

Forum: Action Paper 1

Issue: Sport as means to prevent youth crime

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INTRODUCTION

Physical activity and sports can contribute profoundly to people's physical and psychological health. It also promotes teamwork, mutual respect and tolerance. In other words, sport has been proven to have helped in people's personal development. In line with its constructive benefits, sport is also considered an effective tool to prevent youth crime.

Youth crime has always been an outstanding issue in mostly less economically developed populations and countries. Because of various causes, for example peer and family influence, lack of education, poverty and exposure to violence, young people can turn to crime such as drug offenses, theft and gang involvement.

Even though youth face many challenges which make them vulnerable to crime involvement, owing to the advantage of their age, energies and learning abilities, young people can be efficiently transformed and reintegrated into the society as they are crucial for change in creating a better future and have great potential to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities. Well-designed projects which actively involve youth, especially those living in the most vulnerable communities, in the areas of decision making, education and skills training (including through sports), entrepreneurship and job creation, can build resilience by providing youth with alternative lifestyles to crime.

There are a variety of sport-based activities that appear to have had a beneficial effect in helping young people steer away from trouble. These include wilderness programs, programs in which youth participate and learn skills, and programs in which the sense of belonging reduces vandalism and develops other prosocial behaviors. Considering the advantages of physical activity, various sport-based crime prevention programs, targeting youth crime prevention, have been implemented in various countries.

This study guide examines the nature of youth crime and the vital role of sports in its prevention by providing an overview of the global efforts on preventing youth crime and utilizing sports in means of policy making and discusses possible opportunities and solutions to address the issue.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Youth Crime

Illegal activities such as but not limited to drug offenses, theft and gang-related activities committed by juvenile offenders in which the age range may differ from one country to another but it usually encompasses between the ages of 10-18, the United Nations defines youth as between the ages of 15 and 24. ¹

Youth Offenders

Offenders aged under 18 or include adults up to their mid-20s. ²

Rehabilitation

“The process of returning to a healthy or good way of life, or the process of helping someone to do this after they have been in prison, been very ill, etc.”³

Sports

“A game, competition, or activity needing physical effort and skill that is played or done according to rules, for enjoyment and/or as a job.” ⁴

Community Engagement

“A strategic process to directly involve local populations in all aspects of decision-making and implementation to strengthen local capacities, community structures and local ownership as

¹ Young, Susan, et al. “Juvenile Delinquency, Welfare, Justice and Therapeutic Interventions: A Global Perspective.” *BJPsych Bulletin*, Feb. 2017, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5288089/pdf/pbrcpsych_41_1_006.pdf

² Young, Susan, et al. “Juvenile Delinquency, Welfare, Justice and Therapeutic Interventions: A Global Perspective.” *BJPsych Bulletin*, Feb. 2017, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5288089/pdf/pbrcpsych_41_1_006.pdf

³ “Rehabilitation.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rehabilitation. Accessed 25 July 2023. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rehabilitation>

⁴ “Sport.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sport. Accessed 25 July 2023. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sport>

well as to improve transparency, accountability and optimal resource allocations across diverse settings.”⁵

Radicalization

“The action or process of making someone become more radical (= extreme) in their political or religious beliefs.”⁶

Social support system

“Social support system refers to a network of people – friends, family, and peers – that someone can turn to for emotional and practical support. At school, fellow students, supportive staff, and faculty may provide assistance, and as one moves into their professional career, their colleagues may also be sources of support.”⁷

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Causes associated with youth crime

Many factors can have an impact on youth crime worldwide. Firstly, it is well known that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds—including those with poverty, unemployment and limited access to education—are more likely to engage in criminal activity. Because of their restricted future possibilities and sense of dissatisfaction brought on by economic inequality, some young people turn to crime as means of surviving or obtaining materialistic advantages. Moreover, a young person's family has a significant influence on their behavior. Youth engagement in criminal activity can be influenced by a variety of factors, including parental abuse, neglect or instability in relationships. A problematic family situation can contribute to sentiments of rage, resentment, and a lack of support, which can make some youth turn to criminal action to find acceptance or satisfy the sense of belonging in a group.

