

Gender Roles of Turkish College Level Futsal Players¹

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Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to compare the gender role among college level male and female futsal players. Therefore, 77 college level futsal players (37 females and 40 males) were selected randomly from a Nationally University Tournament teams in Turkey on March 2016. It was used to determine sex roles using the Bem Sex Role Inventory. The data were analyzed by Mann Whitney U test and the significance level of p was set as <.05. The results indicated no significant differences in male and female players' masculinity scores ($p > .05$). Conversely, the feminine sex role was significantly higher female players than males ($p < .05$). Thus, it seems that the high femininity is an important factor for college-level female futsal players in Turkey.

Keywords: Bem sex role inventory, femininity, masculinity

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Introduction

The term of gender role has been used to refer to attributes, preferences, characteristics, stereotypes, expectations, and behaviors. An individual's gender role was defined as a function of the aspect of masculine and feminine characteristics rather than biological sex (Bem, 1981).

Therefore, characteristics were called "masculine" if they were evaluated to be more appropriate for men than women in society. Similarly, "feminine" characteristics were those that were assessed to be more appropriate for women than men. Androgynous people are those who score same as high on the masculine and feminine scales (Bem, 1974).

Sport is one of those life areas which are clearly divided in the men's and women's worlds (Salminen, 1990). Previous studies suggest that gender identity is related to sport participation: female participants are largely androgynous and masculine (Clément-Guillotin and Fontayne, 2011), and these females participate more in masculine sports (Chalabaev, Sarrazin, Fontayne, Boich, and Clément-Guillotin, 2013). Sex-typed individuals were also found to correlate with more masculine traits to individuals engaging in masculine sports branches, and more feminine traits to those engaging in feminine sports branches, than non sex-typed individuals (Matteo, 1988).

With regard to gender stereotype research has indicated that works relating with gender-role and aggression have shown that highly masculine men are more apparently aggressive than men scoring low in masculinity on implicit aggression and that femininity estimated lower hostility (Steenbarger and Greenberg, 1990; Weisbuch, Beal, and O'Neal, 1999). The purpose of the present study was to investigate the gender differences in gender role orientation among college-level futsal players in Turkey. Based on previous research and theory, it was hypothesized that it would be significant differences in gender roles tendency between female and male futsal players, also it would be female futsal players more high femininity scores from their masculinity scores.

Methodology

Participants

Participants were 77 (37 females, 40 male) college level futsal players in the age range of 18-26 (20.92 ± 1.71) years, and their futsal experience 2 to 11 years ($M=5.24$, $SD=2.77$) who the teams participated in the TUSF (Turkish University Sport Federation) tournament for selection to Futsal First League between universities in Turkey at March 2016. Prior that applying of survey, it was taken permissions from their administrations. The players volunteered participated in this study at sport complex. It was made a verbal explanation relating purpose of study and the time of filling out the questionnaire.

Instrument

The Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI) is an extensively used instrument in studies relating gender role. In BSRI, gender-typed characteristics of males and females were improved according to their social attractiveness in society. The gender-role type of a person is defined as a function of the difference between masculine and feminine characteristics rather than sex (Bem, 1981). However, traits were called masculine if they were judged to be more appropriate for males than females in society and feminine if they were more agreeable for females than males. A person who showed both masculine and feminine traits was called androgynous (Bem, 1974). The data in this study were gathered via a personal information

form and the Bem Sex Role Inventory, which was developed by Bem (1974, 1981) and adapted, to Turkish by (Dökmen, 1999). The BSRI was developed to measure masculine, feminine, and androgynous personality styles among men and women. The original BSRI includes 60 items (20 masculine, 20 feminine, and 20 neutral). The scale reliability coefficients reported in the BSRI manual range from 0.75 to 0.90. In the present study, gender stereotypes were measured with the short-form of the BSRI. Participants assessed how well each of the 40 (20 masculine, 20 feminine) personality characteristics describes themselves by using a 7-point scale (1 = almost never true, 7 = almost always true). The short-form of Turkish BSRI showed acceptable level reliability values Cronbach's α (Cronbach, 1951) for femininity items .74, masculinity items .79.

