VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSIVENESS IN SPORTS. ETIOLOGY

Maria LULESCU[*]

Abstract

The present paper analyses the causes that lead to violent behaviour in sport (from the social, economic, biological and psychological factors to the violent patterns promoted by mass media) and it identifies the measures that could be adopted for preventing and fighting against this widespread phenomenon in today's society.

The phenomenon of violence in sport appeared subsequent to the "Sport Revolution", which occurred in the 19th century, when sport became a mass and democratic phenomenon. Today sport is accessible to all society members for whom it has acquired cultural and economic importance; however, it is generally agreed that sport events are more or less frequently accompanied by violent behaviour on the part of most or some of its supporters.

This scientific article enumerates the causes that trigger violent behaviour in society: from the inner ones (tension, fear, lack of success, incapacity) to the social, biological, psychological and economic ones (lack of education, illnesses, trauma and poverty). Similarly, the present article analyses the influence of mass media upon human behaviour while taking into consideration two paradigms: there is a former paradigm, according to which mass media strongly influence human behaviour, by inculcating upon people violent reactions; there is a latter paradigm, according to which the influence of mass media on human behaviour is relatively insignificant for it is the individual that controls this influence.

In this paper I have also analysed the risk factors that trigger violence and aggressiveness on stadiums, according to the inquiries made by the Ministry of Administration and Domestic Affairs.

As solutions for violence prevention and deterrence, I have suggested:

- the implementation of the objectives promoted by the Olympic Movement, which may contribute to the formation of a better and more peaceful world through the education of the youth in accordance with the principles and values of the Olympic spirit; the adoption of educative and social measures with a view to improving relationships between supporters and clubs by promoting dialogue with rival clubs, by using CCTVs, investing in infrastructure, consolidating the social role played by clubs, better organizing the ticket stalls, adopting a better legislation in the matter and by using well-organized police forces that are specialized in violence prevention on stadiums;

- the adoption of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent behaviour code (by becoming a Satyagrahi, i.e. an adept of non-violence);

- promoting physical education in schools and clubs for developing an ethical attitude in life;

- cultivating a competition and fair-play spirit among the young people;

- reinforcing European cooperation between schools, universities and clubs;

- promoting an anti-doping attitude among the young people;

- discouraging violent behaviour through education;

- developing the team spirit through sport, including in corporations;

- getting the old people involved in sport activities for improving their living standard and health condition;

- consolidating the employers' associations' and labour union representatives' interest in sport and competition.

Violence in sport is a topic which remains open to interpretation and which will be further tackled by researchers and specialists in education and sociology. It remains a topic to be dealt with in mass-media while pointing out sensationalist and shocking pieces of news. It remains a topic of interest to authorities and civil society, which will try to prevent and fight against it. As a conclusion, this paper underlines the idea that the deterrence of violence is a sine qua non condition not only for sport events to be organized in a civilized manner, but also for the system of education to be successful.

Keywords: *violence in sport; aggressiveness in sport; etiology; prevention and deterrence of violence in sport; non-violent education.*

1. Violence and Aggressiveness - Etiological Approach Directions

The omnipresent, daily, conformist, repetitive and deviant human behavior, explained by motivational theories by biological model scientists, such as Konrard Lorenz[1] or Freud, the inborn traits and mechanisms lie at the basis of the activities of every individual. Freud believed that the information stored in our subconscious actually determines our behavior[2].

The images, frustrations, failures we gather up during our lifetime become an "archive" of the subconscious. Interpretation of dreams, Tiefenpsychologie[3], explanations of the unconscious, has created Freudian theories. The tensions and fears, the conflicts among our instinctive desires (life and death instinct) and our moral obligations[4] have

[1] Konrad Lorenz, *Aşa-zisul rău,* Humanitas Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005, p 314
[2] Sigmund Freud, *Opere, volumul 3, Psihologia inconştientului,* reviewed issue. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2010, p 37
[3] Sigmund Freud, Opere, volumul 9, *Studii despre societate şi religie.* Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2010, p 464
[4] Andrei Cosmovici, *Psihologie generală,* Iași, Polirom Publishing House, 1996, p 280

explained the individual behavior (tendency towards pleasure), the life and death instinct (destruction tendency), resulting in the antagonism between the two instincts. The hope for success and the fear of failure are two variables that are part of the risk taking theory. The attractiveness/interest of the individual and the performed action are closely linked variables. Supporters usually choose successful teams or teams of an upper/lower league. Failure and defeat make many individuals wish for the full success of a favorite team, out of their desire to show their superiority and supremacy. The differences between humans and animals[5] of subsequent studies have shown elements that are common to both species (dance, feathers, clothing, accessories), which gave rise to the desire to impress, to show one's superiority. Supporters of stadiums try to show their support for their favorite team by wearing distinctive sports clothing items and by cheering and shouting loudly from the bleachers.

The internal/biological factors and the external ones are: educational, cultural and society related. The development of the needs/necessities pyramid is based on physiological/primary needs, safety needs, the need for a sense of belonging, for esteem and self-fulfillment, which are the motivation of human behavior. Abraham Maslow also introduced[6] the self-transcendence stage which includes two categories of needs, self-achievement (intellectual-creative) and survival.