⁵ *Welcome to the United Nations*, Accessed 25 July 2023. https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/un_community-engagement_guidelines.august_2020.pdf

⁶ Tusini, Stefania. “Reading Religious Radicalization by Merton’s Strain Theory.” *Quaderni Di Sociologia*, 1 Dec. 2019, <https://journals.openedition.org/qds/3498?lang=en>

⁷ “Developing Your Support System.” *University at Buffalo School of Social Work - University at Buffalo*, 21 Feb. 2023, <https://socialwork.buffalo.edu/resources/self-care-starter-kit/additional-self-care-resources/developing-your-support-system.html>

People who belong to the same age group can also highly influence each other's behavior and actions. Therefore, involvement with peer groups who participate in criminal activities can significantly increase the likelihood of also engaging in criminal activities. Peer pressure, desire for acceptance, and the need to fit in can again lead young individuals to participate in illegal behavior, even if they may not have been predisposed to it initially. Youth crime and substance misuse are closely related. This includes alcohol and drug addiction. Alcohol or drug abuse can make it hard to regulate one's urges and can lead to risky behavior. Young people may engage in criminal or unlawful activities, such as drug dealing, to support their drug use.

Numerous factors, such as insufficient access to high-quality education or school dropout, might increase a young person's chance of being involved in crime. This component should be taken into account given that it holds significance for preventing youth crime. Education offers knowledge, skills and opportunities for personal development. Some young individuals may choose criminal behavior if they don't have access to educational opportunities because they have no other options or because they believe it will benefit them more immediately. Additionally, youth crime rates can also be influenced by high-crime areas, a lack of community resources and weak social support networks. Young people who are exposed to a community where criminal behavior is common are more likely to engage in it themselves because it normalizes and encourages such behaviors.

Finally, undiagnosed or untreated mental health disorders, such as conduct disorder can contribute to youth crime. Mental health issues can impair judgment, emotional regulation and impulse control, increasing the possibility of engaging in criminal behavior.

Youth crime, historical overview

Throughout history, youth criminality has been a problem, with different patterns and trends depending on the era, society and the cultural surroundings. Since masculinity and physical strength were highly valued in Ancient Greece, one could conclude that the society was encouraging male youth to engage in violent behavior even if there is little information about youth misbehavior in those times.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, there were tremendous social and economic changes brought forth by the Industrial Revolution. During this time, youth criminality increased due to the fast urbanization and social inequalities that existed. Many young people experienced severe living conditions, poverty and limited access to education, leading to their engagement in criminal activity. Furthermore, a growing understanding that juvenile offenders needed different treatment than adult offenders emerged in the 19th century. This prompted

the creation of the present juvenile justice system, which places more of an emphasis on rehabilitation than punishment for young offenders in many nations.

However, youth crime patterns changed over the course of the 20th century as a result of social, political, and cultural reasons. Youth involvement in criminal activity, particularly in metropolitan areas, was significantly impacted by the growth of organized crime, drug trafficking and gang violence, which was also often related with racism. Lastly, in recent decades, youth crime has faced new challenges due to technological advancements and changing societal dynamics. Cybercrime, online harassment and digital offenses have emerged as new forms of youth criminal behavior. Issues such as radicalization, gang-related violence, and involvement in drug trade continue to affect young individuals.

The role of sports as a measure to prevent youth crime

Sports play a crucial part in avoiding adolescent crime. They provide at-risk youth with a chance to develop life skills that will help them better handle obstacles in their daily life and steer clear of involvement in crime, violence, or drug use.

