

# Antecedents Influencing The Development Of Excellence Of Thai Athletes

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## ABSTRACT

Sport has a significant impact on the country's social and economic growth. It is vital to have sports staff and a policy to drive sport towards excellence in order to create stability, prosperity, and sustainability. The objectives of this research were to; 1) study the level of development of excellence of Thai athletes in terms of club and sports associations activities, government policy, family activities, and motivation; 2) study the causal factors of club and sports association activities, government policy, family activities, and the aspect of motivation that influences the development of excellence of Thai athletes; and 3) propose a model for the development of excellence of Thai athletes. This research uses a mixed research method. It consists of quantitative research and qualitative research. In quantitative research, stratified random sampling from undergraduate students of National Sports University in central region of Thailand was used. The sample size was determined using the criteria 20 times of 20 empirical variables. The sample was 400 people. The tool used to collect data was a questionnaire. Use the Structural Equation Model to analyze the data. The qualitative research used in-depth interviews with 15 key informants with content analysis. The results of the research showed that; 1) the development of excellence of Thai athletes in terms of club and sports associations activities, government policy, family activities, and motivation was high importance in all aspects; 2) club and sports associations activities had the greatest influence on the development of excellence, of Thai athletes, followed by government policies, then motivation and family activities, respectively; and 3) The model of development of excellence of Thai athletes was obtained, and it resembles a chart. It comprises of the club and sports associations activities, which were the most influencer as the bottom pushing base. Government policy and motivation were bolstered in the center, while family activities were aided in their promotion at the top. Furthermore, the development of excellence of Thai athletes should strive for perfection in order to win competition at all levels. It boosts the country's economy, serves as a symbol of national reconciliation, and exemplifies honorable sportsmanship. The results of this study can be used for amateur and professional athletes, sports personnel, sports-related organizations for benefit, by improve athletes' physical and mental capacities, and sports-related government agencies good management is required for the excellence of athletes to win a great victory in the competition and have an impact on the country's prestige and economy.

**Keywords:** Antecedents / Development of Excellence / Thai Athletes

## INTRODUCTION

Sport is an important part of the social and economic development of the country to ensure

stability, prosperity and sustainability. As the saying goes, "Sport creates people, people build

nations". The implication is that for the nation to progress, it is necessary to have a sportsperson, a sports infrastructure, an organization that organizes sports events, knowledge and innovation in sports, and a policy to drive sports for excellence. In order to improve the sport and create quality athletes, the success of the sport can be an indicator of the success and economic growth of the country as a whole (Ladda Ruangmanatham, 2016).

Athlete development should have three areas of development that are considered to be critical elements: 1) The development of athletes' physique and physical performance, 2) the mental development of athletes, 3) the development of athletes' abilities and experiences by obtaining technical training until their expertise (Chanchai Phochang, 2009).

The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes must be actively collaborating with both the public and private sectors. By selecting and developing athletes with athletic abilities for excellence. It is a system that seeks and recruit local representative athletes nationwide, but the performance of Thai athletes has not achieved their goals in international and regional competitions, which the public and private sectors must cooperate with forever (Sports Authority of Thailand, 2021).

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study the level of The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes Club and Sports Activities, Government Policy Family Activities and Incentives.
2. To study the causal factors Club and Sports Activities, Government Policy Family Activities and Incentives influencing The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes.
3. To get the format The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Step 1:** The researchers determined the mixed methods research model, which includes quantitative and qualitative research. Theory about The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes Club and Sports Activities, Government Policy Family Activities and Incentives

### Step 2

1. Populations and samples used in quantitative research include undergraduate students and all

year of bachelor's science programs, bachelor of arts programs, and graduate studies programs of the National Sports University in central Thailand, with a total population of 7,001, including:

- 1) Bangkok Campus, 1,966 persons.
- 2) Samut Sakhon Campus, 601 persons
- 3) Suphan Buri Campus, 1,168 persons
- 4) Ang Thong Campus, 862 persons and
- 5) Chonburi Campus, 2,404 persons. The sample was set at 20 times the 20-variable manifestation variable, 20x20, so 400 samples (Grace, 2008) were sampled by stratified sampling method, Bangkok campus: 112 persons, Samut Sakhon campuses: 34 persons, Suphanburi campuses: 67 persons, Angthong campuses: 49 persons and Chonburi campuses: 138 persons, including 400 persons.

2. Key informants in qualitative research conduct in-depth interviews, 15 persons.

**Step 3:** The tools used in quantitative research used a questionnaire with validity checks of 5 expert instruments. To verify content validity with an index of item-objective congruence (IOC) values between 0.60-1.00, passing all criteria. And check the reliability with tryout with a sample of 35 people, the whole value is 0.992, so it can be used. For qualitative research the tool is a structured interview based on research objectives.

