

# Trends in Student's Opinions about the Olympics

SAKURO HIBINO

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## Abstract

It asked for opinions about the Olympics from those who were not athletes of the games, especially from same university students and then it considered the Olympics from the tendency of the respondent's attitude towards them.

The Olympics is a good place for spread of propaganda as the Games become even larger, and the economic functions are magnified. And it is just, this function of propaganda which makes the Olympics a natural sphere for politics. The Olympics are changing and slowly becoming separate from the athletes themselves. This is a time when all people, including the I.O.C., the athletes and every those who watch the Olympics, have to reconsider this wonderful event.

## Introduction

The Olympic Games have been held in one city after another an individual event, not an event among nations, aiming at world peace and international friendship. But various kinds of problems have been coming up for a long time now. One was a terrible incident. Another became an event among nations, not just individuals. It has been difficult to hold the Olympics in one city only because of the great number of medals involved and the enormous expenses. Too close connections between the Olympics, politics and the economy have come about through those problems.

It asked for opinions about the Olympics from those who were not athletes of the games, especially from same university students<sup>1)</sup> and then it considered the Olympics from the tendency of the respondent's attitude towards them.

## Methods

1. Time of questionnaire; One month before and one month after the Moscow Olympics in 1980 and the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.
2. Participants; F. prefecture university students, plus a few others. 492 respondents in 1980, 236 in 1984.
3. Method of investigation; A questionnaire was delivered to each individual and returned after answering.

## Results and Discussion

The results are shown in the Table 1— about male and female— and are made into the Table 2— about the athletic club members and the members who didn't belong to an athletic club.

1. About this interest in the Olympics. Males took a decreasing interest in the Olympics afterwards, especially those who didn't belong to an athletic club. Both males and females showed a decreasing tendency

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Department of Health and Physical Education, Faculty of Living Science, Kyoto Prefectural University, Shimogamo, Kyoto 606, Japan

in their interest, but 65%~70% of them still had a little interest.

2. About the scale of the Olympics. Respondents showed a tendency to hope that many people would take part. 70% of them admitted that the Olympics had become quite enormous, especially the athletic club members had a strong tendency in this direction, naturally.

3. About the reporting of the number of acquired medals. Causing this, 50% of the males and 30% of the females in the athletic club had an interest in hearing this news. But 20% of the males and 40% of the females thought that reporting about them wasn't needed every day.

Table 1. A tendency of the student's attitude to the Olympics —male and female— (%)

	Male				Female			
	1980		1984		1980		1984	
	before	after	before	after	before	after	before	after
N.	254	238	120	129	238	253	101	107
<b>The interest to the Olympics</b>								
1. Yes	79.1	71.8	72.5	65.1	81.9	79.1	58.4	71.0
2. No	5.1	10.1	5.0	6.2	2.1	2.8	7.9	3.7
3. Not definite	15.8	18.1	21.7	27.1	16.0	18.1	33.7	23.4
4. No answer	0	0	0.8	1.6	0	0	0	1.9
<b>Scale of the Olympics</b>								
1. Reduction	29.1	25.2	19.2	17.8	26.1	20.2	10.9	14.0
2. Many entries	52.0	58.9	16.7	72.8	55.0	58.9	66.3	69.2
3. Not definite	18.9	15.9	15.8	7.8	18.9	20.9	16.8	14.0
4. No answer	0	0	3.3	1.6	0	0	6.0	2.8
<b>Reporting the numbers of medals</b>								
1. Have much interest	51.2	55.0	50.0	45.7	31.1	41.1	31.7	31.8
2. Unnecessary	16.1	16.0	15.0	14.0	16.0	7.1	16.8	12.1
3. Unnecessary every day	24.8	20.2	23.4	21.7	49.1	45.9	45.5	42.2
4. Not definite	7.9	8.8	8.3	11.6	3.8	5.9	2.0	9.3
5. The rest	0	0	2.5	0	0	0	4.0	0.9
6. No answer	0	0	0.8	7.0	0	0	0	3.7
<b>Political interference</b>								
1. Should not	49.2	52.1	65.9	60.4	58.0	58.9	73.2	65.4
2. Inevitable	11.0	16.0	2.5	10.9	8.0	7.9	2.0	5.6
3. Impossible to be independent	30.0	18.9	15.8	17.8	21.8	21.9	14.9	15.9
4. Interference for helping only	7.9	7.1	5.0	3.1	7.2	5.1	0	1.9
5. Not definite	1.9	5.9	2.5	3.9	4.2	7.1	6.9	4.7
6. The rest	0	0	2.5	0.8	0	0	2.0	0.9
7. No answer	0	0	0	3.1	0	0	0	5.6
<b>The future of the Olympics</b>								
1. Extinct	11.0	13.9	9.2	3.1	8.0	5.9	10.9	14.0
2. Necessity for improving	59.8	60.9	65.0	59.7	71.8	71.1	68.3	51.4
3. Continue to exist	18.9	15.1	14.2	26.4	12.2	11.1	8.9	21.5
4. Not definite	9.1	10.1	7.5	7.0	8.0	11.9	6.9	5.6
5. The rest	0	0	3.3	1.5	0	0	4.0	0
6. No answer	1.2	0	0.8	2.3	0	0	1.0	7.5

