

PROGRESS OF SOCIAL GROUP RELATIONS IN MOUNTAIN TOURISM

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Abstract: The motivation that stands for this study is determined by the proportions that tourism took in the last years, becoming a real social-economic phenomenon, with instructive-educative influences.

In the new context, unanimously accepted by the permanent education, the spreading of these influences is made not only over the pupils and students, but also over all the categories forming the population. The number of persons choosing tourism has grown and is caused by the need of finding a modality to compensate the characteristics of the modern human being (pollution, stress, inadequate nourishment or supercharging, sedentary life). In relationship with all the other components of sports, tourism has a main advantage through its broad availability.

Key words: group, social relations, mountain, tourism

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is, by its impact and consequences, an industry becoming more and more important, a vital component of economic and social life for a growing number of countries, for some being the only real chance of economic success (Minciu, 2002 & Fieroiu, 2008). Through its own and propagated characteristics also, tourism stands out in almost all countries as an activity with a high degree of economic efficiency in comparison with other sectors of the national economy (Bran et al., 2000).

The ones who want to practice tourism are not conditioned by certain qualities, skills or physical aptitudes, and boundaries of age does not exist. Nowadays, tourism was given a much more complex content, economically, socially and spiritually speaking, its growing being seen also in the fact that, yearly, over 1.5 billions of persons representing almost the third part of the global population do travel in tourist purposes, spending over 2000 billions US \$; these means 10% for abroad travels, international tourism being 25-30% of the global commerce (WTO 2010 Annual Report).

Why is tourism so important?

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economic consequences are emphasized by great amount of money spent for tourist services, by the consequences connected to the work market and so on; in Romania, data offered by National Institute for Statistic (2012 Annual) shows that after four years of increasing (2005-2008), in the last two years (2009 and 2010) the number of tourists decreased (table 1).

Table 1. Arrivals of tourists in the establishments with functions of touristic accommodation
(Data source : 2012 Annual, Romanian National Institute of Statistics)

	mii turisti / thou tourists					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total	5805	6216	6972	7125	6141	6073
din care: străini	1430	1380	1551	1466	1276	1346



formative consequences, that stands in four main functions (Becker, 1994 & Dragnea, 2006):

- educational function – which has in view expanding of scientific and cultural knowledge;
- compensatory function – which has in view recovery of body physical and mental resources;
- recreational function – which has in view to made a positive, optimistic climate;
- integrative function – which has in view people socialization.

In this context, we can guess the role and importance of mountain tourism both economically (in Romania, in 2008, from 1.466 thousand foreign tourists – figure 1, 580 thousand representing 39,56%, chose tourism in mountain area – table 2) and formative.

Table 2. Foreign tourists incoming, by destinations
(Data source: 2009 Annual, Romanian National Institute of Statistics)

By zones	YEAR	MU	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Mountain - cities	Thou.		343	340	340	312	341
Balneary	Thou.		302	307	360	330	346
Seaside	Thou.		297	327	376	304	358
Mountain – villages and touristic routes	Thou.		111	93	166	180	239
Historical places	Thou.		70	59	68	62	80
Religious pilgrimage	Thou.		4	3	2	4	4
River cruises	Thou.		2	1	1	4	18
Circuits	Thou.		17	11	7	7	5
Other places	Thou.		153	89	82	100	75

AIMS

In the framework of a wider research conducted through sociological survey, using questionnaire method, we aimed - among others - to emphasize the characteristics of social relationships within the group (first year students - Faculty of Physical Education and Sports) and evolution of its cohesion in order to improve psychosocial, relational and communication climate.

We tried to get primary information, asking members of a group with well-defined boundaries (students from an year of study) to indicate the colleagues / partners who would like to join for a concrete actions or in a future situations. It is about to put subjects in natural conditions of choice, ensuring real motivation. Sociological study had a threefold orientation:

- ⇒ knowing the affinities expressed by members of the group and therefore the relationships within the team;
- ⇒ better knowledge of the subjects of their own positions in the group;
- ⇒ improving relations and group psychosocial environment through specific psychological actions.

HYPOTHESIS

We proposed the hypothesis that knowind and acting on interpersonal relations, we can indirectly exert an influence on school performance, sports performance and vice versa. The information thus collected can be used for formative purpose: shall be communicated to the involved persons the collective opinion about them (avoiding any nomination).

