

# The Importance of Sports in Rapprochement Between Peoples

**Fahad saeed alkindi**

Kawther abdalla bayoumi

## Abstract

The study aimed at answering the questions: what are the moral values that can be acquired through sports? What is the role of sport in the rapprochement between peoples? The study dealt with the concept of study and the moral and social values that can be acquired through sport. Sport is for peace and peaceful coexistence: life in its essence is peace with oneself, with others, and with the physical environment. Peace ranges in scope from peace between states and peoples to individuals within a family or group and finally with the person himself. Sport and rapprochement between peoples Sport have made many effective contributions throughout its history in the way of resolving problems between conflicting parties internationally, due to its nature as a paving and appropriate mediator and a factor in the intensity of conflicts, and a natural entrance to international meetings, as well as its ability to announce and transcend conflict factors and convert them to fair competitions.

## Introduction:

Sport is considered a bridge that connects peoples together, it is a bridge of love and communication between peoples for the valuable purposes and spirit relaxation it contains, it doesn't fix what politics has ruined, and it aims at spreading the bonds of affection between peoples and eliminating people's bad traits like intolerance, aggression, and racism; since the sport was originally initiated to strengthen the relationships between peoples, it is also considered as the only mutual language between peoples from all races and with all tongues, although they differ in the rest of the things, so sports competitions are considered, on top of all things, love, brotherhood, and affection between peoples more than they are sport competitions.

Sport is an important human activity, and mostly there is no single society empty of any sort of sport, nevertheless how developed or underdeveloped these societies are. Man has known sport all over his different times and civilizations, although civilizations differ from one to another, militaries either defensives or expansionists have practiced sport to fill their leisure time and as a form of entertainment, while the sport was used in other civilizations as an educational method.

## The Scope of the study:

We note that the development of the nations either in the old world or the modern world is strongly connected with the high morality of its individuals, their beliefs, and their love for people and themselves, in addition to the sincerity of the nation's individuals to their works, and the spread of good habits between them, and at the same time, their avoidance of bad habits that lead to decadence. The problem of intolerance and racism between peoples is a serious social phenomenon because it highly affects society sons, and it is one of the biggest problems that contemporary societies face, in addition to the increase of the severeness of this problem because of the preoccupation of parents and their negligence to direct parental care and accurate supervision to their children.

Based on the aforementioned, the study matter lies in answering the following questions:

1. What are the moral values that can be acquired through sports?
2. What is the role of sports in peaceful coexistence?
3. What is the role of sports in the rapprochement between peoples?

### **The Objectives of the study:**

The current study aims at achieving a group of objectives, as follows:

1. Defining the concept of sport.
2. Knowing the moral values that can be acquired through sport.
3. Studying the role of sport in the rapprochement between peoples.
4. Studying past and current practical cases and its effect in the rapprochement between peoples.

### **The importance of the study:**

1. The importance of the study lies in the importance of sport in daily life and its great role in moral behavior rectification and cooperation between society individuals nevertheless gender, religion, and race.
2. The importance of sport in the rapprochement between social differences because sport's standard is the physical effort exerted, the resolution of social and political problems, and the establishment of love and peace.

### **The study plan:**

Chapter I: The concept of sport and sport for peace and peaceful coexistence

Section I: The concept of sport

Section II: Sport for peace and peaceful coexistence

Chapter II: Sport, rapprochement, and behaviors

Section I: Sport and the rapprochement between peoples

Section II: Behaviors acquired by society from sport.

Conclusion

## **Chapter I: The concept of sport and sport for peace and peaceful coexistence**

### **Section I: The concept of sport**

The term "sport" is related to the Latin word "D'essartet" which appeared in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and it means relaxation and entertainment, since

the sixteenth century; the sport has become a physical exercise, and every physical activity has been called sport. Bernard Gillett has defined sport as a fight and a game, in addition to the physical activity based on studied rules and prepared through methodical training (Al-Shatea, Al-Bassiouny, 17:1992)<sup>1</sup>

**Moral and social values that can be acquired through sport<sup>2</sup>. (Dahw, Shoaib Eldin, 2017: 294-295)**

**Courage:** facing serious situations that require overcoming fear.

**Discipline:** abiding by the rules and systems without violating them.

**Self-independency:** doing everything without referring to others.

**Tolerance:** forgiving others, accepting their apologies, being tolerant of different opinions without tending to violence, and the acceptance of the other as he/she is.

**1. Leadership:** motivating others, advising them, working strictly, and showing the ability to organize and implement well.

