

**A Influence of Significant Others in Socialization into Sports:
The Case of Kenyan Secondary School Athletes**

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Abstract

The study examined the influence of significant others in socialization into sport of athletes in Kenya Secondary Schools. Data was collected through questionnaires from 636 (320 male and 316 female) athletes who were participating in Kenya Secondary Schools inter-provincial championships. Data was analyzed through chi-square, students t-test and one way ANOVA.

Findings indicated that athletes started taking part in sport while in primary school, majority 451 (70.9%) of the athletes were in boarding schools and a bigger percentage 549 (86.2%) were in provincial schools. Athletes family members are/were engaged in sport and significant others influenced socialization into sport athletes in schools with different categories and boarding status. The study recommends that female athletes require more encouragement to continue participating in sport. Parents also need to have positive attitudes towards participation in sport and schools need to provide more sports infrastructure.

Key words: Significant other, socialization, sports