Within individual calls, the subject is made aware of the qualities and defects (that he possible ignores), although he possess in the judgment of the group members. Are expected, thus, the reduction of the illusion in the minds of its position in the group or remove perceptual gaps, which favors the formation of a self-image more fair (Dewey, 1990, Cucos, 1996).

RESEARCH METHODS

Using documentary method was essential for theoretical foundations of the study and for obtaining scientific informations, which in addition to informations from own sources stands behind the research. We used also, the method of sociological survey, applying the questionnaire before and after the practical activity (the same protocol for all subjects), aiming to highlight the sociological structure of the group (Georgescu, 1979). The questionnaire was a combined one, including questions with closed, at choice and free answers. Data processing was performed using graphical method and sociometric method (sociogram).

The data were processed, converted into comparative tables, then we proceeded to calculate the preferential status index (PSI), also introduced in tables sociometric matrix form (figure 1).

CONTENT OF THE EXPERIMENT

To function, a group must have a common task, to produce, to achieve, to succeed. Personal needs that members bring in groups require solves, solutions, needs can be met only through the interrelations between them (Dragnea, 2006). Because of the importance of processes (process of implementation of tasks, the process of communication, affective-appreciative process, the influence process) that occur within the group - in terms of the importance of the tasks – it is important to know the group dynamics, including through sociometric instruments (Dragnea et al., 2006).

In this investigation, we included a series of questions that give content sociometric test which aims to highlight the characteristics of relationships within the group and its cohesion development to improve psychosocial climate, relational and communication. The character of this questionnaire was mainly sociological but also for personality, aiming to:

- highlight the socio-cultural, instructional and economical level of the subjects;
- know of educational influences which have previously received, including how they were initiated into physical education and sport practice and possibly in mountain tourism practice;
- highlight the sociological structure of the group;
- assess how subjects relate to specific conditions of tents camp and availability for individual involvement in joint activities.

RESULTS

After we applied tests, we codified the subjects initials first and last names to facilitate the procedure, giving to each initial a number from 1 to 48, introducing into comparative tables (Tables 3 and 4) and then we proceeded to calculate the preferential status index (PSI), also introduced in table form sociometric matrix. For example, we developed a sociogram (figure 1) for the data obtained in items 23 and 24 - Questionnaire 1.

Table 3. Options polarization

No. crt	Initials-cod	+	-	PSI	No. crt	Initials-cod	+	-	PSI
1	SC-38	15	1	0.32	25	TV-47	1	1	0
2	BA-1	8	18	-0.23	26	SA-36	0	2	-0.04
3	BRB-6	8	0	0.18	27	BRS-7	0	1	-0.02
4	FAM-12	3	1	0.05	28	PD-28	0	1	-0.02
5	TA-43	3	0	0.07	29	SB-37	0	1	-0.02
6	HCF-17	2	6	-0.1	30	BAC-2	0	0	0
7	PM-30	2	18	-0.37	31	BAL-3	0	0	0
8	RM-33	2	3	-0.02	32	BAS-4	0	0	0
9	SN-42	2	0	0.05	33	BAS-f5	0	0	0
10	TL-48	2	1	0.02	34	BS-8	0	0	0
11	CA-9	1	1	0	35	CAM-10	0	0	0
12	DMI-11	1	1	0	36	FC-13	0	0	0
13	GyV-16	1	0	0.02	37	FM-14	0	0	0
14	HN-18	1	6	-0.12	38	GP-15	0	0	0
15	KA-19	1	0	0.02	39	KG-22	0	0	0
16	KC-20	1	0	0.02	40	MVM-24	0	0	0
17	KB-21	1	0	0.02	41	NM-25	0	0	0
18	KL-23	1	0	0.02	42	OR-26	0	0	0
19	PSz-31	1	1	0	43	PB-27	0	0	0
20	PTS-32	1	6	-0.12	44	PE-29	0	0	0
21	SR-40	1	0	0.02	45	RTI-34	0	0	0
22	SzT-41	1	0	0.02	46	RTR-35	0	0	0
23	TD-45	1	0	0.02	47	SC-f39	0	0	0
24	TR-46	1	1	0	48	TC-44	0	0	0

It is surprising to note the radical changes in the structure and relationships of the group, reflected in responses to the questionnaire no. 2, which once more highlight the educational valences of such activities and need to be valued in relation to the population of all ages, but especially in relation to the young people.

We believe that all issues raised and conclusions should return - in a relationship of feed-back - to research subjects, in their dual feature as current subjects and future trainers.