## FINDINGS

**Objective 1:** To study the level of The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes, Club and Sports Activities, Government Policy, Family Activities and Incentives.

**Table 1** shows average, standard deviation, order, and priority.

| Latent Variables                  | $\bar{X}$ | SD   | Order | Priority |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|-------|----------|
| Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) | 3.88      | 0.61 | 4     | High     |
| Government Policy (GMPC)          | 3.86      | 0.64 | 5     | High     |
| Family Activities (FLAT)          | 3.96      | 0.55 | 1     | High     |
| Incentives (INCT)                 | 3.89      | 0.58 | 3     | High     |

The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) 3.93 0.60 2 High

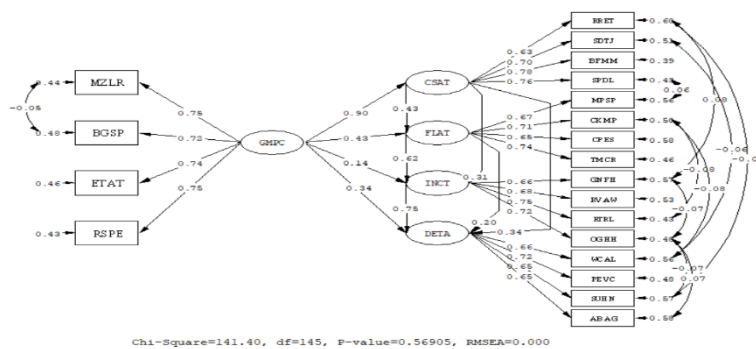
a value of 3.86, and every passive variable has a high priority.

**Objective 2:** To study the causal factors of Club and Sports Activities, Government Policy Family Activities and Incentives influencing The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes.

Based on data analysis to determine the harmonious consistency of models developed with empirical data. After adjusting the research model, all criteria are met, such as:  $\chi^2/df=0.98$ , GFI=0.97, AGFI=0.95, RMR=0.14 RMSEA=0.000, CFI=1.00 and CN=522.89

**Figure 1** shows the causal factors of Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) Government Policy (GMPC) Family Activities (FLAT) and

Incentives (INCT) influencing The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA).



**Table 2** Statistical values, results, analysis of the direct, indirect total influence of latent variables from BETA and GAMMA values and showing the values of the variable manifested from lambda Y, Lambda X values

| Dependent Variable | Relation ships | Independent Variables |        |        |        |      |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
|                    |                | GMPC                  | CSAT   | FLAT   | INCT   | DETA |
| CSAT               | DE             | 0.90**                | N/A    | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | IE             | N/A                   | N/A    | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | TE             | 0.90**                | N/A    | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
| FLAT               | DE             | 0.43**                | 0.43** | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | IE             | 0.39**                | N/A    | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | TE             | 0.82**                | 0.43** | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
| INCT               | DE             | 0.14*                 | 0.31*  | 0.62** | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | IE             | 0.78**                | 0.27*  | N/A    | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | TE             | 0.92**                | 0.58** | 0.62** | N/A    | N/A  |
| DETA               | DE             | 0.34*                 | 0.34*  | 0.20*  | 0.75** | N/A  |
|                    | IE             | 0.41**                | 0.52** | 0.46** | N/A    | N/A  |
|                    | TE             | 0.75**                | 0.86** | 0.66** | 0.75** | N/A  |

| Dependent Variable  | Relations<br>ships | Independent Variables |      |      |      |      |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
|   |                    | GMPC                  | CSAT | FLAT | INCT | DETA |
| Chi-Square= 141.40, df=145, p-value = 0.569, GFI=0.97, AGFI=0.95, RMR=0.014, RMSEA=0.000, CFI=1.00, CN=522.89 |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
| R <sup>2</sup> for Endogenous Variable  |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   | RRET               | SDTJ                  | BFMM | SPDL | MPSP | CKMP |
|   | 0.40               | 0.49                  | 0.61 | 0.57 | 0.44 | 0.50 |
| R <sup>2</sup> for Endogenous Variable  |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   | CPES               | TMCR                  | GNFH | RVAW | RTRL | OGHH |
|   | 0.42               | 0.54                  | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.57 | 0.52 |
| R <sup>2</sup> for Endogenous Variable  |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   | WCAL               | PEVC                  | SUHN | ABAG |      |      |
|   | 0.44               | 0.52                  | 0.43 | 0.42 |      |      |
| R <sup>2</sup> for Exogenous Variable   |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   | MZLR               | BGSP                  | ETAT | RSPE |      |      |
|   | 0.56               | 0.52                  | 0.54 | 0.57 |      |      |
| R <sup>2</sup> for Structural Equations   |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   | CSAT               | INCT                  | FLAT | DETA |      |      |
|   | 0.81               | 0.70                  | 0.85 | 0.92 |      |      |
| Correlation Matrix Between Latent Variables   |                    |                       |      |      |      |      |
|   | CSAT               | FLAT                  | INCT | DETA | GMPC |      |
| CSAT  | 1.00               |                       |      |      |      |      |
| FLAT  | 0.82               | 1.00                  |      |      |      |      |
| INCT  | 0.85               | 0.90                  | 1.00 |      |      |      |
| DETA  | 0.84               | 0.88                  | 0.94 | 1.00 |      |      |
| GMPC  | 0.90               | 0.82                  | 0.82 | 0.75 | 1.00 |      |