**2. Brotherhood:** the spread of bonds of love and affection between individuals and communities.

**3. Cooperation:** sincere participation to others in different works and helping others achieve their interests.

**4. Unity:** accumulation of small powers to form a great power through teamwork.

**5. Fighting violence and intolerance:** avoiding aggression, worry, psychological tension, and intellectual self-imprisonment.

---

<sup>1</sup> Al-Shatea, Yassin, Mahmoud Awad, (1992), Physical education theories and methods, second edition, Algeria, office of university publications.

<sup>2</sup> Dahw, Ibn Youssef, Shoiab El-Din, (2017), Sport is peace-loving and violence-renouncing, Humanities and social sciences magazine, issue (30), pages (293-300).

## **Section II: Sport for peace and peaceful coexistence**

Peace is a humanitarian goal and a noble one, all humanity aims to achieve it throughout its civilized history. The call for peace and working on establishing its foundations and generalizing it has increased in the modern era after World War II and the establishment of the United Nations as a method of understanding that gathers the world peoples around this goal. Attention to peace in citizenship is one of the modern trends. And there is an important fact that remains, is that peace is part of Islam, Islam has consolidated peace in his legislations, and attention on peace studies has started as an academic field in international universities since the 1950s, at first, the focus was on peace in the face from against direct violence, as in the cases of assault, torture, persecution, and wars; to upgrade this later to deal with indirect violence, as in the case of people suffering from social, political, and economic systems that lead to the extinction and degradation of human, and violating their rights, like racial discrimination, exposure to hunger, and deprivation of human rights.

(Dahw, Shoaib El-Din, 2017: 294-295)<sup>3</sup>

Education is a call for life, and life in its essence is self-peace, peace with others, and peace with the physical environment, hence, education for peace ranges in its scope from peace between countries and peoples to individuals inside the family or the group, and finally peace with oneself. Peace is an economic requirement because disputes affect the productional abilities and lead to weakening the economic capabilities, fair peace cannot be at the expense of others' interests, moreover, it protects the interests of the individual through cooperating and arranging with others to build a strong economy. In case of the depravity of general manners, deterrence must be applied.

## **Chapter II: Sport, rapprochement, and behaviors**

### **Section I: Sport and the rapprochement between peoples (The diplomacy of sport and resolution of international conflict)**

Sport has provided many effective contributions throughout its history in the way of resolving the problems between the internationally conflicting parties, for it naturally acts as an appropriate paving mediator, a factor that mitigates the severity of the disputes, and a natural gate to the international meetings and for its ability to address the conflict factors, its sublimation and its ability to convert them to a healthy competition.

---

<sup>3</sup> Ibn Dahw, Youssef, Shoaib El-DIN, (2017), sport is peace-loving and intolerance-renouncing, humanities magazine, issue (30), pages (293-300).

#### **The following are factual examples of sport contribution in resolving the political problems and the rapprochement between peoples:**

- The football match held between the Soviet Union (as called previously) and federal Germany (previously) in Augsburg helped mitigate the severity of the tension between the two countries, and it left a good impression on the German people.
- The ping pong match held between the American United States and China had a great role in paving the way for the diplomatic relationships cut-off between the two countries to return, and it was previously known that the American team was lower in the level of playing than the Chinese team, and the potential of its defeat was big, but the two sides have avoided any offenses or problems, and the Chinese team increased their courtesy and welcoming of the Americans, and that really had paved the way as a good method to make the cut-off diplomatic

relationships return, hence this new method was called “Ping Pong diplomacy”.

- The ice hockey American match with the Soviet team during the winter Olympics for the year 1980, in which the Soviet was defeated unexpectedly, enabled the American political administration to get rid of the shadows of tension and suspicions that were hovering around the relationship between the two countries after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, this match provided an appropriate atmosphere to retrieve the warmth of the relationships between the two countries.

- The transfer of the Egyptian star Mohamed Salah to the English club Liverpool didn't just have a positive effect on the performance of the club but moreover, it had a positive effect on the whole area that the Egyptian player had transferred to. A study published by “Immigration Policy Institute” on Friday has shown that the rate of hate attacks against Muslims in the British territory of Merseyside where Liverpool is located has decreased with 18.9% since the transfer of Salah to this club, and the percentage of the tweets that offense Muslims have increased among Liverpool fans, and decreased at the rate of the half comparing to the fans of the other British clubs, according to the same study, as provided by Focus Germane magazine.<sup>4</sup> (site, DW: 2019)

## **Section II: Behaviors acquired by society from sport**

Sport is not just a means of entertainment, nor a method to collect titles and become famous, nor a place where disputes are settled, it represents and also develops, noble morals including:

First: Courage: since the competitors do their best to achieve their interests, and most importantly develop their countries and serve their societies, and finally spread love and peace in their world.

