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TEACHING VALUES THROUGH ATHLETICS BY USING AN EDUCATIVE PROGRAMME IN ETHIOPIA

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INTRODUCTION
Ethiopia is a country with serious economic problems. It is also, as sport results show, a country full of athletic talents. This project is developed by the sport line of the development cooperation DIM (Sport, Engineering and Mode) group of the Technical University of Madrid (UPM) whose aim is to use the values of sport in the education of children and adolescents and to simultaneously take advantage of the resources of promote talents in order to generate economic and social benefits for the community.

Objectives
Identify the different ways of achieving the following:
- Provide education of values through sport in general and through athletics in particular, as a fundamental tool.
- Provide the knowledge and the means in order to enable the development of a sustainable sports structure.
- Carry out training programs regarding both sport and education, the ultimate aim of which will be the development of the community.

METHODS AND MATERIALS
This project is being developed under the support of local institutions, in the cities of Dilla, Gighessa and Adigrat, and with the collaboration of 183 adolescents who are considered to be local leaders and are interested in being trained in the areas of sport and education.

The programs developed have a typical duration of four weeks, focusing on training the participants in the area of education of different sports, including football, volleyball, basketball and, above all, athletics. These programs are divided into two parts: the first part is focused on the acceptance of universal values (effort, cooperation, solidarity, respect, etc), while the second part is focused on “teaching how to teach” these values through sport.

In order to evaluate the achievement of the objectives of the project, a Likert type questionnaire especially designed for the purposes of the program was used, which included the project’s core issues: content, teachers, training sessions, level of knowledge acquired, facilities, etc. A series of systematic observations was also carried out, during both the theoretical and the practical classes, focusing on the students’ participation, their attitude towards the different activities, as well as the way these activities were carried out.

The data were analyzed quantitatively by use of the SPSS statistics software. The results of the analysis included the frequency and the proportion of the questions. The results were compared to the information obtained by the systematic observations, focusing on the more relevant points of the project.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The results obtained by the analysis of the questionnaire demonstrate that the environment created by the teachers has been very positive, and so have been the learning expectations of the students during the program (90% positive answers). The teachers and the contents of the courses have been positively evaluated by more than 80% of the participants. The length of the program and the installations obtained less positive answers (only 40%).

CONCLUSIONS
By comparing the questionnaire responses with the results of the observations we conclude that the teachers’ attitude and the content of the programs that have been developed until now should be maintained. The teachers who developed the program should teach the next volunteers, especially regarding aspects of encouragement in the classes, in order to maintain the positive environment that has been achieved during the previous years.

It would also be interesting to include more videos as well as photographs in the theoretic classes as examples, to link in a more clear way the theoretic concepts with the practice, to carry out programs of larger duration and of different levels, as well as to translate the documents not only into English, but also into the native language of the students.

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REFERENCES