Data Analysis

Normality Tests for Bem Sex Role Inventory were conducted. Cronbach's alpha for reliability of the instrument was also calculated (Cronbach and Meehl, 1955). Mann–Whitney U tests were performed to compare the genders. The statistical analysis was conducted by SPSS 18 statistical package software for Windows.

Skewness, Kurtosis, and Normality Tests for Bem Sex Role Inventory

It was accounted skewness and kurtosis are two main ways in which a distribution can deviate from normal. We divide the skewness (kurtosis) statistic by its standard error is greater than $z + 3.29$ ($p < .001$, two-tailed test) (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2007).

It was found that acceptable limits of agreement the masculinity standard skewness score of $2.78 < \pm 3.29$, as well as the standard kurtosis score, was acceptable ($.003 < \pm 3.29$). Also, acceptable limits of agreement the femininity standard skewness score of $1.68 < \pm 3.29$, as well as the standard kurtosis score, was acceptable ($.12 < \pm 3.29$).

A Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used further analyses to test for normality on the main dependent variable for masculinity. The distribution of masculinity scores for the samples, $D(77) = 0.128$, $p < .05$, for femininity, $D(77) = 0.07$, $p > .05$. The result indicating that the masculinity score data wasn't normally distributed in our samples.

Findings

Table 1. Mann Whitney U test results the Turkish college level futsal players

Sex role	Gender	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks	U	Z	p
Femininity	<i>Female</i>	37	48.03	1777	406	-3.409	.001*
	<i>Male</i>	40	30.65	1226			
Masculinity	<i>Female</i>	37	35.8	1324.5	621.5	-1.209	.227
	<i>Male</i>	40	41.96	1678.5			

**P value of $< .05$ is statistically significant

Because the variance of the dependent variable was unequal, Mann–Whitney U tests were performed to compare the genders (see Table 1). The female futsal players have significantly higher mean ranks (48.03) than the males (30.65) on the femininity, $U = 406$, $p = .001$, $r = -.39$, which, according to Cohen (1988), is a small to medium effect size. However, there was

no significant difference in the mean ranks of male futsal players (41.96) and females (35.8) on masculinity, $U = 621.5$, $p = .227$, $r = -.11$, which is considered a lower effect size.

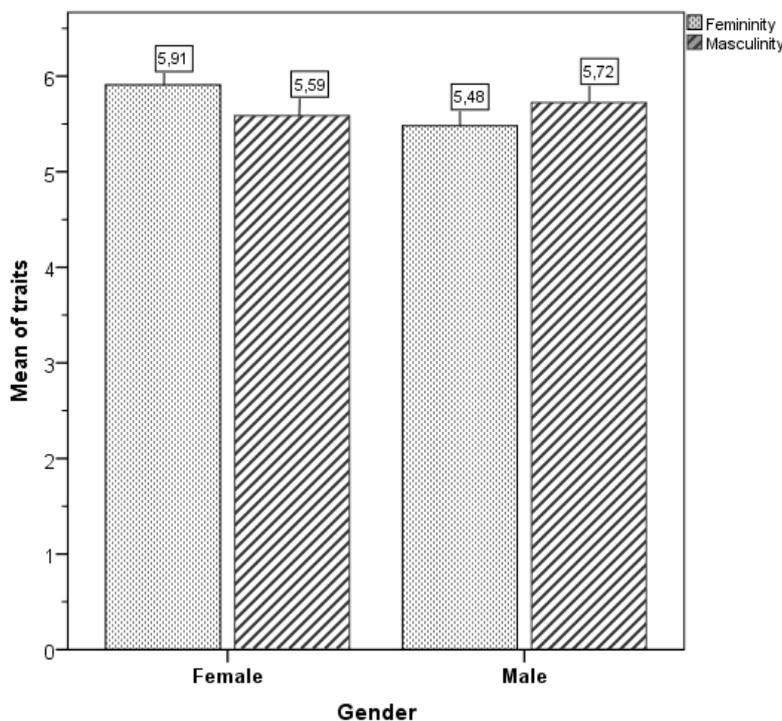


Figure 1. Femininity and masculinity traits male and female college level futsal players

If we look at the Figure 1, males and females differed from each other according to femininity and masculinity score. Females have significantly higher femininity score from masculinity score while males have high masculinity score from femininity score.