In this case, people of medium or higher classes explain the behavior of the supporters on stadiums as being justified by their needs. The explanation of the motivation of the needs is based on several requirements; Clayton Alderfer's model includes: a) existence needs; b) relatedness needs and c) development needs[7].

The natural hierarchy of the needs of every stage is considered by Maslow as directed upwards, but the failure to satisfy a need placed on a higher level does not lower the individual to another needs level. Once we satisfy a need/desire, we consider it meaningless (we take it for granted). Unhappy or even anxious, we tend to turn towards new ideals. For example, a child who has a favorite football team generally thinks that he deserves to be present in the bleachers on the stadium at first, then he wants to become the member of a gallery, and later on the leader of that gallery. Each of these needs has been satisfied.

Conflict, competition and the needs' interdependence can motivate one's actions.

Perception, thinking and memory are fundamental elements of individuals, guiding and directing their behavior and needs. In our case, the supporter has his father as ultimate childhood model of masculinity (perception), of behavior at home and in the bleachers (memory), but his perception about the forms of violence and aggressiveness will guide him and will make him display his masculinity in other forms.

The three basic elements are at the forefront of the motivational cognitive theories. The idea of pleasure, analyzed on more than 3900 American teenagers, represents the motivation to practice a sport[8], pleasure being a) perceived; b) filtered and c) analyzed.

For some teenagers, pleasure is generated by their outer beauty and health, while for others pleasure consists in the fact that they are on the same team with their friends. Allport considers personality situations and traits as determined by one's individual behavior[9].

Stability and predictability are given by the personality traits[10]. The character traits of an individual, such as the optimism, define his or her behavior. A supporter is, by its behavior, optimistic, seeing only the positive side of the situation of his favorite team. As representative of the situationists, Mischel[11] believes that predictability and individual behavior can be explained as determinant based on the given situation. In some cases the experience and past history of an individual influence his/her individual behavior. The two determinants of behavior are characteristic situations and the interaction between the character traits, creating explanatory paradigms. The behavior of the supporters on stadiums can sometimes deviate or become delinquent. We will try to present a few explanations by using certain behavior patterns and learning paradigms perspectives. In our case, the interaction between individuals creates, for each individual, an environment that favors the learning and picking up of delinquent behaviors (from those people susceptible to become delinquents or deviants), also known as distinctive association.[12]. Individuals pick up both conformist as well as nonconformist behaviors, and the latter then become natural for them and unnatural for the society. Sutherland explains the deviant behavior in terms of delinquency as being taught, practiced, not as a genetic inheritance. The (verbal/non-verbal) communication, violation of the laws and social regulations and their learning become contact ideas for the individuals with the same type of behavior. On stadiums, deviant

---

[5] Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, *Agresivitate umană*. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2009, p 53-188

[6] Abraham Maslow, *Motivaţie şi personalitate*. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2008, p 9-25

[7] Clayton Alderfer, „Theories reflecting my personal experience and life dent," *The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*, 25(4), 1989, pp 351-351

[8] Jarmo Liukkonen, Yves Vanden Auweele, Beatrix Vereijken, Dorothee Alfermann, Yiannis Theodorakis, editors, *Psychology for Physical Educators*, Human Kinetics, 2007, chapter 7

[9] Allport, 1991, pp 25-38

[10] Hans Eyseneck, *Descifrarea comportamentului uman,* Teora Publishing House, Bucharest, 2000, p 166

[11] Walter Mischel and Yuichi Shoda, *A Cognitive-affective System Theory of Personality: Reconceptualizing Situations, Dispositions, Dynamics and Invariance in Personality Structure*. Psychological Review no.102, 1995, p 246-268

[12] Edwin H. Sutherland, *Principles of Criminology*, USA, General Hall, 1966, p 55-61

supporters repeat and practice the concealing of white weapons and pyrotechnic materials etc., improve their conduct, becoming more "special" among the supporters[13].

From a cultural and social point of view, in what concerns deviant behavior, deviance is the product of economic inequality. The inability of the individual to succeed, through legal ways, is the main factor, according to Cloward and Ohlin[14]. Individuals that are present on stadiums adhere to a group of supporters, individuals born/raised in neighborhoods and who, by becoming nonconformists, try to gain prestige and respect. The explanations given by the labeling theories first consider the mentioned behavior as not being deviant. For example, a vulgar joke told by a supporter to his group can be regarded as an attempt to release tension, while the same joke told by a student in class to a teacher would be evidence of a deviant behavior. There are also situations when a behavior is automatically viewed as deviant due to the existing preconceptions. If a person is labeled (as thief, drug addict, alcoholic, coward) he/she will have to live with it and deal with the fact that the society will not accept him/her. Therefore, supporters will usually be catalogued and considered as hooligans, punks etc., labels that associate them with delinquent behaviors, a delinquent being "bad by definition".

According to the Durkheimian theory, the main characteristic of a crime or offense consists in the fact that it generates a clear reaction from the society, called punishment. The manner in which Durkheim views crime is not statistic, as we might believe if we took into account the criterion of the generality or frequency of a certain behavior, being used to distinguish between normal and pathological.

