionnaire. No difference was found in relation to respondents position. As relevant obstacles to female career progression, both managers and professors indicated a strong male hegemony in the workplace, difficulties in managing work and family roles, the lack of flexibility in working schedule, limited recognition, poor growth perspectives and the lack of equal opportunities.

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DISCUSSION

These results confirm gender inequalities and critical obstacles for women's career progression in sport management and in academics. Mentoring, networking, and equal opportunity policies could be useful tools to enhance female presence in decision making positions.

References

International Working Group on Women and Sport (2012), The Sidney Scoreboard. Available at: <http://www.sydney scoreboard.com/>.

European Commission (2009). She Figures 2009. Statistics and indicators on gender equality in science.

The words and images are few to describe Master Filipe Simões and to pay him a proper tribute.

He was an energetic fellow with lots of curiosity for sport and other simple things in life. A good student that achieved some awards and revealed potential to make a strong contribution to the sports sciences field. The effort and dedication that he putted on its studies, friendship and family served as example for us. He was a lover of Coimbra, the University and Faculty, as also by is hometown, Penacova.

We shared our pieces of life through the pleasurable moments that we had in contact with him, a very friendly and pleasant buddy. It is with very sadness that we taste the bitterness of Master Filipe Simões farewell from this life. So this little tribute to him, to remember the person he was and his virtues.

"A morte chega cedo,
Pois breve é toda vida
O instante é o arremedo
De uma coisa perdida."

From Fernando Pessoa a Morte Chega Cedo