# Analyzing the Occupational Sigma of Sport Athletes in China

Zhicheng Guo<sup>1, a, \*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>High School Department, Quality School International, Chengdu American Garden, 188 South Sect.3, 3rd Ring R&D, Chengdu, China a.3441098406@qq.com \*corresponding author

*Abstract:* In today's environment, hatred toward athletes is becoming increasingly frequent among regular people. They are negatively affected. PE teachers, on the other hand, are perceived as "laborers" by the general population. According to ancient Chinese ideas, hardworking individuals reign over others in some places, such as China. In reality, this cultural inheritance of discrimination persists to this day, and is also the cultural gene of "stigmatization" of Chinese sports practitioners. As a result, athletes are seen negatively. Consider how people perceive and value athletes, as well as how others interact with them in sports. They are, on the other hand, athletes who compete in sporting events. Allowing them to attend university is no longer required. Others were aware of the situation as it grew. Despite this, no one is doing anything to stem the tide. This essay will illustrate how this bias impacts individuals and athletes, as well as how we may assess and tackle the problem using macro, meso, and micro aspects.

Keywords: Occupational sigma, Athletes, Discrimination, Sports.

#### 1. Introduction

In 1924, the inaugural Winter Olympics were staged in Chamonix, France, in the French Alps. The initial six sports were ski jumping, bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, skiing, and ice skating, which were split into 14 separate sports. It has grown into a big international multi-sports event that takes place every four years. The issue of regular people's intolerance towards athletes is becoming more prevalent. This has a negative effect on them. For example, from the perspective of the public, physical education teachers are considered "workers." In certain places, such as China, traditional Chinese principles persist that those who work hard dominate others. This prejudiced cultural inheritance has continued to this day, and it has also been the cultural gene for the "stigmatization" of Chinese sports practitioners. This leads to an unfavorable attitude toward the athlete. For example, how people consider and appreciate athletes, as well as how others engage with them in sports. Allowing them to attend college is no longer a requirement. Other people have become aware of the issue as the problem has increased. Despite this, no one is doing anything to stem the tide. Two researches looked into the aspects that might impact whether or not there is prejudice in sports. Maier and colleagues, for example, looked at weightlifters to investigate if gender similarities between instructors and athletes affected performance. Gender congruence was linked to improved performance in males. Women did better when their coach was a male, but only until they were 43, when they did better when coached by a woman. Historical prejudices against women in sports,

according to the authors, may play a role in these tendencies. Demographic commonalities also impact the judges' decisions. While their referees — the heads of their teams of officials — were white, Eiserloh and others discovered that black refs took more penalties, according to years of data from the National Football League. The authors suggest that when team leaders are white, black referees may feel more pressure to call violations, a tendency that has been observed in a variety of sporting settings [1].On the other hand, the media plays a significant role in demonstrating their partiality. An examination of media publications for instances of women in sport as sources and subjects of news or articles might reveal media bias. They are frequently topics who are 'spoken' or 'written' about, with their tale told via the lens of the media. Women in sports receive little media exposure. Three categories of macro, meson, and micro variables will be used to examine the situation in this article. As a result, it will represent how other people see and think about those topics. And how can we solve the problem?

#### 2. Literature Review

Occupational stigma refers to vocations polluted by typical labor, such as a stain on the body, a temperament, or a hiding spot contaminated by typical employment. The occupational stigma that sports players endure has been analyzed and investigated. Take, for example, the following excerpt from the article "Shadows in the sun: Perspectives, causes and responses to occupational stigma". It is determined that occupational stigma is a negative stereotype about a certain career type or occupation composition generated by external groups. Practitioners' attitudes and behaviour will be influenced by their perceptions of occupational stigma. This study examines occupational stigma, unclean work, discrimination in the workplace, and other related themes, as well as reviewing past research. Through social identification, self-verification, resource conservation, and other theoretical mechanisms, variables such as observer attribution, social order, and the status of related groups affect the establishment of occupational stigma. When occupational stigma is developed, it leads to emotional tiredness, decreased satisfaction, aberrant conduct, and other outcomes, and people will turn to self-concept support, psychological isolation, relationship repair, and other strategies to combat the negative effects of occupational stigma. Future studies should look at the mechanisms of occupational stigma development at all levels, as well as occupational stigma coping techniques, from a multidisciplinary viewpoint.