In order for an act to be considered a crime it must do more than deviate from the regular way of doing something, namely it must generate a certain reaction from the others, a reaction that occurs when the collective feelings affected by the crime are alive and strong. The definition of crime therefore includes two types of elements: a deed that affects the collective consciousness, on the one hand, and a special reaction in the form of a punishment or penalty, on the other hand[15].

Researchers have concluded that four primary emotions surface when individuals and groups with equal or different statuses and powers interact: fury (caused by the loss of status), fear (caused by the loss of power), sadness (caused by the irremediable loss of status) and pleasure (caused by the boost of status). Applying the power/status theory, Theodore D. Kempera analyzed the emotions generated by the extremely violent terrorist attack on the Twin Towers on September 11th, 2001[16]. On the other hand, Steven L. Gordon developed this approach, differentiating between the emotions according to their nature and classifying them into "biological emotions" (such as fury and fear) and "cultural emotions" (such as love, friendship and jealousy). The former are a combination of sensations and gestures, coming as a response to different stimuli, while the emotions of the second category are the product of the bodily sensations, gestures and cultural meanings learned within the groups we belong to[17].

The most important thing in the study of violence and aggressiveness is the explanation of the violent and deviant behavior, since deviance is no longer considered an objective act, with a strict rigid nature, but a matter of significance, subjective evaluation, depending on two points view:

a) The point of view of the public who perceives and defines a behavior as deviant;

b) The point of view of the social actor involved in the actual act of deviance.

Therefore, a first conclusion on the characteristic elements of those acts considered as deviant is that they are disapproved by a significant number of individuals. Therefore, a deviance is a behavior that violates an expectation, a habit or a social norm in force or a generally accepted social value. For this reason, we can assume that some deviant behaviors relate to the social rules, values and norms that govern social life and that deviant behaviors can be defined by reference to the regulatory order of a society.

As a form of deviance, delinquency is a complex phenomenon that defines all behaviors that are in conflict with the values protected by the society and the legal standards. The factors that generate delinquency or crime, as phenomenon specific and particular to a deviant behavior, can be divided into two big categories: a) internal, individual factors; and b) external social factors.

The first category includes the features and neuro-psychological structure of the individual characteristics of each individual's personality. The second includes the socio-cultural, economic and educational factors of micro and macro human groups which integrate an individual, starting with one's family (Rădulescu, Banciu, 1990, p. 59).

As noted by Rădulescu (2010, p. 233), American researcher Alfred M. Mirande outlined a model of social norms which involves both legal and illegal acts.

---

[13] Robert Merton, *Social Structure and Anomi*e, *American Sociological Review, Volume 3, Issue 5 (October 1938)*, p 672-682

[14] Richard Cloward şi Lloyd Ohlin, *Delinquency and Opportunity*, New York, Free Press, 1966

[15] Durkheim, 1991, pp 36-37

[16] Theodore D. Kemper, "Social constructionist and positivist approaches to the sociology of emotions," *The American Journal of Sociology*, 1981, no. 87, p 336-362

[17] Gordon apud Jonathan Turner and Jean Stets, 2005, p 30

Table 2. Types of criminal and deviant conducts, according to Alfred M. Mirande (1975)

BEHAVIOR	FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE CRIMINAL LAW	FROM A REGULATORY POINT OF VIEW
ILLEGAL	Criminal offence (deviance) (1)	"Normal" crime (2)
LEGAL	Non-criminal deviance (3)	Conduct complying with the law and regulations (non-deviant and non-criminal) (4)

(*Source:* Rădulescu, 2010, p 233)

The table also draws attention to the existence of criminal actions which are considered acceptable from a regulatory point of view, but not from the point of view of the non-criminal deviance, namely activities and interventions which fall outside this sphere of crime.

Following the review of the aspects presented in this chapter we can say that multiple variables influence human behavior, starting from the ones presented by the researchers who studied the internal/biological factors, up to the fundamental traits of an individual's personality. Furthermore, economic inequality represents another variable that must be taken into account concerning a deviant behavior. Whether innate or learned along one's life, aggressive behavior is sanctioned by various types of punishments when the bodily and mental integrity of other individuals are affected. The sociologists' contributions have brought into focus the importance of the cognitive elements in the formation of character traits, taking into account the contribution of the personal history and experiences.

2. Mass-Media versus Violence and Aggressiveness in Sports

From an institutional perspective, the mass media is represented by social institutions, both cultural as well as economic, which provide communication within the society.

The first such means of communication in historical order is the movable printing press, which was developed in the middle of the fifteenth century. It is believed, however, that we can speak of **mass-media** from the mid-nineteenth century, namely as of the time when is had a sufficiently large and heterogeneous audience. The newspapers and books published before this period were dedicated to the elites only. In the fourth decade of the last century, the development of the "penny press" (cheaper press) led to a spectacular increase of the audience, but especially to a change of its structure, becoming a mass audience. The cheapening of the press, including books, is the main cause of this phenomenon, but we must also take into account the change of the topics, the publications being addressed primarily to ordinary people from that moment on.