From Table 2, the most total influence factors on The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) were sorted as follows: Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) had a value of 0.86 Government Policy (GMPC) with a value of 0.75 (standard tolerance of 0.08), Incentives (INCT) had a value of 0.75 (with a standard tolerance of 0.21) and Family Activities (FLAT) with a total value of 0.66 at a significant level of 0.01, and the variation in The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) was 0.92%, and the influence was shown, as follows:

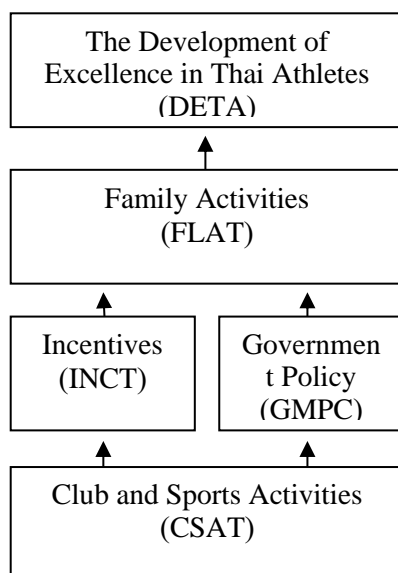
1. Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) have the most direct relationship with Family Activities (FLAT) as much as 0.43, second only to The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) and Centrals (INCT) of 0.34 and 0.31 respectively, and indirectly affects The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) and Incentives (INCT) of 0.52 and 0.27 respectively.

2. Government Policy (GMPC) has as much direct relationship with Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) as 0.90, second only to Directly affecting Family Activities (FLAT), The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) and Incentives (INCT) is 0.43, 0.34 and 0.14 respectively, and indirectly affects Incentives (INCT), The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) and Family Activities (FLAT) equal to 0.78, 0.41 and 0.39, respectively.

3. Incentives (INCT) have a direct relationship with The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) of 0.75.

4. Family Activities (FLAT) have a direct relationship with Incentives (INCT) and The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) of 0.62 and 0.20, respectively, and indirectly affects The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) of 0.46.

**Objective 3:** Mixed Method model The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes is a chart image consisting of Club and Sports Activities with the most influential influence, a push base at the bottom, Government Policy Incentives supporting in the middle, and Family Activities promoting it at the top level, as shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2** Modeling the development of excellence of Thai athletes

## DISCUSSION

### According to Objective 1

The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA): Overall, it was found to be very important. On a side-by-side basis, it was found to be on a very high level sorted by men in descending order, including The Aspect of Being an Athletic (ABAG), second only to As a Symbol of Unity and Harmony in the Nation (SUHN), Promoting the Economic Value of the Country (PEVC) and Winning the Competition at all Level (WCAL)

Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) Overall, it was found to be very important when considered individually, it was found to be on a very high level in all areas, sorted by descending average, including Regulation, Rules and Etiquette (PRET), with the highest average, second only to Sport Discipline (SPDL), Standard of Trainers (SDTJ) and Benefit Management (BEMM).

Government Policy (GMPC) Overall, it was found to be very important. On a side-by-

side basis, it was found to be on a high-end scale, sorting the average in descending order, including Modernizing Laws and Regulations (MZLR), second only to Regulation of Standards and Prices on Sports Equipment (RSPE), Budget Support (BGSP) and Educating Athletes (ETAT).

Family Activities (FLAT) Overall, it was found to be very important. On a side-by-side basis, it was found to be on a very high level in all areas, sorting the average in descending order, namely Time Care (TMCR), second only to Maintaining Physical Skills and Performance (MPSP), Care for Skills and Mental Performance (CKMP) and Care of Personal Expenses (CPES).

Incentives (INCT) Overall, it was found to be very important. On a side-by-side basis, it was found to be on a high-end scale, sorting the average in descending order, including Gaining Fame and Honor (GNFH), second only to Own Good Health (OGHH), Regulatory Relief (RTRL) and Receiving an Award (RVAW).