Table 2. A tendency of the student's attitude to the Olympics—the athletic club members and the members who didn't belong to an athletic club—

	Male												Female											
	Athletes						Non						Athletes						Non					
	1980		1984		1980		1984		1980		1984		1980		1984		1980		1984					
	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a				
N.	113	104	56	47	141	134	64	82	60	72	15	178	181	81	92									
The interest to the Olympics	84.1	76.9	66.0	74.5	85.1	68.7	78.1	59.8	86.7	77.8	73.3	80.9	80.1	58.0	70.6									
1. Yes	2.0	7.7	3.6	2.1	5.7	11.1	6.3	8.5	0	5.5	6.7	2.8	2.2	7.4	3.3									
2. No	13.3	15.4	28.6	23.4	9.2	20.2	15.6	29.3	13.3	16.7	20.0	16.3	17.7	34.6	23.9									
3. Not definite	0	0	1.8	0	0	0	0	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.2									
4. No answer																								
Scale of the Olympics	25.6	23.1	12.5	25.5	31.2	26.9	25.0	13.4	23.3	18.1	60.0	27.0	21.0	12.3	6.5									
1. Reduction	59.3	62.5	75.0	61.7	46.8	55.2	49.9	79.3	60.0	59.7	33.3	52.8	59.1	65.5	75.1									
2. Many entries	15.1	14.4	12.5	8.5	21.3	17.9	18.8	7.3	16.7	22.2	6.7	20.2	19.9	17.3	15.2									
3. Not definite	0	0	0	4.3	0.7	0	6.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.9	3.2									
4. No answer																								
Reporting the numbers of medals	53.9	60.6	53.5	46.8	49.0	52.2	46.8	45.0	25.0	36.1	39.9	33.1	43.1	32.1	30.4									
1. Have much interest	13.3	14.4	10.7	10.6	17.7	15.7	18.8	15.9	16.7	8.3	20.0	15.2	7.2	18.5	10.8									
2. Unnecessary	26.5	17.3	30.4	25.5	24.1	22.4	17.2	19.5	48.3	44.5	26.7	50.0	45.8	43.2	44.7									
3. Unnecessary every day	5.3	7.7	3.6	4.3	9.2	9.7	12.5	15.9	10.0	11.1	0	1.7	3.9	2.5	9.8									
4. Not definite	0	0	1.8	0	0	0	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.7	1.1									
5. The rest	0.9	0	0	12.8	0	0	1.6	3.7	0	0	6.7	0	0	0	3.2									
6. No answer																								
Political interference	57.5	52.9	64.2	61.7	43.3	50.8	67.2	59.7	58.4	63.9	60.0	59.0	56.3	72.9	66.4									
1. Should not	9.7	16.3	5.4	12.8	10.6	16.4	9.4	9.8	8.3	8.3	13.3	7.9	7.2	2.5	4.3									
2. Inevitable	23.9	16.3	16.1	17.0	34.8	20.9	15.6	18.3	23.3	15.3	26.7	20.8	23.2	16.0	14.1									
3. Impossible to be independent	7.1	7.7	7.1	2.1	9.2	6.7	3.1	3.7	8.3	4.2	0	7.3	6.1	4.9	2.2									
4. Interference for helping only	1.8	6.8	3.6	2.1	2.1	5.2	1.6	4.9	0	8.3	0	5.0	7.2	0	5.4									
5. Not definite	0	0	1.8	0	0	0	3.1	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	4.9	1.1									
6. The rest	0	0	1.8	4.3	0	0	0	2.4	1.7	0	0	0	0	2.5	6.5									
7. No answer																								
The future of the Olympics	8.0	9.6	5.4	4.3	14.2	17.9	12.5	2.4	3.3	2.8	53.3	9.0	7.1	9.9	7.6									
1. Extinct	61.1	63.5	66.0	57.4	58.9	58.2	64.0	61.1	80.0	72.2	40.0	69.1	70.7	66.7	53.3									
2. Necessity for improving	23.0	17.3	21.4	31.9	16.3	12.7	7.8	23.2	13.4	9.7	0	12.9	11.1	9.9	25.0									
3. Continue to exist	7.1	9.6	5.4	6.4	9.9	11.2	9.4	7.3	3.3	15.3	0	9.0	11.1	7.4	6.5									
4. Not definite	0	0	1.8	0	0	0	4.7	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	4.9	0									
5. The rest	0.8	0	0	0	0.7	0	1.6	3.7	0	0	6.7	0	0	1.2	7.6									
6. No answer																								