According to the Center for Media Studies[18], 11 TV channels were monitored between October 29 and November 1st, 204, in a 2 weeks sociologic study where a total number of 832 hours of broadcast programs were analyzed. According to the same study, 5,749 scenes of violence were registered between July and November 2004, representing approximately 46 scenes per day per channel or 9 scenes per hour per channel.

Regarding the Romania mass-media of the transition period, M. Petcu mentioned the following[19]: *„The transition of the Romanian society from a totalitarian socio-political system to a democratic one was accompanied and stimulated by a new, emancipated, pluralistic press which has provided the support required for the interaction between various social groups.(...) The demand for the transition of the Romanian society from communism to democracy can also be approached by means of the evolution of the media system as a whole or of one of the media components, which benefits from an individualized treatment, corresponding to the epistemological framework required by the objectives of the scientific approach.(...) The transition from the valet journalist to the objecting journalist was one of the realities that have marked the evolution of the Romanian post-communist press, especially in terms of quality.(...) The transition from the "persuasive- propagandistic" model - a transition within a transition – to the "communication-information" one occurred slowly and was due to the ethical and professional reflections of the journalists as well as especially to the public sanctions consisting in the refusal to consume such messages.(...) The Romanian press has become, since 1990, a means of support for the interactions between different social and political groups, stimulating the totalitarian institutions elimination process, the decommunization of the social communication and the development of the public sphere/civil society."*

The most significant development occurred, however, this century, by the emergence of the electronic mass-media. The first half of the century was marked by the advent of cinema and radio broadcasting, while the second was marked by the mass expansion of television (discovered in the third decade). What is really interesting is that no political party, social or cultural movement can win over large segments of the population without using the mass-media, just as the operation of the modern economies

---

[18] Sorin-Tudor Maxim ş.a., *Violenţa în sport*, Universitatea din Suceava Publishign House, 2006, p 215
[19] Marian Petcu, *Tipologia presei româneşti,* European Institute, Iaşi, 2000, pp 12, 15, 18, 36, 52, 274

can no longer be conceived without the guidance of the consumer through the media or just as the development and dissemination of culture in society in general can no longer be done independently from such cultural institutions. What is noteworthy is the fact that radio and television are the only means that can capture national attention.

Mass-media sociology is a sociology research area that seeks to analyze the manner in which mass-media works in society, as well as the social effects of the communication carried out by these means[20].

Several types of approaches, theories and issues regarding the **mass-media** have emerged and have been developed during the last few decades. Nevertheless, **two general paradigms** exist which are practically present in all researches. **The first** claims that generally **mass-media** has very strong negative effects, affecting the structures and mechanisms of social life, being active in relation to the individual or the society, while the social structures are relatively passive to its influences. **The second** paradigm claims that the influence of **mass-media** in society is relatively insignificant, that it is subordinated and not superordinated to the society, that it does not determine the choices and behaviors of the individuals, but is only guided by them, and that not only is its role not at all negative, but may even be therapeutic in certain circumstances[21].

A typical problem analyzed from the perspective of the two paradigms is the problem of **violence**. In the first case violence is considered promoted by the **mass-media**, which negatively affects the socialization of children, who can see up to 14,000 violent deaths on TV, in childhood alone, and, in general it can be claimed that this contributes to the increase of the number of deviant behaviors, in particular delinquency, in all its forms. The second perspective considers that **mass-media** does not manipulate the individual, who can actually use it as he/she thinks fit. Violence is actually requested, otherwise it would not be present in the TV programs, therefore it exists in the **mass-media** for the simple reason that it also exists in society. Those who watch such programs are prone to violence and do not become delinquents just because they watch TV (or go to cinema)[22].

Mass-media is a subsystem of the social system, viewed as a set of means of communication of the masses (radio, television, press etc.)

The manner in which mass-media operates in society and the manner in which it influences society has been studied more and more extensively during the latest decades:

"The role of mass-media is that of obtaining the information and making it move around. And since information can be found everywhere, the mass-media's role is to sort it, prioritize it and interpret it. The press (be it printed or broadcast) is the one that indicates what exactly is and is not important from the mass of events, processes, opinions and personalities. It is up to the mass-media whether to disseminate or not new ideas.(...)

Some press institutions educated the public, especially by the popularization of science. But, as a whole, mass-media tells the public what to think and what not to think, what to do and what not to do: the traditional norms of society – to which the rules that are currently being developed are added.(...) Mass-media's role in modern society is clearly important. However, press is falsely attributed immense powers in numerous fields.(...) To a great extent, mass-media is and does what those running the economy and politics want. To an equally greater extent, it is and does what the consumers and citizens, namely all the inhabitants of the country, want."[23]

Once with the "Sports Revolution", which started in the 19th century, sport has turned into a mass phenomenon. It was democratized, it became accessible to the members of the society, it has been awarded major cultural meanings, it has material economic implications.

Mass-media has played an important role in the transformations suffered by the sports phenomenon. First of all the written press, printed materials, cinemas, radio, TV and, more recently, the internet have managed to familiarize the increasingly larger public with the sports events has contributed to the explosive development of new sports, has attracted many sportsmen and also non-sportsmen, and viewers respectively. But in reality there is a true symbiosis between sports and mass-media. Sports has managed to develop mass-media, by the fact that sports is of great interest for the public by its events, as well as by the fact that sports activities have become am extensive financial business, involving mass-media organizations as well. In what concerns the types of influence on sports violence, Sorin-Maxim Tudor has provided a very well organized structure.