Table 4. Representation of preferential type values

Number of preferences	Subjects with the same preferences	PSI	Psychosocial value
15	1	0,32	POPULAR
8	1	0,18	
3	1	0,07	ACCEPTED
2	2	0,05	
1	9	0,02	
1	24	0	INDIFFERENT
-3	3	-0,02	REJECTED
-2	1	-0,04	
-5	2	-0,12	
-10	1	-0,23	
-16	1	-0,37	

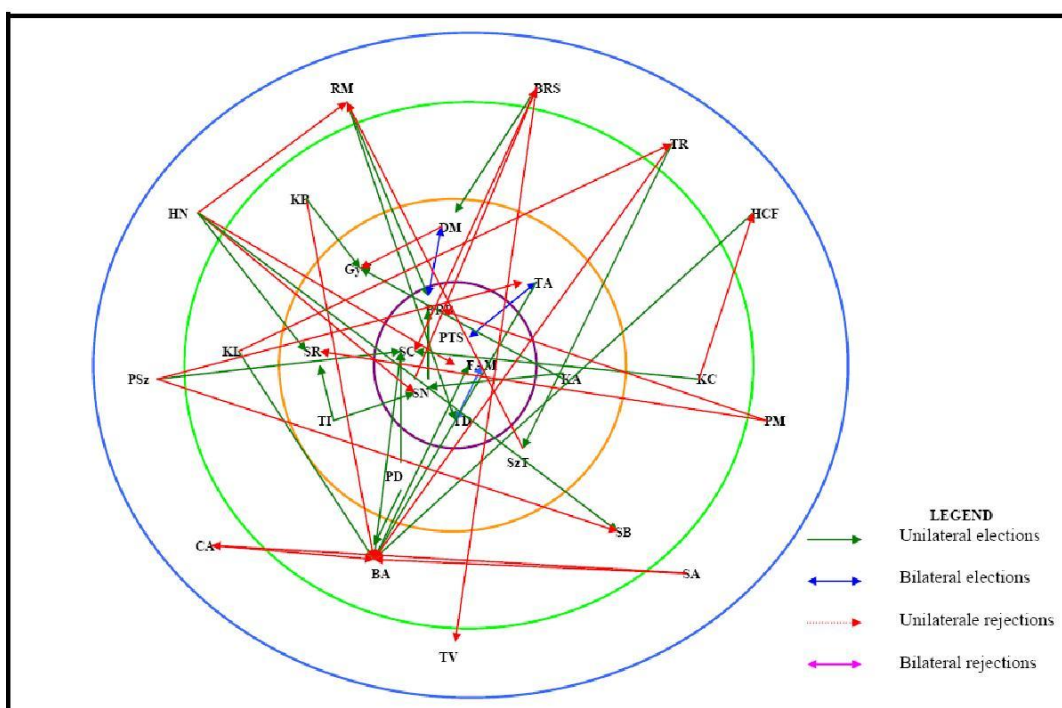


Figure 1. Collective sociogram

CONCLUSIONS

To make our students active partners in instructive and educational act, it is important to know and to make known, including intimate details of the group, how it is structured, informal relationships that are

occurring in the group, all of the relations group schema, to obtain information on isolates of team members, those who fail to adapt, those who are most approved and so on.

In summary, we highlight some aspects:

- top wanted partners changed significantly: the original agreed is out of „top 10”, instead came to be agreed other subjects, symmetrical aspect applies to unwanted partners, in fact there was a reversal of valuing;
- similarly, if initially the most „popular” subject was 38 with five adhesions, finally it fell below average, coming into focus other subjects considered „neutral”;
- did not change significantly „unsympathetic” subjects ranking, also the best organizers ranking;
- one important aspect is the knowledge and recognition sociometric's leadership, sense in which we can say that the initial locations 1, 2, 3, became 7, 3 and 4, and the final locations 1, 2, 3, came from the initial sites 9, 24 and 2;

Knowing the stage reached in forming cohesion by calculating cohesion index before an important step for the group and some period thereafter, we will show the effectiveness of the approaches. Index calculation at different stages, reveals the direction in which the group involves: increased cohesion, stagnant or in decline (Havârneanu, 2000). Phenomena that can produce such changes are numerous, as such is not only desirable, but also necessary to conduct regular sociometric test application and thus to compare results and detect factors that caused these changes.

Aknowledgements

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