Furthermore, "Causes, logic and Self - salvation of physical Education teacher stigma" examines the reasons and logic of stigmatization of physical education instructors and proposes solutions to mitigate its harmful impacts. "Your math was taught by your PE instructor, right?" was the end consequence. This widely circulated "physical education teacher's question" is damaging to PE teachers and disgusting to them. There is a prevalent occurrence of "stigma" among physical education teachers. The grounds behind "the physical education teachers' question" are complicated and intertwined. The nature of the public's uneven identity to the group of physical education instructors is at the root of it. Traditional stereotypes and network media support this rationale [2].

The lack of cultural understanding among PE teachers; Bias in the workplace and in the classroom; The basis of physical education is inadequate, and school physical education theory research is lacking. In addition, the public's incorrect sports cognition has a combined influence on external performance [3]. Similar inquiries posed by PE teachers, as well as identification designations that are discriminatory and humiliating, should awaken the awareness and opposition of all PE teachers, as well as the public's attention, condemnation, and correction. Furthermore, in "The mechanism of occupational stigma of undignified workers and its coping strategies", it depicts "indecent labor," which is work that is physically painful, socially unrecognizable, or contradicts our more heroic moral values. The notion and connotation of non-decent work and occupational stigma are distinguished and differentiated by evaluating relevant literature on non-decent work practitioners' occupational stigma. A perceived process model of occupational stigmatization threat was developed based on cognitive evaluation theory to investigate the sources, assessment, coping techniques, and repercussions of occupational stigmatization threat of non-decent employees. On the other hand, "Experience and enlightenment of excellent PE teachers' professional development under the background of stigmatization", shows by means of literature research, interview and logical analysis, this paper summarizes the experience of excellent PE teachers' professional development, in order to promote the overall improvement of PE teachers' professional level and implement the goal of "matching and strengthening PE teachers" as soon as possible. The research shows that stigmatization leads to the decline of physical education teachers' promotion, which delays their career development. In the difficult situation, maintaining rational cognition of professional growth under the background of stigmatization is helpful for PE teachers to obtain continuous professional growth and success [3]. The experience of professional development of excellent PE teachers lies in keeping a firm professional belief, practicing high professional consciousness, being good at refining high-quality teaching, and seeking interpersonal relationships based on professional identity [4].

## 3. Analysis

## 3.1. Factors from Macro Level, the Policy, Economics and Culture

First and foremost, social policy is an action plan that benefits both individuals and society as a whole. It affirms every individual's inherent rights and frequently targets marginalized groups in order to achieve equality of opportunity and social welfare, particularly for the poor. The International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of the Rights of the Child, the Olympic Charter, the Geneva Convention, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and many other international, regional, and national commitments all consider the visit campaign to be a universal commitment. Despite these accords, the right to participate in sports is frequently referred to as "the forgotten right," and authorities must ensure that this is not the case. The phrase "national policy" refers to the policies that governments adopt in their own countries [4]. To increase the use of sport in different sectors, national governments must develop sports policies that support stronger school activity programs, a greater focus on sport in health policies, higher general public participation in sport, and collaboration amongst varied actors. Even though there is a rising recognition that sport has the potential to address a range of societal issues, the fourth factor is typically disregarded [4]. By counseling governments on how to attain their country's development goals, civil society and, in certain situations, international groups influence national policy.