---

[20] Cătălin Zamfir, Lazăr Vlăsceanu, *Dicţionar de sociologie,* Babel Publishing House, Bucharest,1998, p 340
[21] Idem
[22] Cătălin Zamfir, Lazăr Vlăsceanu, *Dicţionar de sociologie,* Babel Publishing House, Bucharest,1998, p 340
[23] Claude –Jean Bertrand (coordinator), *O introducere în presa scrisă şi vorbită,* Polirom Publishing House, 2001, p 6-39

Fig. 2. Types of influence on sports violence
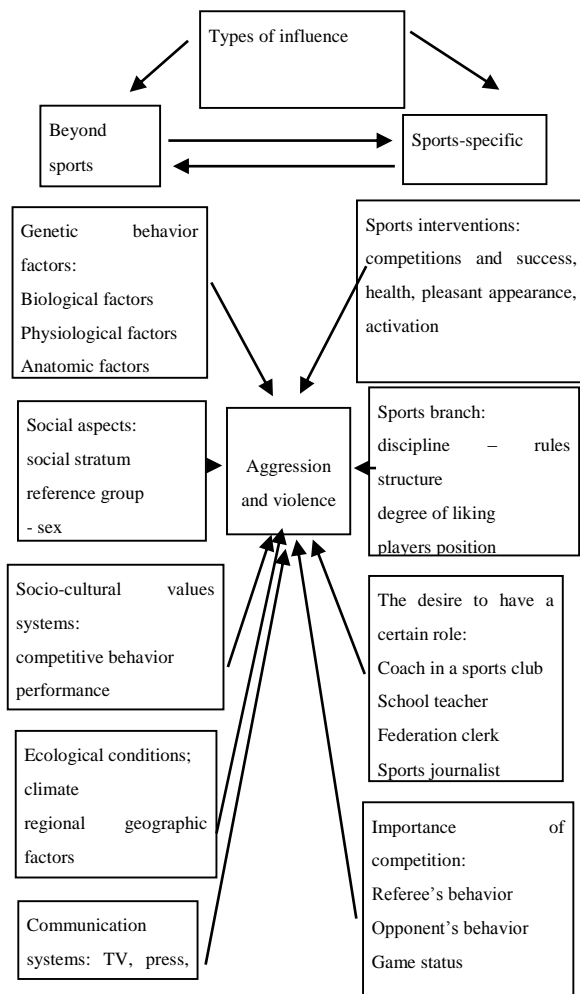
(Sourse: Sorin-Tudor Maxim, "Violența în sport", 2006, p 202)

Various specialists have pointed put that mass-media, especially television, can have both a beneficial role as well as a negative one in what concerns sports violence.

The roles of television are the following:[24]

Informative role – The continuous flow of information around the world helps people find out the latest news;

1. Socialization (educational) role – Television receives and broadcasts messages that double the specific action of the social institutions which operate in the fields of education, culture, religion;

2. Entertainment role – Television bests meets the individuals needs' for recreation;

3. Social bonding role – Ensures the social connections in the individualist mass society;

4. Status granting role – Television confers status, importance, legitimacy and acknowledgement to certain ideas, persons, organizations, social movements etc.

TV Dysfunctions:[25]

• *Message transience* – while a printed message can be read again or can be analyzed more slowly, televised messages cannot be fixed, as they disappear;

• *Time consuming* – according to the latest research, more and more people spend their time by watching TV. Consumption depends on production, but, at the same time, consumption determines production. It was established that dedicating excessive time to watching TV results in the cultivation of commodity, anomia, social isolation etc.

• *Effects of excessive TV watching* – watching TV programs excessively induces a sort of passivity in the reception of any type of message;

• *Drop of the cultural level* – Television determines the degradation of the artistic taste of the public by promoting cultural models that are way below the average level

• *Creation of false celebrities and events* – the purpose being that of winning audience and popularity;

• *Manipulation phenomenon* – dramatized information;

• *High costs* – employees, machinery, equipment, trips, broadcasts and other very large expenses;

• *Narcotic dysfunction* – television induces the emotional and individual isolation of the receptors, thus giving them the feel of real experiences;

• *Lack of feedback* – television does not provide the opportunity to directly contact the producers of the presented shows, and therefore the viewers do not have the opportunity to determine changes.

TV news **consist of information presented with the help of kinetic images, which have a certain impact both at rational as well as at emotional level; they can influence greatly many audience segments, being a sort of show where images are supplemented by gnoseological content, without repetitions, by combining three dimensions that characterize TV news:** image, word and sound.

3. Risk factors generating violence and aggressiveness on stadiums, according to the surveys made by the Ministry of Administration and Domestic Affairs

The professional experience of the public order officers in charge with the order on stadiums has offered us answers concerning the violence and aggressiveness from the perspective of the behavior of the supporters, fans or members of different galleries.