Conclusion

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the gender differences in gender role orientation among college-level futsal players in Turkey. The findings of this study indicate that there are significant gender role differences between males and females as expected. Based on our hypothesis that there were significantly differences in gender role orientation between female and male futsal players, especially with regard to the feminine. (Lantz and Schroeder, 1999) found that high athletic identifiers (both male and female) reported significantly higher masculine gender role orientations. (Harrison and Lynch, 2005) found that the athletes influenced by the public's perceptions of gender role orientations.

In sports, (Koivula, 1995) showed that sex-typed individuals perceive masculine activities as more masculine than other individuals and feminine activities as more feminine. (Andre and Holland, 1995) reported higher masculinity scores for male athletes compared with male non-athletes. In addition, female athletes had higher masculinity scores than non-athlete women.

The gymnasts represented a more masculine, less feminine, less androgynous, and more undifferentiated group by comparison with either the normative sample or the track-and-field sample (Edwards, Gordin, and Henschen, 1984). Female athletes often have to prove themselves on the court to overcome barriers, stereotypes, and notions about their physical

appearance and athleticism (Rayburn, Chen, and Phillips, 2015). Both men and women scored higher on femininity than on masculinity (Özkan and Lajunen, 2005). Iranian female and male futsal players had greater masculinity than femininity, and there was no significant difference between sex role of two sexes (Khayat, Shojai, and Daneshfar, 2013).

Team sport females were found to be as masculine and androgynous as their male counterparts, presumably due to the fact that the team sports examined in this study (basketball, volleyball) emphasize traditionally masculine characteristics that are important to successful performance (Wrisberg, Draper, and Everett, 1988). Conversely current literature, our test results showed that the female futsal players had more feminine characteristics than males did, whereas males hadn't significantly masculine characteristics than females did. By way of contrast, individual sport females were found to be more feminine and less masculine than individual sport males (Wrisberg et al., 1988). In previous studies applied to Turkish university students before 25 years ago, it was shown that men scored higher on the BSRI masculinity scale than women (Dökmen, 1999).

However, the masculinity and femininity scores of Turkish university students were compared both within and between men and women (Özkan and Lajunen, 2005) found that women scored higher on femininity than men scored, whereas no differences between the sexes were found on masculinity. In another research, Kızılaslan and Diktaş (2011) found that Turkish student teachers, especially males, still have a traditional perspective on gender roles and also it was found that university education does not have a role in changing existing value judgments in relation to gender. However, in another recent study conducted on university students by Turkmen (2018) pointed out that religiosity as a cultural value doesn't have any negative effects on the female participation in sport.

Current literature findings compared with our results relating with sex roles of Turkish university students that female college level futsal players have adopted a more feminine gender role within the last ten years.

Several limitations were inherent in this study that should be accounted for in future research. This research does not represent all universities in Turkey. First, the samples in the present study were limited to college students in ten universities. Furthermore, not all of the players in the scenarios were depicted equally. Additionally, only perceptions of female and male futsal players were examined. Adding gender role perceptions of other sports to future studies might improve understanding the relationships in our research. In the future, it can be more research needed understanding gender roles of athletes.

The gender role perceptions of male players participating in futsal might be quite different from female. The gender role in sport and society is continuing to develop and more research is needed to show how this perception affects the attitudes and behaviors of athletes. As a specific recommendation, researchers should consider the perception of both male and female players on gender stereotypes.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors have not declared any conflicts of interest.

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