Sport and economy are inextricably linked. Sports are more and more popular in economics, and economic theories also play a role in sports. For example, economists often use the game theory to predict how events will happen based on people's goals, motivations, and perceived best interests. It examines a few "players" and how their strategies impact the revenue of others using numerical models. The word "game" refers to how it simulates the coaches' behavior in sports competitions with the help of models and statistical data. This economic theory is likely to turn the competition into a mathematical event. In a baseball game, the coach uses numbers to represent each team's strategies and can build a mathematical model to predict how the game will proceed. The game theory can also be used to tap new talent. In 2003, the book "Moneyball" and a subsequent movie focused on Billie Beane, the former general manager of Oakley Track and Field Baseball Club, who used complicated economic strategies to find players. In general, baseball is a sport that uses statistics such as batting average to evaluate a player's performance. When the Oakland Athletics were in financial trouble, they couldn't afford to hire players who could lead in those areas. Beane established a system for spotting gifted athletes who were underestimated by the market. The risky strategy turned out to be a great success. In 2002 and 2003, the Oakley Athletics were qualified to compete with teams with

much greater payrolls, like as the New York Yankees, and made the playoffs. Other teams in similar situations have also embraced the technique, with some success, such as the 2015 World Series champion New York Mets.

It has a significant impact on team performance. The environment in which team members practice and compete affects their thinking, feelings, behavior, and performance. For example, a workplace full of negative and unhealthy competition and conflicts is definitely unpleasant and may hinder your ability and affect your performance. But it is hard for an athlete to change this. He can only accept it or find another team. However, a coach can play a significant role in influencing a team's cultural factors such as sports, competition, interpersonal relationship, and attitude. This kind of team culture can determine whether the focus of team training is fun, progress or victory, and whether it is individual victory or team victory. Team culture is crucial because it directly affects many aspects of team operation and performance. It defines acceptable codes of conduct and communicates directly or implicitly to members what is and is not acceptable. Team members can be told how to act, communicate, collaborate, and manage conflict according to these standards. Everyone on the team is more likely to follow clear norms.

These characteristics of culture will have a direct impact on the way a team operates and the way its members get along with each other, especially on the individual and collective performance and achievements of the athletes in the team. When team members have a culture that can be well understood and accepted, they are filled with a benign pressure or motivation. In addition to the general culture created by the coaching staff, the team can build its own culture to serve the goals of the entire team and the requirements of all members. This culture focuses on the personalities of coaches and athletes and the specific goals they pursue, because people who are unable to lead a team will no longer have an absolute say.

Investigate and study how society and other groups perceive and examine the causes of professional bias against athletes in sports. Also, laws, rules and social policies: the fact that the judiciary punishes certain morally corrupt worker behaviors shows that stigma exists in their field and is more likely to occur when an occupation has more ethical problems.

#### 3.2. Factors from Meso Level, the Media Impact

On the one hand, social media is revolutionizing the way players, clubs, and fans communicate. Realtime tweets of sports events, vitriolic fans, and cheerleaders in the online community make viewers not only watch sports programmes but also frequently get news, opinions and opinions directly from the source. On the other hand, the increase in the use of mobile phones and social media has affected our perception of and participation in a range of topics in today's society. In reality, people can use many social media websites, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Social media platforms, which influence sports through communication and sports marketing and other means, have developed into an important tool to spread information, attract new readers and promote participation. They are undoubtedly a very important means of contact for sports, sports fans and athletes.

First, the number of people using social media has increased dramatically in recent years. In sports, the public can pay attention to their favorite athletes and teams and get the latest sports news.

Secondly, the ability to develop relations with the public, cut marketing expenses and increase sales is only a part of the many benefits of sports organizations adopting social media. Organizations can use social media to attract the public to participate in two-way interactions, and create a community around a cause.

Third, social media is becoming more and more popular as a means of communicating with sports fans. Some use social media to talk and exchange information with other fans and interact with sports organizations in two ways. Athletes can also use social media to communicate with their followers,

promote themselves, build personal brands, etc. Social media is not only cheaper than traditional media, but also has greater and more lasting impact.

