UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELLING ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP STYLE OF COACHES, SPORT COMMITMENT, AND ATHLETES’ SATISFACTION AMONG IRANIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS

HAMIDREZA SAYBANI

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PLAYERS

By

HAMIDREZA SAYBANI

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate my thesis to:

   My dear and beloved wife, Fereshteh
   My dear sons, Sepehr and Farhad
   My dear father,
   and last but not least
   My dear mother who passed away few years ago
STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP STYLE OF COACHES, SPORT COMMITMENT, AND ATHLETES’ SATISFACTION AMONG IRANIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS

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April 2013

Chairman: Prof. Aminuddin Bin Yusof, PhD
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The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between transformational leadership style of Iranian high schools’ coaches and sport commitment and athletes’ satisfaction of Iranian high schools’ football players as well as the mediating role of athletes’ satisfaction, and propose a coaching model. Descriptive statistics and correlations as well as inferential statistics were applied in this study. Structural equation modeling (SEM) and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to analyze the data, and to develop the model. This study was conducted in the Alborz province of Iran. The population of this study consists of 558 football players (15-20 years old). A total of 280 high schools’ football players were selected from 31 high schools football teams using the simple random sampling procedure. Instruments used in this study were Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ)
(Avolio & Bass, 1995), Sport Commitment Model Scale (SCMS) (Scanlan et al., 1993), and Athlete Satisfaction Questionnaire (ASQ) (Riemer & Chelladurai, 1998). The results of the study indicated that there is a positive and significant relationship between transformational leadership style of coaches and sport commitment and athletic satisfaction of football players. The study showed that athlete satisfaction mediates the relationship between transformational leadership style and sport commitment. Mediation model illustrated that transformational leadership style would explain variance of sport commitment better than direct model. Therefore, it can be concluded that the transformational leadership style of coaches can increase sport commitment of football players through increasing athletes’ satisfaction. In addition, the researcher found that there was no significant difference between age, football playing experience, and sport commitment of football players. Even though the results showed that a significant difference in athlete satisfaction between football players of different ages, the findings revealed that there was no significant difference in terms of athlete satisfaction between of football players of different football playing experience. Based on the results, it was concluded that the transformational leadership model is suitable for Iranian high schools’ football coaches and it can improve the sport commitment of the football players by increasing their athletic satisfaction.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

ANALISIS MODEL STRUKTUR PERSAMAAN HUBUNGAN DI ANTARA GAYA KEPIMPINAN TRANSFORMASI JURULATIH, KOMITMEN SUKAN DAN KEPUASAN ATLET PEMAIN BOLASEPAK SEKOLAH MENENGAH DI IRAN

Oleh

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Last but not least, I would like to express my honest and deepest appreciation to my beloved wife Fereshteh Amini and my dear sons Sepehr and Farhad Saybani for their continuous encouragement, patience and support.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 19 April 2013 to conduct the final examination of Hamidreza Saybani on his thesis entitled "Structural Equation Modeling Analysis of the Relationship Between Transformational Leadership Style of Coaches, Sport Commitment, and Athletes' Satisfaction Among Iranian High School Football Players" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U. (A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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Date: 12 September 2013
DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institutions.

HAMIDREZA SAYBANI

Date: 1 March 2013
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