The main factors that generate a big problem on stadiums are alcohol, the attitude and behavior of the supporters, which differ from one gallery to another. Acting immaturely is another characteristic of the supporters, resulting in a disorderly behavior of certain members of the galleries. Most supporters claim that if

---

[24] Corina Crişan, Lucian Danciu, *Manipularea opiniei publice prin televiziune*, Ed.Dacia, Cluj-Napoca, 2000, p 24- 31
[25] Idem, p31 – 43

there is no conflict between them and the public order officers things cannot be fun.

Other important factors that public order officers mention are: a) lack of education; b) challenges; c) insults of other fans; d) the favorite's team poor performance; and e) possible frauds of the referees; i.e. when the supporters think they are entitled to penalty shots, which are not granted. Public order officers will have to handle their dissatisfaction.

Therefore, the main risk factors, from the point of view of the public order officers, are:

1. high consumption of alcohol and other prohibited substances

2. the team's play;

3. the referees' decisions;

4. the instigations of the other spectators;

5. the lack of education and common sense;

6. the lack of drastic punishments or the inconsistent application of the already existing ones

7. the lack of professionalism or superficiality of the employees of the security companies can be clearly seen in the bleachers, individuals gathered in groups or isolated ones do not have the same force or daring;

8. emergence of supporters who incite to violence;

9. suspicions regarding the professionalism of the players;

10. the correct playing of the games;

11. insufficient cooperation between the public order officers and the organizers;

12. the involvement of the officials or players in the implementation of certain measures for certain illegal deeds;

13. the copying of the disorderly behavior by the supporters;

14. the escalation of rivalry into violence, between the supporters of rival teams.

Public order officers noticed the creativity of the fans, their inventiveness in what concerns the methods of bringing prohibited items on the stadium or build their banners after they take their seats in the bleachers. The violent incidents in the bleachers are due to a high degree of freedom, to the permissive laws, lack of education, entourage, frustration, rivalry between galleries, alcohol consumption, the chairmen of the clubs. And there are also certain members of the galleries who come to the stadium only for making a scandal.

Other risk factors with respect to the diversity and extent of aggressive and violent events on stadiums in particular are listed below:

• the use of substances that stimulate a person's hyperactivity;

• the lack of sufficiently strict bodily checks at the entry on the stadiums and the lack of means of warning the supporters concerning the consequences of any violent actions;

• the insufficient involvement of the personnel of the clubs/competition areas to ensure the performance of the competitions in the spirit of fair-play;

• the desire of some supporters/players/other persons to show their dissatisfaction concerning the results of a game and the performance of the favorite team;

• hostile attitudes towards the rival teams/players, presented on social networks or in shocking comments presented on the media channels.

4. Conclusions:

The Olympic Movement and the international documents regulating the role of the international bodies and national Olympics committees are important for the prevention and control of violence in sports. The purpose of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to a peaceful and better world, educating the youth by promoting the practice of sports according to the principles and values of the Olympic Games.

The three components of the Olympic Movement are the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Federations (IFs) and the National Olympic Committees (NOC). The mission of the IOC is to encourage and support the promotion of sport ethics, the education of the youth through sports and the commitment to the values of fair-play, to collaborate with the public organizations and authorities to put sport at the service of humanity and peace in the world. Moreover, the Olympic Movement aims to constantly encourage the promotion of women in sports at all levels and in all structures, for the purpose of implementing the principle of equal opportunities and gender equality.

There is a great diversity of prevention programs: educational and social measures, improvement of the relations between the club and the supporters, the promotion of dialogue with the rival clubs, control of the spectators with the help of cameras, police interventions, infrastructure investments, reinforcement of the social role of the clubs, the organization of the ticket offices, appropriate legislation and many others. When a city hosts a sports event, everything must be based on a genuine hospitality policy: specialized structures for the access and accompanying of the supporters, ensuring the transport, meals and accommodations of the guest supporters, taking the required measures to make sure that the future competition does not make the members of disadvantaged neighborhoods or people who experience problems feel excluded (which are not accepted or do not find cheep game tickets). A few days or hours before the game a pleasant atmosphere must be crated in the district where the sports field is located, messages that ask people to keep calm and show fair play. It is also advisable to involved highly appreciated celebrities in events of this type. In Appendix 7 you will find the 11 principles of fair-play which supporters are encouraged to take into account for every football game or other sports event.

Please find bellow a few of the most important measures meant to control the sports violence

phenomenon that mass-media has noticed in our country.

primarily aimed at taking action against unjust laws. When petitions and all other attempts at persuading a

