

## SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES – SUITABLE FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

### Team

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### Description of the problem

**The identified problem is the low participation of pupils in both curricula and extra-curricula sports activities practiced in the school sports facilities, which has negative effects on their health and physical development. Usually the reasons are seen in the unsatisfactory conditions of the sports facilities. But why it has more negative impact on girls compared to boys?**

### Object of the survey

**The survey focuses on data for one representative school in Sofia – 119 Secondary Comprehensive School.**

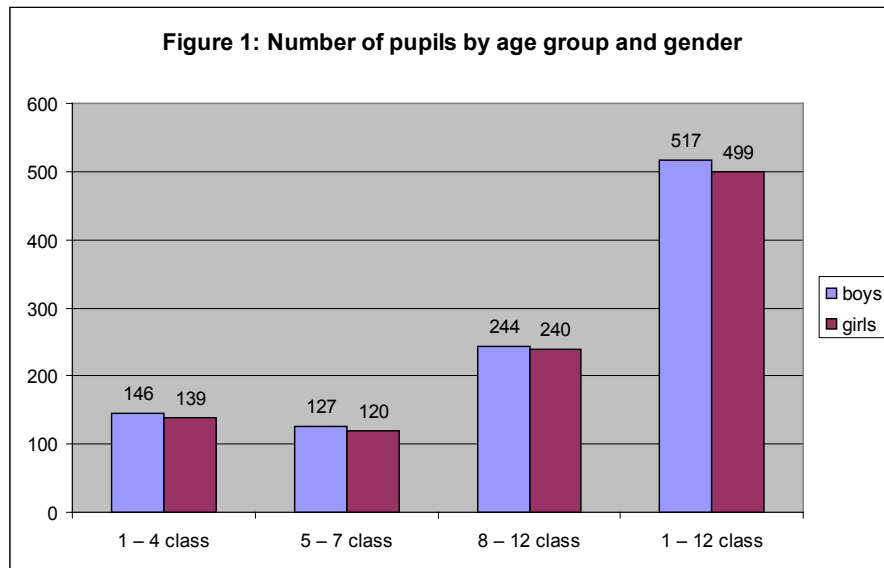
**The school was chosen for several reasons: (i) it includes pupils from 1 to 12 class; (ii) it has own sports facilities, used for curricula and extra-curricular sports activities; and (iii) allows data comparison as boys and girls are equally represented. The survey focused on the use of school sports facilities by the pupils from different age group by gender and the general conditions of the sports facilities.**

### Object ives of the survey

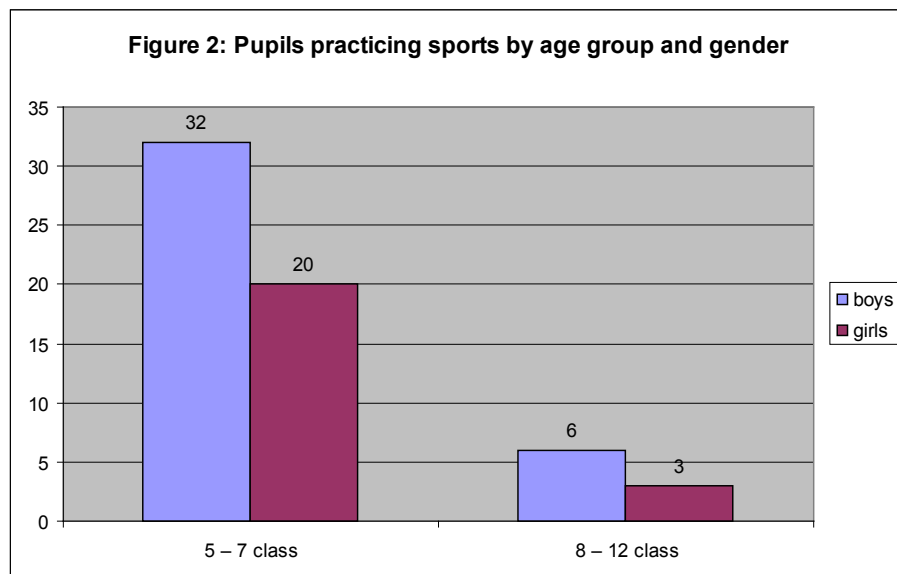
**To determine the main trends regarding the participation of pupils in sports activities from a gender perspective and make recommendations.**

## Data (R1, R2)

The data for R1 (representation) show, that for all age groups the number of girls and boys is approximately equal (Figure 1).



Only 32 boys and 20 girls from 5-7 class and 6 boys and 3 girls from 8-12 class practice some sport. Furthermore, the proportion of boys and girls practicing sports is 2/1 for all age groups (Figure 2).



**Concerning the R2 (resources) the school has its own gymnasium and outdoor playgrounds for basketball, football, volleyball.**

**For 2007 the Sofia Municipal Council approved 3.7 million BGN for the repair and renovation of nearly 30 school gymnasiums and playgrounds. Within this subsidy the school received 50 000 BGN for repair of the gymnasium and the locker rooms.**

**Except for regular classes the sports facilities are used by the sports sections to the school and by external clubs based on an agreement with the school ensuring the participation of the pupils. Based on the observations of the team and discussions with the teachers and the students the outdoor school sport facilities are mainly used by boys after classes and at weekends by men, living in the neighborhood.**

### **Analysis and conclusions (R3)**

**The data in R1 shows clearly that the share of the pupils practicing sports is extremely low: 21.1% for 5-7 class and only 1.9% for 8-12 class (there is no data available for 1-4 class).**

**There is an obvious and alarming trend of decreasing the number of pupils both in curricular and extra-curricular sport activities with the age increase, especially for girls: from 16.7% to 1.3% i.e. the share of girls practicing sports diminishes nearly 13 times. For the boys it is nearly 10 times. There is also reluctance to and non-attendance of the regular classes in physical education or practicing sports in the free time, which is more definitely seen with girls.**

**One of the reasons is in the bad condition and/or inadequate space of the indoor facilities including the locker rooms, the bathrooms and the WCs, which influences stronger the girls as the boys are more adaptable to unfavorable hygiene conditions. Another major reason is that the gymnasium and the playgrounds are suitable for sports preferred by the boys, like football and basketball.**

## Action Plan

### *The school should:*

- **Attract more girls in sports like football, basketball, martial arts for which there are more facilities; such sports create new skills and talents for the girls;**
- **Stimulate the formation of sections for sports usually preferred by girls like badminton, volleyball, swimming, gymnastics, yoga etc.**
- **Conduct an enquiry for the sports preferred by boys and girls as well as the timing and the place of practicing;**
- **Introduce more attractive teaching strategies in physical education classes to motivate pupils.**

### *The Municipality should:*

- **Do a full evaluation from gender perspective of the existing sports facilities and the type and amount of financial resources necessary for the renovation of the sports facilities that would be included in the Municipal Financial Programme.**
- **Reconstruct and renovate through the annual repair works the existing sports facilities into modern multifunctional gymnasiums and playgrounds allowing simultaneously practicing of different sports in order to answer the different interests of girls and boys. This would, on one hand, ensure equal access and more equal use of this municipal resource, and, on the other – to better quality of education in municipal schools.**