Second: Fair competition: since sport represents a field that any individual or sports team aims at it with their technical skills, physical, and intellectual abilities, in accordance with specific laws, systems, and instructions, away from incivility, violence, and exploitation to achieve victory.

Third: Sports spirit that makes the individual and the team accept their defeat although they hate it the same way they accept victory, so they do not get angry or generate hatred inside them; instead of that, defeat is considered a challenge and a motivation to achieve success. When sport is based on proper vision and governed by moral values and humanitarian principles, not just Laws, codes, and procedural regulations, no doubt that it will contribute not only to the rapprochement and the cultural cooperation between peoples, but also to resolving the disputes, settling them, and mitigating their effects, specifically in individuals and peoples that have no relation with the policies followed by their governments and they may not be guilty. The sport was always a field of cultural cooperation and exchange between nations and peoples that was historically used as a method of rapprochement between powers and countries that have contrary political and economic interests, and even between those which entered armed disputes. Sport can be, as it always has been, a field of rapprochement and cooperation between peoples, not a source of division and disputes between them, and this is what countries try hard to achieve since it works on that, either through the local sports or the external contributions or through organizing big events, to make sport play the role it should play, which is enhancing the cooperation between peoples and promoting the rapprochement between them.

To achieve that, it is really important to neutralize sport, and the other fields like; literature and arts, from politics, interests' calculations, or unfair competition, since sport should remain a means of understanding and cooperation between

---

<sup>4</sup> DW website, (2019), review date: 1/1/2023  
<https://www.dw.com>

peoples, whatever their different religions, races, and cultural, social, and economic levels.

Maybe the most thing that distinguishes sports generally is the cooperation between people which is the most civilized form of work, to achieve a shared goal; what distinguishes the cooperative society is that it is stable and balanced and that it has opportunities to develop and advance, in contrary to the conflicting society. That's why cooperation is a social phenomenon whose value has a great effect. Sports activities provide very rich conditions to achieve cooperation and acquire it by practitioners and athletes, taking into consideration that the sports achievements in their entirety are a result of cooperation between players, it is also a result of the cooperation of a staff of leaders (trainer, assistant, administrative, doctor... etc.) who support the team. (Al-Kholy, 2017:167)

Sport works greatly on decreasing the persecution of minorities; because sport is a subjective fair assessment of the results, this means that sport is one of the activities empty of the factors of bias, intolerance, and self-whims in the assessment of its competitors' results, and the aforementioned factors are the same factors that minorities suffer from, especially the oppressed; because the sportive performance does not conflict with the variables of color, race, religion, or gender which are factors of differentiation between people, but the essence of results' assessment in sport is related to the successful physical performance. (Al-Khouly 2017:220)

## Conclusion

The study aimed at defining the concept of sport, the moral values that can be acquired through sports, and the role of sport in the rapprochement between peoples. The study has shown that the most important moral and social values that can be acquired through sports are; courage, discipline, tolerance and brotherhood, and fighting violence and intolerance, and that sport

has presented throughout its history many effective contributions to the way of resolving the problems between internationally conflicting parties, for it is naturally considered a paving and appropriate mediator, a factor that mitigates conflicts, and a natural gate to international meetings, moreover it has a great ability to address the conflict factors, sublimate it, and convert them to a fair competition.

## References:

### First: Arabic references:

1. Al-Shatea Yassin, Al-Bassiouny, and Mahmoud Awad, (1992), physical education theories and methods, second edition, Algeria, university publications office.
2. Dahw, Ibn Youssef, Shoaib El-Din, (2017), sport is peace-loving and intolerance-renouncing, humanities and social sciences magazine, issue (30), pages (293-300).
3. Al-Shafey, Hassan Ahmed, (2004), legal and criminal perspective of sport, first edition, Alexandria, Egypt, Al-wafaa home for the world of publishing.
4. Al-Khouly, Amin Anwar, (2017), Sport and society, monthly cultural book series issued by the national assembly of culture, art, and literature, Kuwait.

### Second: Websites:

1. DW website, (2019), review date: 1/1/2023 <https://www.dw.com>