Table 10. Examples of anti-violence campaigns between 2006 and 2014

No.	Action type	Source mentioned by the mass-media
1.	1. Anti-violence campaign carried out by the Public Order Division – "Say NO to violence in sports!" **Jan. 26th, 2014**	http://www.sighet247.ro/s/campanie-anti-violenta-derulata-de-jandarmerie-spune-nu-violentei-in-sport/
2.	**"Violence is not your roommate"** **Oct. 30th, 2013**	http://www.wowbiz.ro/e2809eviolenta-nu-este-colega-ta-de-camerae2809d_75501.html
3.	2. "NO HOOLIGANS ON STADIUMS: Law on the control of sports violence, passed by president Băsescu" **Bucharest, Jan. 5th, 2012**	http://www.mediafax.ro/sport/fara-huligani-pe-stadioane-legea-privind-combaterea-violentei-in-sport-promulgata-de-presedintele-basescu-9129364
4.	3. Law on the control of sports violence – passed; hooligans will see the football matches from a Police Precinct **Bucharest, December 15th, 2011**	http://sport.hotnews.ro/stiri-sport-10948949-legea-privind-combaterea-violentei-sport-fost-aprobata-huliganii-trebuie-vada-meciurile-sectia-politie.htm
5.	**Campaign "Racism spoils the game. Violence destroys lives"** **October 21st, 2007**	http://www.cncd.org.ro/programe/Proiecte-finalizate/Campania-Rasismul-strica-jocul-Violenta-distruge-vieti-3/
6.	4. Prevention and control of sports violence **Bucharest, April 8th, 2006**	http://jurnalul.ro/vechiul-site/old-site/arhiva-jurnalul/arhiva-jurnalul/prevenirea-si-combaterea-violentei-in-sport-23846.html#

Another type of measures that can contribute to the prevention of sports violence are based on the non-violence concept of great politician Mahatma Gandhi[26]. Please find below a short fragment of the work and manner of thinking of Gandhi:

"I coined the term Satyagraha in South Africa in order to give a name to the power with which the Indians there fought for a full 8 years (1906 - 1914). I spoke of Satyagraha in order to distinguish it from the movement then going on in *the United Kingdom and South Africa as Passive Resistance. Satyagraha is as far away from passive resistance as the North Pole is from the South Pole. Passive resistance is the weapon of the weak and, therefore, the use of physical pressure or violence are not ruled out in the efforts to reach its aims. In contrast, Satyagraha is the weapon of the strongest and it rules out the use of violence in any shape or form. (...) This law of love is nothing other than the love of truth. Without truth there is no love. (...) Satyagraha is also referred to as the power of the soul, because the certainty of an inherent soul is necessary, if the Satyagraha is to believe that death does not mean the end but the climax of the fight. (...) And believing that the soul outlives the body, man will no longer wait impatiently to experience the victory of truth within his present body. (...) And despite this, it has been said that the Satyagraha - as we understand it - could only be practiced by a chosen minority. In my experience, the opposite is true. When its basic principles are understood - hold on to the truth and stand up for it through one's own suffering - then everyone can practice Satyagraha. (...) At a political level, however, battle in the name of the people is*

legislator to recognize the injustice of a law have failed, then the only means left open to those protesters, not prepared to obey the law, is to force the legislator to abolish the law. This is done by breaking the law and bringing punishment and suffering upon oneself. Therefore, Satyagraha still appears to the public as civil disobedience or civil resistance. "Civil" should be taken as non-criminal action…"

In order to respond to the requirements of prevention of the phenomenon of violence in sports, the concept initiated by Mahatma Gandhi can be followed by respecting the order of the ideas presented below:

- We reject the idea of violence, because the good obtained by means of it is not long-lasting; instead, the damage caused by violence lasts a long time.
- Violence is the weapon of the weak; non-violence is the weapon of the strong.
- The principle of non-violence is subject to a test when confronted with violence.
- Non-violence, in its dynamic form, means conscious suffering. This does not involve bowing our head before those who oppress us, but standing up, with our entire being, to the tyrant's will.
- A Satyagrahi (advocate of non-violence) is someone who has relinquished fear. He dares trust his enemy. Even if the enemy disappoints him twenty times in a row, Satyagrahi is ready to trust him for the twenty first time.
- My faith in the non-violence principle makes me very determined. There is no more room for cowardice or weakness.
- For those who make use of violence, there is still

---

[26] http://www.dadalos.org/rom/Vorbilder/gandhi/zitate.htm, accessed on Nov 10, 2013

hope that they will one day find their way to non-violence, which is not true for cowards.

• Perseverance consists in imposing ourselves voluntarily in order to make other people willingly accept our vision.

In addition to the moral and ethical role of the behavior of the individuals and subjects necessary in our contemporary society, what is also important is to enforce new legislative measures, such as resorting to the probation service. Year 2000 has marked the issuance of the first regulatory documents concerning the organization and operation of the services of social reintegration of criminals and of supervision of punishment execution in non-custodial conditions under Government Ordinance no. 92/2000, and then the passing of Law no. 211/2004 on certain measures for ensuring the protection of the victims of crimes, Law no. 123 and Law no. 356/2006 and other regulations in 2008 and 2009. The following key principles, presented by Gabriel Oancea, bear a special importance in the provisions of the legislation passed these last few years:

a) The waiver to the enforcement of a penalty or the delay of its enforcement subject to the fulfillment of a series of conditions

b) Control and social reintegration activities

c) Execution of the punishments, when they consist in administrative sanctions, by the performance of community service activities

d) Periodical assessment of the efficiency of the probation service[27].

