



## The functions of traditional sports and games among different generations of Iranian citizens

### Oral Presentation

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Traditional sports and games are a general term for a diverse group of sports and games that have in common the popularity or relevance of popular culture. These games are part of the diversity of world heritage and arise from regional or local identity, and are practiced individually or collectively (UNESCO, 2017).

**Methods:** The present study was conducted using a qualitative method to identify the functions of traditional sports and games between different generations of Iranian citizens. 40 Iranian citizens from four different generations participated in the interview voluntarily. Data were analyzed using the thematic analysis method.

**Results:** The results showed that traditional sports and games have different functions between different generations. For first-generation people (people over the age of 68), these activities have fun functions, instill a sense of security, show courage and strength, and are fun. In the second generation (people 48 to 67 years old), the functions of joy and entertainment were evident. For the third generation (28-47 years old), the entertainment function was outstanding. While for the fourth generation (people aged 8 to 27), traditional sports and games did not work, and people of this generation considered such activities as valuable symbols, which of course, have no place in their lives.

**Conclusion:** The transition from traditional to modern and postmodern life has made traditional sports and games as insignificant as many conventional activities and elements in the life of Iranians. Traditional sports and games with various functions in the past are now considered a valuable heritage with no essential role in society.

### Keywords

Heritage; Symbolic Function; Traditional Sports

### References:

1. UNESCO. (2017). Traditional Sports and Games: a challenge for the future. Retrieved from <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/physical-education-and-sport/traditional-sports-and-games/>