First and foremost, they promote physical fitness and lower the risk of health problems, contributing to the overall well-being of young individuals. Regular physical activity through sports not only enhances cognitive capacities, but also lowers stress and promotes mental health. Moreover, sports offer a chance for character development, imparting qualities such as discipline, teamwork, respect and fair play. Participation in sports equips young individuals with essential life skills, including goal-setting, problem-solving, and self-motivation. These help them advance in many further sectors of their life and steer them away from taking part in dangerous and risky activities. In addition to the aforementioned aspects, involvement in athletics generates healthy peer relationships, social engagement and a sense of belonging. Sports teams and events frequently serve as gatherings, encouraging socializing by uniting people from various social backgrounds.

Regarding sports-related youth crime prevention programs, the existence of mentorship from coaches and more experienced players, who give young people direction, encouragement and positive role models, are a huge benefit. In the context of athletics, mentors can help with decision-making, character and personal development. They also often demonstrate the importance of education and hard work in achieving success, reinforcing exemplary values and behaviors. Local governments, stakeholders and community organizations frequently sponsor sports programs because they understand how beneficial they are for young people. The availability of sports programs can be improved by having access

to sports facilities, gear and funding, expanding their reach to a wider spectrum of young people.

Finally, sports offer a disciplined, supervised atmosphere that cuts down on unproductive time and limits exposure to harmful influences that can result in criminal behavior and can give alternatives to criminal activity by leading to school possibilities, scholarships and expanded employment options.

Sport-based youth crime prevention programs

Therefore, crime prevention initiatives have tried to capitalize on the popularity and benefits of sports in order to foster positive youth development and to have an impact on the risk of participation in criminal activities. Numerous sports-based crime prevention initiatives have been implemented during the past 20 years, with a primary focus on youth criminality⁸. However, it is unfortunate that many programs had little to no impact in reducing youth crime due to their overly ambitious crime prevention targets and minimal influence on teenage crime. There are a variety of initiatives to prevent crime through sports. Depending on how important sport is to each person, they might be categorized into different groups. Some initiatives aim to encourage young people's participation in sports and the growth of technical and other sporting skills. Other programs incorporate a number of complementary interventions, using athletics as a 'hook' to attract in and maintain young people as well as a setting for incorporating them in other activities.

During the after-school hours, after-school programs provide scheduled activities that mostly include sports. They offer a secure, watchful setting where young people can get academic support and develop their life skills. Moreover, in order to address problems and encourage peaceful outcomes, some sport-based programs combine mediation, restorative justice principles and conflict resolution strategies. These methods instruct young people on how to resolve conflicts amicably and respectfully. Furthermore, it is crucial to take into consideration that many sport-based programs place a strong emphasis on education and offer academic help in addition to participation in sports. To ensure participants' academic performance and present chances for later educational and professional growth, they might provide tutoring, study sessions, or access to educational resources. With the help of the right education, young students will be more likely to work in the future, have an income and avoid the inclusion in criminal activities. Additionally, young people gain valuable life lessons through sports, including the value of self-discipline, fair play and following the rules. These initiatives foster a feeling of accountability, ethics and integrity that can discourage

⁸ Inc, Massive Media, and Marcella. "The Role of Sports in Crime Prevention." *ICCLR*, 22 Dec. 2022, <https://icclr.org/2022/10/14/the-role-of-sports-in-crime-prevention/>

participation in illegal activity. Finally, effective sport-based crime prevention initiatives offer participants sustained engagement and continuing assistance. They provide chances for ongoing participation in sports, skill improvement and mentoring after the initial program period has ended and guide them towards a brighter future.

