

## A STUDY ON THE USE OF LIVING SPORTS FACILITIES AT DALSEONG-GUN IN KOREA AFTER COVID-19

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### ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 lockdowns had profound impacts for those on the supply side of the sport, physical activity, and fitness industries. Although there are many sports facilities in Dalseong-gun, only five places where data can be obtained and managed were investigated. The number of sports-related employees did not decrease due to COVID-19. However, the number of users of living sports facilities decreased significantly in 2020 (after COVID-19) compared to 2019 (before COVID-19). For example, the number of users of sports facilities at the main stadium of Dalseong Sports Park in 2020 was 7,838, and compared to 2019, the number decreased by 22,902. The number of users of sports facilities at the Dalseong Sports Park Auxiliary Stadium in 2020 was 5,542, and compared to 2019, the number decreased by 17,774. The decrease of physical activity during the COVID-19 pandemic could be promptly and vigorously effects at the public health level.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Dalseong-gun, Dalseong Sports Park, sports-related employees.

### INTRODUCTION

Living social sports facilities are the domains of responsibility of the main public systems charged with providing services and opportunities for people. The importance of leisure time for people, particularly as it relates to personal and community development (Melendro, 2019), as well as given a wide range of opportunities for meaningful participation within the community, provided or facilitated by a multitude of organizations, institutions and programs in all sectors (Hulme et al., 2019). Some studies suggest that sport achieves a number of impacts simultaneously, making it a highly cost-effective intervention (Cain et al., 2013; Hills et al., 2014). Many of the links between sport and different social impacts are common, including greater physical competencies, better cognitive skills, better social skills, trust and reciprocity, and identification with social values (Taylor et al., 2015). Wellbeing is the manifestation of the catalytic role that sport plays in stimulating social impacts. As a widespread social activity, sport is an integral part of the culture of the individual and of contemporary society as a whole. Playing sports serves a great health and encourages numerous physical and mental strengths from disease prevention, promotion and maintenance of health to the development of various traits in an individual, such as discipline, creativity, communication, confidence, leadership, responsibility, work and life habits to basic human values such as honesty, solidarity, tolerance and mutual respect (Kostelić, 2019).

Sports activities include activities in sporting competitions, sporting preparations, sporting recreation, sports teaching, sports training, organization and management of sporting competitions, and the management and maintenance of sports facilities. For example, the Athlete Management System (AMS) in Australian Institute of Sports is a nationally available

web-based platform to support education and decision making by our National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and the National Institute Network (NIN) with the aim of improving athlete health and performance outcomes.

Sport management is the field of business that focuses directly on sports and recreation. Many different subjects are incorporated into sport management such as administration, finance, law and ethics. Depending on what kind of sport management career interests you, possibilities include working directly with athletes, coaches and organizations or working behind the scenes as a promoter, marketing manager or sports economist. In each case studied, economists gain insight not only on the behavior of athletes and coaches, but also on more general economic problems (Robert, 2008; Drayer et al., 2012). Sports management has existed in some form as long as sports themselves, but the formal academic discipline has only been recognized as a unique area of research and study in recent history. The sport industry has had a growing impact on the global economy over the last 20 years with investment in public infrastructure, mobilizing resources and creating new professions and jobs.

Bratland-Sanda et al. (2021) focus on “Sports and Active Living During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” with particular reference to the unprecedented global shutdown. Wright et al. (2021) examined the consequences of COVID-19 lockdowns for one “active lifestyle entrepreneur” who was forced to re-evaluate his deep personal and occupational commitments to this sector. The aim of this study is to survey an overview of perspectives and approaches to sports facilities focusing on sport systems, sport participation and public offices towards sports at Dalseong-gun province of Daegu Metropolitan City in Korea.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Subjects**

Dalseong County (Dalseong-gun) is a gun (province) occupying much of south and western Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea. A largely rural district lying along the Nakdong River, it makes up nearly half of Daegu's total area.

### **Research limitations**

Data were extracted using a review schema developed by the research team from South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (2020) and Daegu Metropolitan City (2021). Although there are many sports facilities in Dalseong-gun, only five places where data can be obtained and managed were investigated.

## **RESULTS**

### **Dalseong Sports Park Main Stadium**

Dalseong Sports Park is located in the historic neighborhood of Seongha-ri in Hyeonpung-myeon, Dalseong County and the park is an iconic public facility that promotes sports and health. The massive complex features were two fields for soccer, three tennis courts, one foot volleyball court, one baseball diamond, and one gateball court. Table 1 showed facilities and office workers at the main stadium. The number of regular employees in this facility was nine in both 2019 and 2020. The number of sports-related employees did not decrease due to COVID-19.

