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SAFETY Managements of Taekwondo Schools in Republic of KOREA

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Abstract

Taekwondo, a martial arts native to Korea was debuted as a demonstration sport at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and then adopted as an official sport at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Taekwondo is known to contribute to harmonious development of the body through a skill system which is organized to allow a balanced use of parts of it, and promote growth of children, fitness of the middle aged and the old aged and health and beauty of women. In addition, if children acquire black belts, Taekwondo can provide various special activities for them, in place of busy parents over the weekend and the school vacation. The number of Teakwondo population has increased, due to such strength.

According to the current statistics of Kukkiwon. the number of Taekwondo schools in Korea is 9530, that of black belt holders is about 4.3 million and that of Dan holders is about 4.2 million. At the core of such popularization and domestic and foreign developments of Taekwondo, its characteristics of marital arts and educational value play key roles, and perhaps it would not be an exaggeration to say that the 'Taekwondo school', a matrix of Taekwondo education is the foundation for such an advancement.

However, problems of safety managements in the private education market continue to appear. In particular, frequency of injury and level of exposure to danger in private education of physical sector must be relatively higher than those in that of general art or language sector, because the education is implemented by using the body in the former. Above all, Taekwondo is a sport that helps train body and mind through marital arts including Gyeonggi (bouts) and Gyeokpa (breaking), so need to accompany with safety managements against safety accidents is stronger than that of other private educations.

The results of study on safety managements of Taekwondo schools show various problems. The first problem is lack of recognition on the safety management. Although Taekwondo coaches at front line agree that the safety of schools is important, but the safety managements they actually have conducted tend to be passive. In addition, they should recognize wider scope of safety managements in the schools and change their perceptions about them as places where even educations of safety managements can be implemented. The second problem is the poor safety education. Although government agencies have conducted various safety educations, direct and effective educations of safety managements in Taekwondo schools are almost not practiced. For further development and improvement of Taekwondo which has been quantitatively grown, the safety managements should be educated by considering contents, subjects and methods of them. The third problem is lask of the manual of safety managements. The manual serving as traffic signs on congested roads can help prevent safety accidents and efficiently cope with them if any. However, there is no manual that can be applied to all Taekwondo schools, so the safety management manual which can be accepted by all schools should be developed based on previous experience and knowledge.

schools should recognize themselves as safety management professionals and also practically make the schools safer by improving safety environment. In addition, they should change their perceptions about the safety management through educational approach rather than managerial one and make and use the standard manual which all schools can actually use.

[Keywords] Security, Safety, Taekwondo, Taekwondo School, Republic of Korea

1. Introduction

Taekwondo, a martial arts native to Korea was debuted as a demonstration sport at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and then adopted as an official sport at the 2000 Sydney Olympics[1][2]. Taekwondo is known to contribute to harmonious development of the body through a skill system which is organized to allow a balanced use of parts of it, and promote growth of children, fitness of the middle aged and the old aged and health and beauty of women[3]. In addition, if children acquire black belts, Taekwondo can provide various special activities for them, in place of busy parents over the weekend and the school vacation. The number of Taekwondo population has increased, due to such strength.

According to the current statistics of Kukkiwon[4], the number of Taekwondo schools in Korea is 9530, that of black belt holders is about 4.3 million and that of Dan holders is about 4.2 million. At the core of such popularization and domestic and foreign developments of Taekwondo, its characteristics of martial arts and educational value play key roles, and perhaps it would not be an exaggeration to say that the 'Taekwondo school', a matrix of Taekwondo education is the foundation for such an advancement[5].

However, problems of safety managements in the private education market continue to appear. In particular, frequency of injury and level of exposure to danger in private education of physical sector must be relatively higher than those in that of general art or language sector, because the education is implemented by using the body in the former. Above all, Taekwondo is a sport that helps train body and mind through martial arts including Gyeonggi (bouts) and Gyeongpa (breaking), so need to accompany with safety managements against safety accidents is stronger than that of other private educations.

The purpose of this study is to contribute to formation of Taekwondo school culture by providing basic data for coaches to manage and prevent safety accidents beforehand in the schools, since there are not guidelines

and manuals for direct and indirect safety managements through studies on the managements, though it becomes more important along with increase of the number of Taekwondo schools[6].

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Taekwondo schools

Today, Korean Taekwondo may be roughly classified based on some criteria, but it can definitely divided into 'military Taekwondo for military physical fitness', school-based 'team Taekwondo for competition' and 'social sports school' promoting national health and wellbeing. Among three types of Taekwondo, it is the Taekwondo school that can play key role in providing Taekwondo[7]. The reasons are follows: First, traditionality of the school can be primarily considered. The Taekwondo school has been the center of its development, and also recognized as a typical training place by many people. Second, the school is dominant in terms of the number of produced Taekwondo persons, and members of trainees are also various. Therefore, many factors including financial and personal ones, which can promote the development of Taekwondo can be available through the school system. Third, opportunities of trainees who receive the school education are genuine and most closely approach the essential value of Taekwondo, and the school as a professional educational institution which fosters Taekwondo persons has the educational system which most faithfully fits the educational goal[8].