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected various sectors, including the youth crime and sports sectors. While these effects are still being examined and clear statistics have not been published yet, some key impacts do exist. Young people and communities all across the world have been negatively impacted by the pandemic because of issues like the loss of educational and work prospects which raised criminal risks and isolation-related stress. More specifically, numerous young people suffered interruptions in their daily routines and decreased supervision due to lockdowns, school closings and limits on social activities. The danger of engaging in harmful behaviors, such as criminality, may have increased in the absence of regular activities and adult supervision. For many families, the pandemic resulted in economic hardship, job losses and financial strain. Youth from underprivileged origins may have experienced more stressful situations like poverty, unstable housing, and restricted access to resources. During the lockdowns, people spent more time online, which led to an increase in online activities like cybercrime. Some young people might have been persuaded to engage in cybercriminal activities like hacking, fraud, or online harassment as a substitute for social contact or financial gain. The number of support systems that were available was reduced as a result of schools, community centers and youth initiatives closing down. These networks are vital in helping young people turn away from crime. Therefore, young people were more likely to join harmful activities, because of losing supportive relationships, mentors and scheduled activities. The pandemic significantly impacted young people's overall mental health and emotional wellbeing. Mental health problems can impair judgment, impulse control and decision-making, potentially increasing the likelihood of committing crimes.

The sports industry experienced enormous financial losses as a result of the COVID-19 virus's quick development and extensive outbreak. Clubs were shut down, competitions were postponed, and sales of clothing and sporting products dropped. It completely shocked the sports community. A few aspects of sports that have been influenced include athletes and clubs, sponsors, and media coverage. Because of COVID-19, the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo were postponed until 2021. Soon after, sports organizations started again with their programs, however with certain restrictions as scientists discovered more about how coronavirus functioned and began regulating it. The sports industry also adopted safety precautions during the pandemic. Since there was no audience for any sporting events, spectators from other countries could not attend the Olympics. During the COVID-19 epidemic, people were able to preserve their energy levels while also enhancing their physical and mental health by playing sports and getting frequent exercise. For many people, including

youth, the pandemic was the reason why they became involved in sports (to maintain health, reduce stress or for personal satisfaction) but for many others, the reason they stopped playing sports (for example, because of the closure of sports clubs).

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Austria

In Austria, specifically Vienna, is where the UNODC's (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) Youth Crime Prevention through Sport team's HQ is located. They serve the purpose of coordinating all the different activities under their initiative, such as developing important materials and tools for technical guidance, including the Line Up, Live Up Initiative, and financing the design and application of programme activities around the world. The number of perpetrators who have been detected in the 10 to 14 age bracket has gone risen consistently over the last six years, from 22 in 2004, to 55 in 2009. According to the figures provided by the Austrian Federal Criminal Police Office, there has also been an increase in the total number of defendants in the 14–19 age range, who went from 412 in 2004 to 571 in 2009. At the same time, according to official statistics, the rate of adolescent crime in some places fell by 11.4% in 2010 compared to 2009 (Statistik Austria 2011). A closer examination of the data reveals that, since 1980, crimes involving property have remained the most frequent sort of youth offense, while sexual offenses against young people have been relatively uncommon and have decreased in frequency over time. Since the 1980s, the volume of property offenses in particular has progressively fallen. Starting in 2005, there is a tiny uptick, which is followed by a further fall in 2008. Similar changes in violent crimes (crimes against life and limb) can be seen between the 1980s and the present. Beginning in the 1990s, there was a minor reduction in the number of violent crimes, which was accompanied by a steady increase starting in 2005. ⁹

Nigeria

Nigeria's 43% of their population is made up of young people, and according to a study made by the UNODC in 2017, about 40% of them use illegal substances.¹⁰ Poor socioeconomic status, familiar issues and poor academic performance are the main factors of a high

⁹ *Siak-Journal International Edition - BMI*, Accessed 25 July 2023. https://www.bmi.gv.at/104/Wissenschaft_und_Forschung/SIAK-Journal/SIAK-Journal-Ausgaben/Jahrgang_2011/files/Potkanski_4_2011.pdf

¹⁰ "Sport as a Tool to Prevent Crime and Drug Abuse." *Sport En Commun*, 29 Apr. 2022. <https://sportencommun.org/en/projects/sport-as-a-tool-to-prevent-crime-and-drug-abuse/#:~:text=Nigeria%20is%20the,addiction%20and%20crime.>

percentage of drug abuse within young individuals. According to the Nigerian Emerging Leaders Forum (NELF), the country's crippling economic problems are driving young people in Nigeria to engage in criminal activity such as internet fraud, armed robbery, illegal sex labor migration, banditry, terrorist activity, political thuggery, executions of people, and organ trafficking. To combat that, the Nigerian government in collaboration with ACON (African Council On Narcotics) lead a project, which provides seminars for teachers on how to use sports as an educational tool, physical and sports activities, workshops for young individuals that bring awareness to gender issues, the importance of equality and sessions on violence against women, and tries to reduce physical inactivity and encourage important skill building using sports.