**Table 1.** Facilities and office workers at the main stadium of Dalseong Sports Park in Daegu Metropolitan City (unit: person)

Year	Type of workers		Management personnel	
			Male	Female
2019	Regular workers	General office worker	7	2
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	2	1
		Instructor	0	0
	Non-regular	General office worker	0	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	0	0
		Instructor	0	0
Total		9	3	
2020	Regular workers	General office worker	7	2
		Facilities technology worker		
		Cleaner	2	1
		Instructor	0	0
	Non-regular	General office worker	0	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	0	0
		Instructor	0	0
Total		9	3	

In 2019 (before COVID-19), the number of users of sports facilities was 30,840 (Table 2). On the other hand, the number of users of sports facilities in 2020 (after COVID-19) was 7,838, and compared to 2019, the number decreased by 22,902. The disabled did not use this facility.

**Table 2.** The number of users the main stadium of Dalseong Sports Park by year (unit: person)

Year	Operating hours	Total number of people used	Non-disabled	Disabled	Number of users per day
2019	05:00~23:00	30,840	30,840	0	93
2020	05:00~23:00	7,838	7,838	0	29

Table 3 was shown the number of users of the Dalseong Sports Park Auxiliary Stadium. The number of users of sports facilities in 2020 was 5,542, and compared to 2019 and the number decreased by 17,774. In 2020, the number of users per day decreased by 36% compared to 2019.

**Table 3.** The number of users at the Dalseong Sports Park Auxiliary Stadium by year (unit: person)

Year	Operating hours	Total number of people used	Non-disabled	Disabled	Number of users per day
2019	05:00 ~ 23:00	23,316	21,316	0	59
2020	05:00 ~ 23:00	5,542	5,542	0	21

### Multi-purpose Playground of Hwawonmyeonggok Sports Park

Hwawon-Myeonggok Sports Park boasts a wide variety of athletic facilities and equipment made available to the public. Occupying a total area of 27,400 m<sup>2</sup>, this major sports facility includes one soccer field, one inline skating area, and a rock climbing center.

Table 4 showed facilities and office workers at the multi-purpose playground of Hwawonmyeonggok Sports Park. The number of regular employees in this facility was four. The number of sports-related employees did not decrease due to COVID-19.

**Table 4.** Facilities and office workers at the multi-purpose playground of Hwawonmyeonggok Sports Park (unit: person)

Year	Type of workers		Management personnel	
			Male	Female
2019	Regular workers	General office worker	1	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	2	1
		Instructor	0	0
	Non-regular	General office worker	0	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	0	0
		Instructor	0	0
Total		3	1	
2020	Regular workers	General office worker	1	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	2	1
		Instructor	0	0
	Non-regular	General office worker	0	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	0	0
		Instructor	0	0
Total		3	3	

In 2019, the number of users of sports facilities was 35,085 (Table 5). On the other hand, the number of users of sports facilities in 2020 was 10,700, and compared to 2019, the number decreased by 24,385. The disabled did not use this facility. In 2020, the number of users per day decreased by 43% compared to 2019.

**Table 5.** The number of users at the multi-purpose playground of Hwawonmyeonggok Sports Park by year (unit: person)

Year	Operating hours	Total number of people used	Non-disabled	Disabled	Number of users per day
2019	05:00~23:00	35,085	35,085	0	105
2020	05:00~23:00	10,700	10,700	0	39

### Dalseong National Sports Center

Dalseong Public Sports Center was created with a total investment of KRW (South Korean Won) 7.8 billion to promote health and recreation for county residents. This massive sports complex, situated on the site of Dalseong Sports Park and occupying a total floor area of 2,581m<sup>2</sup> across three floors (including one underground floor), features diverse sports facilities, including a swimming pool (with six 25-meter lanes, a children's pool, and a body-temperature pool), a fitness center (with aerobics and yoga classes), an office, and a canteen.

Table 6 showed facilities and office workers at Dalseong National Sports Center. The number of regular employees in this facility was 26. There were six full-time swimming instructors for men and two health instructors for men. For women, there were three full-time swimming instructors. The number of sports-related employees did not decrease due to COVID-19.

**Table 6.** Facilities and office workers at the Dalseong National Sports Center (unit: person)

Year	Type of workers		Management personnel	
			Male	Female
2019	Regular workers	General office worker	1	1
		Facilities technology worker	3	0
		Cleaner	2	2
		Instructor (swimming/health)	6/2	3/0
		Guide	0	3
	Non-regular	General office worker	0	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	0	0
		Instructor (swimming/health)	0	0
		Part-time instructor	2	1
Total		16	10	
2020	Regular workers	General office worker	1	1
		Facilities technology worker	3	0
		Cleaner	2	2
		Instructor (swimming/health)	6/2	3
		Guide	0	3
	Non-regular	General office worker	0	0
		Facilities technology worker	0	0
		Cleaner	0	0
		Instructor (swimming/health)	0	0
		Part-time instructor	0	0
Total		14	10	

In 2019, the number of users of sports facilities was 43,479 (Table 7). Many people swam in this facility. Two to five swimmers a week 11,832 and the number of every day was 19,678. On the other hand, the number of users of sports facilities in 2020 was 6,286, and compared to 2019, the number decreased by 37,193. In 2020, the number of users per day decreased by 86% compared to 2019. The disabled used this facility at lot.