Athletes = Athletic club members. Non = The members who didn't belong to an athletic club. b = One month before the Games. a = One month after the Games.

4. About political interference. 50%~60% of the males, females, the athletic club members and those who didn't belong to an athletic club had the opinion that politics should not interfere with the Olympics. This opinion is on the increase. But 10%~20% of them thought it impossible for the Olympics to become independent of politics. This opinion is on the decrease.

5. About the future of the Olympics. 60% of them thought that it was necessary to improve the Games. 10% felt that the Olympics would become extinct as they are new. Another answered that the Olympics will continue to exist. Many students who belonged to an athletic club felt keenly the necessity for improving the Games. Many students who didn't belong to an athletic club had the opinion that the Olympics would become extinct. On the other hand, many who belonged to an athletic club answered that the Games will continue to exist. These tendencies remain unchanged.

The students were much interested in the Olympics, admitting that they have become enormous in scale. They were interested in the number of acquired medals, but felt that reporting about them every day wasn't necessary. Also, many students had a strong opinion that politics should not interfere with the Games.

On the other hand, a few thought that it would be impossible for the Olympics to become independent of politics. Moreover, many admitted that it is necessary to improve them. To prove these tendencies, It compared them with the results of a newspaper questionnaire causing the opinions of ordinary citizens<sup>2)</sup>. The students had less interest than the citizens. But, they denied the need for political interference 20% more than had the citizens. There is a gap between the Olympics and the students, and those who belong to an athletic club. Before the Olympics was held, students interest was raised they the media's active propagandizing. But it can not help thinking that over all students had less interest in the Games.

Neutrality from politics is a main principle of the Olympics, but still politics interferes more and more. Many problems are born out of the Games. One that is deeply concerned with the Olympics is the definitiveness of amateurs. They seem almost to be unfit for the actual circumstances in today's sports. The Olympics is a good place for the spread of propaganda as the Games become even larger, and the economic functions are magnified. And it is just, this function of propaganda which makes the Olympics a natural sphere for politics.

The Olympics are changing and slowly becoming separate from the athletes themselves. To reduce the number of participants, to stop reporting the daily acquires of medals, to put the brakes the showing scale of the event, are same ways for improvement. This is a time when all people, including the I.O.C., the athletes and every those who watch the Olympics, have to reconsider this wonderful event.

#### Reference

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#### 要 旨

オリンピック大会参加競技者でない人達とくに大学生のこれらオリンピックに対する態度の傾向からオリンピックについて考察をした。

巨大化につれて宣伝の良き場となり、経済的機能が拡大された、さらに宣伝機能は政治の舞台ともしてしまった。競技する者の側から全く離れて一大イベントに変わってしまったのである。I.O.Cも競技者も、さらにオリンピックを見る側も、すべての人々がオリンピックについて考え直す時であろう。