A fourth set of preventive measures refers to the measures of protection and prevention of violent actions and security on stadiums, where the enforcement of the latest laws is vital for the control and reduction of hooliganism. To this end, we list some principles that are required and must be followed for all sports premises under construction or renovation:

• Elimination of the sources of flammable and hazardous substances located near the competition premises

• Protection of the administrative or recreational areas against fires or explosions, as well as the check of the fire extinguishers and the enforcement of firs risk mitigation measures

• Presence of well trained security personnel

• Ensuring a maximum seating capacity for the spectators, ensuring a smooth and quick circuit of the supporters for the top competitions, providing the ways and means for a rapid evacuation, as well as access to first aid means and medical services if needed

• A good coordination and communication between all involved services in order to act efficiently in risk or emergency situations, the preparation and periodic check of the emergency plans for exceptional situations (earthquakes, fires, explosions)

• Immediate enforcement of drastic measures against the supporters and athletes involved in acts of violence, doping or discrimination against other citizens

Furthermore, all educational bodies must continue their activity of educating the subjects, potential supporters or athletes, with respect to the principles of fair-play and of a balanced and fair competitive attitude:

• Physical and sports education in schools and clubs should include, at all levels, a strong component of ethical values linked to harmony of the human personality and the development of one's physical and mental qualities

• Encouraging students who are less gifted at sports to participate in recreational sports activities and encourage and supports their colleagues full heartedly and honestly

• Supporting the bilateral and multilateral programs and European cooperation programs by means of school partnerships and adult training programs

• Intensifying the anti-discrimination programs and activities and the active and preventive doping and violence control measures

• Encouraging the collaboration between the educational and sports institutions and sports tourism; the role of the media in the appreciation of the positive and correct attitudes shown by the supporters of different countries

• inclusion of light sports activities in the routine of private companies, encouraging employees to practice a sport regularly, stimulating communication and team work through sports

• Educational activities dedicated to supporting the elderly in practicing sports activities or in attending sports events as public and supporters, together with their family members

• A more active involvement of the employers' organizations and unions in the education and training of the local communities and the development of a civic attitude appropriate for the contemporary European area.

Given all the above, we can conclude that the phenomenon of violence in sports remains an area upon which researchers and specialists will focus their attention the years to come as well, regarding which the media channels will continue to publish news and articles, showing especially sensational and shocking aspects, and with respect to which the authorities and the civil society will try to act in order to control and prevent aggressive activities; we hope, at the same time, that Romanian supporters will start, and in time will succeed, in having a more controlled, moderate behavior, coming closer to the European standards in force. That is why it is very important for the team spirit to be supported actively by the educators, trainers and coaches of clubs across the country. Given the above, it is only fair to say that education is essential for controlling violence and that curricular

---

[27] Gabriel Oancea, *Probaţiunea în România. Evaluări normative şi sociologice*, C.H.Beck Publishing House, Bucharest, 2012, pp 115-169

and extracurricular educational programs have a basic role in the modeling of the future supporters interested in participating in and acting as civilized fans, regardless of the type of sports competition they attend.

References

- Gabriel Oancea, Probaţiunea în România. Evaluări normative şi sociologice, C.H.Beck Publishing House, Bucharest, 2012
- Konrad Lorenz, Aşa-zisul rău, Humanitas Publishing House, Bucharest, 2005
- Sigmund Freud, Opere, volumul 3, Psihologia inconştientului, reviewed issue. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2010
- Sigmund Freud, Opere, volumul 9, Studii despre societate şi religie. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2010
- Andrei Cosmovici, Psihologie generală, Iaşi, Polirom Publishing House, 1996
- Irenäus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, Agresivitate umană. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2009
- Abraham Maslow, Motivaţie şi personalitate. Bucharest, Trei Publishing House, 2008
- Clayton Alderfer, „Theories reflecting my personal experience and life dent," The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science, 25(4), 1989
- Walter Mischel and Yuichi Shoda, A Cognitive-affective System Theory of Personality: Reconceptualizing Situations, Dispositions, Dynamics and Invariance in Personality Structure. Psychological Review no.102, 1995
- Edwin H. Sutherland, Principles of Criminology, USA, General Hall, 1966
- Robert Merton, Social Structure and Anomie, American Sociological Review, Volume 3, Issue 5 (October 1938)
- Richard Cloward şi Lloyd Ohlin, Delinquency and Opportunity, New York, Free Press, 1966
- Durkheim, 1991
- Theodore D. Kemper, "Social constructionist and positivist approaches to the sociology of emotions, "The American Journal of Sociology, 1981, no. 87
- Gordon apud Jonathan Turner and Jean Stets, 2005
- Sorin-Tudor Maxim ş.a., Violenţa în sport, Universitatea din Suceava Publishign House, 2006
- Marian Petcu, Tipologia presei româneşti, European Institute, Iaşi, 2000
- Cătălin Zamfir, Lazăr Vlăsceanu, Dicţionar de sociologie, Babel Publishing House, Bucharest,1998
- Claude –Jean Bertrand (coordinator),O introducere în presa scrisă şi vorbită, Polirom Publishing House, 2001
- Corina Crişan, Lucian Danciu, Manipularea opiniei publice prin televiziune, Ed.Dacia, Cluj-Napoca, 2000
- http://www.dadalos.org/rom/Vorbilder/gandhi/zitate.htm, accessed on Nov 10, 2013