**Table 7.** The number of users per program (swimming and health) at the Dalseong National Sports Center by year (unit: person)

Year	Program	Total	Male	Female	Non-disabled		Disabled	
					Male	Female	Male	Female
2019	Swimming 2 to 5 times a week	11,832	4,976	6,856	4,635	6,606	341	250
	Aqua aerobics	1,802	133	1,669	130	1,589	3	80
	Daily swimming	19,678	11,557	8,121	11,557	8,121	0	0
	Survival swimming	8,375	4,187	4,188	4,187	4,188	0	0
	Health	1,760	1,295	465	1,172	445	123	20
	Total	43,447	22,148	21,299	21,681	20,949	467	350
2020	Swimming 2 to 5 times a week	5,006	2,089	2,917	2,014	2,871	75	46
	Aqua aerobics	263	17	246	17	234	0	12
	Daily swimming	1,803	980	823	847	783	133	40
	Survival swimming	1,017	706	311	652	310	54	1
	Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	6,286	2,812	3,474	2,683	3,415	129	59

### Dalseong County Residents Sports Center

The one and only indoor sports center in Dalseong and originally established in 1988, the Gunmin Sports Complex plays a major role in encouraging healthy and athletic activities by county residents. The features and amenities on site include basketball, volleyball and badminton courts, as well as showers, a VIP room, bleachers, and a management office.

Table 8 showed facilities and office workers at the Dalseong County Residents Sports Center. The number of regular employees in this facility was six. There was two silver managers as non-regular workers. The number of sports-related employees did not decrease due to COVID-19.

**Table 8.** Facilities and office workers at the Dalseong County Residents Sports Center (unit: person)

Year	Type of workers		Management personnel	
			Male	Female
2019	Regular workers	General office worker	0	1
		Facilities technology worker	1	0
		Administrative job	2	0
	Non-regular	Silver manager	1	1
	Total		4	2
2020	Regular workers	General office worker		1
		Facilities technology worker	1	0
		Administrative job	2	0
	Non-regular	Silver manager	1	1
	Total		4	2

In 2019, the number of users of sports facilities was 4,724 (Table 9). On the other hand, the number of users of sports facilities in 2020 was 2,568, and compared to 2019, the number decreased by 2,156. The disabled did not use this facility. In 2020, the number of users per day decreased by 46% compared to 2019.

**Table 9.** The number of users at the Dalseong County Residents Sports Center by year (unit: person)

Year	Operating hours	Number of people used			Non-disabled		Disabled		Number of users per day
		Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
2019	9:00~22:00	4,724	463	4,261	259	3,783	204	478	854
2020	9:00~22:00	2,568	236	2,332	215	2,286	21	46	415

## DISCUSSION

There were some sports Facilities at the Dalseong County. For example, Dasa Sports Park is occupying a total area of 45,580 m<sup>2</sup>. This massive sports complex includes one soccer field, one footsal court, two tennis courts, one basketball court, and two foot volleyball courts, in addition to an outdoor stage and a fitness center. Gachang Sports Park was established with KRW 11.5 billion in total investment, over a period of six years from December 2004 to December 2010, with the purpose of encouraging healthy lifestyles and interest in sports by residents. Features on site, sprawling over 49,300 m<sup>2</sup> in total area, include one soccer field, two tennis courts, three foot volleyball courts, one basketball court, and two gate ball courts.

Sport is understood and defined in the widest sense, primarily from the point of view of illness prevention and the promotion and preservation of health. In the past and now, it is becoming a well-known and generally accepted thesis that human beings perceive, learn and experience through bodily movement to the same extent as through purely cognitive means (Lakoff and Johnson, 1999). Although researchers have documented that social anxiety may occur in a wide range of interpersonal and performance situations, little attention has been paid to the potential influence of social anxiety on participation in athletics or physical activity (Norton et al., 2000). Clift et al. (2011) and Coalter (2005) suggest that programmed evaluations have highlighted problems with sustaining community development through sport, including: adverse consequences of withdrawing professional support; misinterpretation of programs as social control rather than community development; the tendency for existing participants to dominate programmed participation, rather than new participants; and the danger of programmed delivery concentrating on sports development rather than community development. Bailey (2005) pointed out not so much gaps in the evidence as a widespread lack of evidence, particularly because of the failure of programmed managers to undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of their programs. Most of the evidence reviewed points to sports and exercise programs contributing to social capital through encouraging social interaction and the development of social relationships and networks. However, given the reliance on cross-sectional analysis and programmed evaluations there remains uncertainty about the direction of causal relationships between participation in sport and exercise and social capital (Taylor et al., 2015).

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