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The exploration of sport experience and model construction of sport participative behavior for the transgender

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The exploration of sport experience and model construction of sport participative behavior for the transgender

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I BACKGROUND

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) removed homosexuality from the list of recognized mental disorders (DSM) in 1973. Since then, the homosexual community had been looking forward to a healthier, more comprehensive life, though still suffering from the socialization of overall fear of AIDS and homophobia. In sport field where masculinity dominates, transgender people are often seen as invisible and unreachable. As time goes by, after the public discourse went through sex emancipation, Feminisms and Queer movement, the dominant gender movement strategy has been dramatically changed into a new type of body politics.

In Taiwan, the homosexual participants grew dramatically after 1990s; gyms, recreation centers and sport organizations targeting homosexual groups were hence flourished. Also, sport communities formed in gay and lesbian group become predominant. For example, “Les Cup” was a lesbian sport gathering holding basketball, volleyball and badminton games all together.

Despite that the homosexual people have acquired more recognition than before, the transgender people are still encountering contradictions both in traditional gender discourse and sport studies. In academic researches lesbians and gays obtained more attention for their larger proportion in gender minority. Researches about the transgender/transsexual people were very limited and arbitrary; therefore deepen the neglect for the GLBITs (gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersexual & transgender) in discourse position. In understanding the GLBITs' leisure sport participative behaviors and their experiences, we could build a friendlier environment and move forward to a real multicultural society.

II OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the research is to construct the leisure sport participative behavior model and to explore more experience about the leisure sport participative condition of GLBITs (gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersexual & transgender) in Taiwan.

III METHODOLOGY

The research took quantitative approach to construct a leisure sport participative behavioral model for LGBITs.

1. **Research Tool:** A self-developed questionnaire entitled "The Questionnaire of Sport Participative Behaviors for LGBT".

2. **Sampling**

The questionnaire is sent to the subjects through "convenience sampling" and "snowball sampling" both in on-line and printed version. There were three approaches to reach the sample. First, we delivered mainly printed version of questionnaires through collegiate clubs and social groups targeting transgender or homosexual people. Second, on-line version of questionnaire was posted on transgender websites, Facebook communities and BBS (Bulletin Board system). Third, the researchers of past academic studies targeting gay, lesbian or transgender people's sport participation were contacted in order to snowball more samples. Of 250 questionnaires distributed, 235 were returned and 231 were valid among the returned. The valid rate was 98%.

3. **Statistics**

(1) **Descriptive Statistics**

(2) **SEM(Structural Equation Models)**

IV RESULTS

1. **Descriptive statistics**

Table 1 Current sex (biological)

	Frequency	Percentage
Female	153	72.2%
Male	49	23.1%
Unisex	10	4.7%
Total	212	100.0%

Table 2 Current gender (Psychological)

	Frequency	Percentage
Female	83	39.2%
Male	68	32.1%
Questioned	23	10.8%
Queer	34	16.0%
Others	3	1.9%
Total	212	100.0%

Table 3 Favorite sport (Individual or team sport)

	Frequency	Percentage
Individual	73	34.4%
Team	134	63.2%
Both	5	2.4%
Total	212	100.0

2. SEM

The model reached acceptable fitness of goodness after slight modification, indicating that the model has fair explanatory power. As the model show below, the variable "motivation of participation" was negatively correlated with the "obstacles of participation". The "motivation of participation" directly influences "identity" without mediating through the "community or organization culture". The "obstacle of participation" has negative influence on the "consideration of coming out". Finally, both motivation and obstacle of participation affected the "participative behavior in leisure sport" through the mediate variable of "community or organization culture".

V CONCLUSION/APPLICATION TO PRACTICE

The degree of "come out" was affected by the safety and concealment of exercising environment, indicating the general sense of hostility from the society still shapes the

LGBITs' behavior in sport. The variable of "community or organization support" played an important mediating role in supporting the whole model, suggesting that the forming of community culture within sport field is significant for LGBITs. To extend this line of research, more studies in understanding transgender groups and promoting sport participation in the gender minority are needed. Furthermore, differences within GLIBTs were profoundly found; therefore a more detailed categorization in transgender group is necessary to further identify their life experience in leisure sport participation.

Key words: Gay, lesbian, transgender, leisure sport participation,