United States of America

The USA has made significant progress on tackling this issue, by creating many community sports leagues, such as Asphalt Green in New York City, and Chicago Sport & Social Club in Chicago. They have provided significant opportunities for young individuals to participate in sports instead of illegal activities. The Asphalt Green program has delivered these sports community programs to over 50,000 young individuals across New York City. They have also implemented many gang prevention programs in areas with high gang activities, which use sports as a tool to reach young individuals and distract them from gang involvement, such as the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education And Training) program. GREAT's programs' focus on the risk factors associated with gang membership, and have shown a 39% reduction, one year post-program, in the possibility that young individuals who participated in the program join a gang, and a 24% reduction four years post-program.

International Olympic Committee

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a Non-Profit Organization, with the main goal of building a better world through sports. They collaborated with the UNODC during the 31st Session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and created the Sport against Crime: Outreach, Resilience, Empowerment (SC:ORE) initiative, with its main goal being to support the effective use of sport to prevent violence and crime. It is coordinated with the help of Olympism 365, a strategy created by the IOC, that aims to strengthen the role of sports as an important catalyst for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Alliance of Sport in Criminal Justice

The Alliance of Sport in Criminal Justice is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) in England and Wales. The organization registered as a CIO in May 2019 to become the "go to organization" for sport in criminal justice. The organization has worked with national partners in criminal justice, sport, academia, government, and other sectors. Their goal is to create a

better and safer society by integrating physical activity and sport into the criminal justice system and by actively supporting the sector's efforts to lower crime, violence, and recidivism. Especially for those who are connected with, or on the periphery of, the Criminal Justice System, the worsening of inequities from the global epidemic is well documented. Their strategy is intended to act as a change agent, connect policy with practice, and use our knowledge, abilities, and resources to strengthen the organizations employing sport and physical activity to produce favorable results.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
Early 1992	The GREAT program was launched.
1996	The African Council On Narcotics was founded.
25th of September 2015	Signing of Resolution A/RES/70/1.
17th of December 2015	Signing of Resolution A/RES/70/174.
14th of March 2016	Launch of Doha Declaration Global Programme, by the UNODC.
15th of May 2018	ICA in collaboration with the UNODC rolled out a program in Brazil, using UNODC's life skills training methodology, Line Up, Live Up.
February 2020	The Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and the Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism, were launched by the United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and the International Centre for Sport Security.

2nd of July 2021	The Joint Plan for Action in Central Asia was launched by the UNODC.
8th of November 2022	The SC:ORE initiative was launched.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

A/RES/70/1¹¹

On 25 September 2015, Resolution 70/1 was adopted, which introduced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and outlined the increasing efforts in using sport as a tool for preventing the youth from resorting to crime and violence. The most important solution this resolution calls for regarding this issue, is to acknowledge the growing role that sports play in strengthening tolerance and respect, promoting development and peace, and advancing the goals of social inclusion, health, and education, while also playing an important role in empowering women and young people.

A/RES/70/174¹²

On the 17th of December 2015, Resolution 70/174 was adopted following the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which included the Doha Declaration. The Doha Declaration is a program that emphasizes the importance of youth participation in crime prevention, and included a section on Youth Crime Prevention through Sports. The most important pillar of the Doha Declaration is the Line Up Live Up initiative, which is a sport-based life skills curriculum manual used by trained coaches and educators for the youth, and has provided a significant boost in many countries' efforts to tackle this issue.