Three factors that constitute such a Taekwondo school seem to include coach, environment and facility and training program. While coaches and facilities have passive implications for trainees, the training programs have positive implications for them. Thus, trainees may take satisfaction in the school and the gym can be effectively managed only if all of three factors are harmonized[9].

2.2. Public law enforcement organizations and private security system in Korea

Although various studies on Taekwondo have been conducted, there have been few studies on Taekwondo schools and safety managements of them. However, previous studies can be largely divided into articles on the safety of schools and studies involving selection factors of them or other factors related with safety in satisfaction with them. As a study on the safety of schools, Gang Eeun-seok and Sin Jungdal(2016) divided accident cases related with safety managements into environmental, trainee and coach factors, and then suggested passive management, lack of safety education and routinization of safety management, as problems[6]. Kim Jingyeon(2013) classified awareness of safety into safety of Takewondo schools and transportation, emergency care and fire safety and evaluated importance of them[10]; Choi Sangjin(2009) showed that the safety, among service factors in Taekwondo schools had an effect on customer satisfaction and switching barrier[11]; Kim Yong(2009) exhibited that rankings of importance of indoor and outdoor safety were higher but rankings of satisfaction with them were relatively lower, by examining selection attributes of Taekwondo schools[12]; Kim Hyeonmin and Jo Seong-gyun(2016) examined the safety on the basis of the Road Traffic Law[13]; and Kim Hyeong-cheol and Kim Yongjin(2010) investigated the safety of Taekwondo schools by considering exercise injuries of trainees[14].

3. Problems of Safety Managements in Taekwondo Schools

Both one analysis of preliminary studies on the safety managements of Taekwondo schools and the other analysis of academic researches, magazines, newspapers and reports show that main problems of the safety management include lack of safety management awareness, safety education and manual for safety management.

3.1. Lack of awareness of safety management

If coaches of Taekwondo schools at the front line are asked about the importance of safety, they would consistently answer that

'the safety of schools is very important.' If coaches regard follow-up measures such as placement of first-aid kit and insurance contracts as the safety managements, it means that they consequently conduct passive safety managements. The safety managements of Taekwondo schools are not limited to safety accidents withing the schools. A representative example is vehicle ride. Most of safety accidents during vehicle ride are directly related with life and innocent persons who are not involved with the schools can be injured. As a result, coaches should shift their focuses from passive to positive safety management including active prevention. Moreover, their recognitions should be changed to educate how to prevent various safety accidents occurring during vehicle ride and when trainees commute to schools, except for general safety managements in the schools.

3.2. Poor safety education

In 2013, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism implemented safety-check for enhancing safety managements in facilities for leisure, sports and tourism, but Taekwondo schools were not included. Taekwondo schools were often excluded from various safety educations conducted by other government agencies, or only theory and practice of emergency care were educated. Lack of safety-check for Taekwondo schools through the government's official channel and educational institutions is very serious situation, and there remain some problems about how to forster and educate safety management professionals, even though there are some government-based educational institutions for safety managements. Such problems of safety managements should be resolved to realize more robust growth of the number of Taekwondo people and general marital artists and acquire qualitative achievement.

3.3. Lack of manual for safety management

The manual is similar to traffic signs on congested roads. It is impossible predict where and what accidents will occur in Taekwondo schools, so proper measures for them are required. However, lack of the man-

ual may be problematic, given that the number of Taekwondo people has been increased. The manual can prevent and efficiently cope with safety accidents and confusion caused by them if any. In preventing and coping with safety accidents, time is most important. In this regard, the manual plays very important role in reducing time. The manual developed based on previous experience and knowledge can help keep images of the schools by preventing accidents that are not yet happened in advance and quickly cope with occurred accidents by minimizing damage to managements of the schools.

4. Conclusion

The results of study on safety managements of Taekwondo schools show various problems. The first problem is lack of recognition on the safety management. Although Taekwondo coaches at front line agree that the safety of schools is important, but the safety managements they actually have conducted tend to be passive. In addition, they should recognize wider scope of safety managements in the schools and change their perceptions about them as places where even educations of safety managements can be implemented. The second problem is the poor safety education. Although government agencies have conducted various safety educations, direct and effective educations of safety managements in Taekwondo schools are almost not practiced. For further development and improvement of Taekwondo which has been quantitatively grown, the safety managements should be educated by considering contents, subjects and methods of them. The third problem is lack of the manual of safety managements. The manual serving as traffic signs on congested roads can help prevent safety accidents and efficiently cope with them if any. However, there is no manual that can be applied to all Taekwondo schools, so the safety management manual which can be accepted by all schools should be developed based on previous experience and knowledge.

Schools should recognize themselves as safety management professionals and also

practically make the schools safer by improving safety environment. In addition, they should change their perceptions about the safety management through educational approach rather than managerial one and make and use the standard manual which all schools can actually use.

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