Even if an athlete sends a Weibo every day, fans will be obsessed with it and get a monetary reward. If athletes talk about sports news, they will be able to create lasting interaction with their fans.

### **3.3.** Factors from Micro Level, the Individuals

First of all, as we can see in real life, the public's negative evaluation of the nature, prestige, and value of the profession will lead to stigma. The general public's prejudice against athletes is becoming more prevalent. It has an adverse effect on them. The general public, on the other hand, views PE teachers as "workers." In certain areas, such as China, the old Chinese ethic dictates that those who work hard dominate others. In actuality, this cultural inheritance of prejudice survives to this day, and is also the meme of "stigmatization" of Chinese sports practitioners. As a result, athletes are stigmatized. For instance, how people see and value athletes, as well as how others interact with them. They, on the other hand, are competitors in athletic activities. They are not compelled to attend college any more. However, as the situation deteriorated, others became aware of it. No one, however, is doing anything to stop the spread.

Secondly, when a certain number of practitioners violate the professional norms, the judgment of the observers on the practitioner will shift. The more negative things spoken about the profession, the greater professional shame and poor employment outcomes. Practitioners also (consciously or unconsciously) spread the stigma associated with their profession. Furthermore, one of the most significant factors contributing to the problem is cultural differences. Sports, for example, are becoming increasingly popular in China. Running, aerobics, table tennis, and basketball, as well as winter sports and soccer, are popular interests among the middle class. In traditional Chinese civilization, physical fitness is seen as a vital characteristic. The National Games are akin to the Olympic Games in that they are China's own national quadrennial multi-sport event. Prior to the 1980s, table tennis was the country's main source of international success [4].

Third, Chinese people tend to look at issues as a whole, while westerners pay more attention to individual diversities. Therefore, in some cases, the Chinese people's thinking has a "broader view", while the western people's thinking is analytical and has a "restricted view". People will consider their future, work, and family while considering others in general. Because of the quantity of injuries and a lack of knowledge, many people believe that athletes cannot be successful in the long run.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the problem of ordinary people's intolerance of athletics is getting more prominent in today's environment. All of the macro, micro, and meso have a significant impact on people's thinking and mentality on the biases that arise in sports athletes. Such as China, in fact, this biased cultural heritage has persisted to this day, and it has also been the cultural gene for the "stigmatization" of Chinese athletes. This results in a negative attitude toward the athlete. They, on the other hand, are athletes who participate in sports. It is no longer necessary to allow them to attend college. As the severity of the situation has grown, more individuals have become aware of it. Only by thinking and acting in the appropriate way can the basic problem be solved.

#### References

- [1] authors, All, and Torkild Hovde Lyngstad. "Nationalistic Bias in Sport Performance Evaluations: An Example from the Ski Jumping World Cup." Taylor & Francis, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16138171.2020.1792628.
- [2] Zhang Zhibin. Causes, Logic and Self-salvation of PE Teachers' Stigma [J]. Sports and Science, 2020,41 (03): 66-71. DOI: 10.13598/J. ISSN 1004-4590.2020.03.009.

## The 3rd International Conference on Educational Innovation and Philosophical Inquiries (ICEIPI 2022) DOI: 10.54254/2753-7048/3/2022526

- [3] Given, Karen. "'Crafty' Vs. 'Sneaky': How Racial Bias In Sports Broadcasting Hurts Everyone | Only A Game." WBUR.Org, 26 June 2020, www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2020/06/26/racial-stereotypes-sports-broadcast-bias.
- [4] Cash, Meredith. "Athletes Are Accusing Olympic Refs of Bias after Several Controversial Penalties Aided Chinese Competitors." Business Insider, 8 Feb. 2022, www.businessinsider.in/sports/news/athletes-are-accusing-olympicrefs-of-bias-after-several-controversial-penalties-aided-chinese-competitors/articleshow/89418719.cms. https://news.yahoo.com/athletes-accusing-olympic-refs-bias-014109737.html