According to objective 2

Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) The factor loading values must be prioritized as Benefit Management (BEMM), Sport Discipline (SPDL), Standard of Trainers (SDTJ) and Regulation, Rules and Etiquette (RRET).

Government Policy (GMPC) must be prioritized in order of factor loadings, namely Modernizing Laws and Regulations (MZLR), Regulation of Standards and Prices on Sports Equipment (RSPE), Budget Support (BGSP) and Education Athletes (ETAT).

Incentives (INCT) must focus on the order of weight values. Factor loading elements include Gaining Fame and Honor (GNFH), Own Good Health (OGHH), Regulatory Relief (RTRL) and Receiving an Award (RVAW).

Family Activities (FLAT) must focus on the order of factor loading values, namely Time Care (TMCR), Maintaining Physical Skills and Performance (MPSP), Care for Skills and Mental Performance (CKMP) and Care of Personal Expenses (CPES).

The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes (DETA) must focus on the order of factor loadings, namely The Aspect of Being an Athletic (ABAG), As a Symbol of Unity and Harmony in the Nation (SUHN), Promoting the Economic Value of the Country (PEVC) and Winning the Competition at all Level (WCAL) According to objective 3: there is a model that enables the development of excellence. The

chart image includes Club and Sports Activities (CSAT) as the base, with Government Policy (GMPC) and Incentives (INCT) in the middle as transmission variables, and Family Activities (FLAT) to promote The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

Research on Antecedents Influencing the Development of Excellence of Thai Athletes researchers made the following recommendations:

### **1. Research feedback**

1.1 The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes: It must improve the winning side at all levels. In terms of continuously enhancing and developing the skills or abilities of athletes. To advance the goal of winning sports at various levels, such as was hoped to win sports at the Olympic level, hoping to win sports at the national level, and hoping to win sports at the local and regional level.

1.2 Club and Sports Activities: The company must improve the development of interest management in respect of the Professional Sports Promotion Fund in Sports Authority of Thailand. To provide working capital for spending on aid and welfare and welfare operations, promotion, support, development and any other work related to professional sports. Professional athletes and professional sports personnel. In addition, clubs and sports associations must not squeeze and exploit athletes and must be audited by external authorities every fiscal year.

1.3 Government Policy: The company must improve the education of athletes in terms of welfare, prize money and scholarships in accordance with the National Sports Development Fund Strategic Plan 2021-2024, Strategy 1, preparation and development of athletes, sports personnel, sports associations, welfare arrangements, prize money and scholarships to athletes and sports personnel in a comprehensive way and with education at home and abroad.

1.4 Incentives: In order to improve the development of awards in terms of awarding, the relevant authorities need to have guidelines in the reward or reward system. To encourage

athletes to fully train/play sports to the fullest and the best of their abilities, it will have a positive impact on building a greater reputation and honor.

1.5 Family Activities: It must improve viewing and personal expenses in terms of encouraging athletes and sports personnel to set realistic savings goals. To have savings, knowing the income/expenditures to guide financial planning correctly.

1.6 The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes: The Sports Authority of Thailand and its relevant sports authorities must work together to define the structure, sports policy, goals, operational plan and clearer policy implementation period.

1.7 National Sports University: Teaching courses should be developed to cover the types or types of sports prescribed by the Professional Sports Commission to provide athletes with excellence. Can be extended to the professional level.

1.8 Benefit Management for Thai Athletes: ที่ To win competitions and to build a reputation for the country, such as winning world sports or Olympics or internationally, etc., by awarding more rewards or compensation or other benefits.

1.9 Local Government: The emphasis must be placed on the development of sports for excellence. By contributing to the development of children and young people with special athletic abilities or talents to pass on to the National University of Sporting Development to further develop in the youth athlete development system to their full potential. Have the highest athletic ability until it is achieved at national or international level.

1.10 Sports Authority of Thailand: A centralized digital platform should be created to connect the country's sports information into one place and for all sports authorities to use it as the same standard. To communicate to all parties involved in the public and private sectors, including the public, to better keep up to date with accurate and up-to-date sports media.

### **2. Recommendations in the next research**

2.1 It's a good idea to study other phantom variables. In addition to the variables used in this research, such as law enforcement of government offices in the event of fraud or competitive fraud, or falling competition, etc.

2.2 The Development of Excellence in Thai Athletes should be studied in detail with other factors such as mental strength and endurance in athletic training, the effort and encouragement of athletes' training, and the support of those around them, etc. To be able to apply them to their advantage.

2.3 The effectiveness of excellence of athletes of various levels should be studied in a detailed and comprehensive manner, such as local, subdivision, district and provincial level, etc.

2.4 It should be studied with a specific group of athletes in each sporting type and athlete type so that it can be applied to the benefit of further use.

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