YCP Initiative

The YCP Initiative was implemented in 2016 together with the Doha Declaration, and focuses on strengthening the capacity of sport centers, schools, and other community-based

¹¹ *General Assembly 21 October 2015* - Accessed 25 July 2023.

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

¹² "UN Official Documents." *United Nations*, Accessed 25 July 2023. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/443/27/PDF/N1544327.pdf?OpenElement>

locations, to help at-risk youth through sport-based programmes. It is active in 11 countries, specifically South Africa, Uganda, Lebanon, State of Palestine, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. It has introduced a lot of important tools that have played an important role in tackling this issue, such as the Line Up Live Up initiative and the Guide on the use of Sport for the Prevention of Violent Extremism. This initiative has managed to reach more than 11,000 young individuals, 850 trainers, 450 centers and schools, and 400 policy makers.

Team Up Against Crime: Strengthening the role and contribution of sport in the context of multisectoral partnerships for youth crime prevention

The “Team Up Against Crime: Strengthening the role and contribution of sport in the context of multisectoral partnerships for youth crime prevention” was an event that took place during the 32nd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Austria, on the 22nd of May 2023. The event showcased good practices on youth practices on youth crime prevention through sports, the success of the collaboration between the IOC and the UNODC in Vienna, and the possibility of cooperation between criminal justice systems and sports sectors, in order to enhance the use of sports in crime prevention.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Line Up Live Up

The Line Up Live initiative was launched and implemented alongside the YCP Initiative in 2016. It’s a curriculum, which includes a manual and additional materials to assist coaches, trainers, and educators to deliver important life skills training through sports to young individuals. Line Up Live Up can be implemented in various settings, such as schools, sport centers, and community-based facilities. Therefore, the initiative can be attuned to the specific needs of each country, in cooperation with state partners. A few examples are Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, where the program has been implemented in school settings, Brazil, Peru and the Dominican Republic, where it has been implemented in communities and sports centers, and Lebanon and Colombia, where it has been tested and implemented in juvenile detention centers.

Midnight Basketball

Midnight Basketball is a program with the goal of mitigating the involvement of youth in criminal and illegal activities during late hours. In order to achieve that, they provide youth

with alternative activities to partake in during late hours, instead of harmful and dangerous ones. By offering a secure and monitored space, it gives young individuals the opportunity to stay awake at night while being supervised. The program is based in U.S. cities where crime is at an all-time high during late hours, such as Chicago and Los Angeles. It has been very successful and has recently started in Australia too.

Fight For Peace

Fight For Peace is a non-profit organization, based in Brazil and the United Kingdom, with the aim of providing a different approach to the challenges faced by youth, in order to break the cycle of crime and violence. Their programs teach martial arts such as Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Boxing, not just for self-defense but also for developing essential core values, such as discipline, respect, and determination. They also provide access to educational support, tutoring, and workshops that cover topics like communication and critical thinking, supporting young individuals in eventually achieving individual and academic success. They are active in 17 countries across the world and have successfully connected youth-focused organizations together and fostered ongoing exchange between them, in order to tackle the issue at-hand.

Laureus Sport for Good

Laureus Sport for Good is a global charity organization with the primary focus of supporting and funding various youth crime prevention programs in order to succeed in their goals. Other than supporting and funding, they also provide their own programs, where young individuals can partake in sports activities in a safe environment instead of engaging in illegal activities. The program has reached over 80,000 young people in many cities across the world, such as London, Paris, Hong Kong, New Delhi, and many states in the US.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

To address the issue of youth crime by utilizing sports and physical activity, there are various actions that can be taken. Thus, countries should invest in sport-based initiatives, collaborations between big sports organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and schools should be developed and more national and international sport-based programs should be implemented.

Mentorship through sports

With the help of big sport organizations and NGOs, schools in vulnerable areas can connect their students with positive role models from the sports community and industry, such as celebrity sports athletes or coaches, who will provide guidance and support to youth. These positive role models, with the help of the schools' personnel, can organize projects and events

within the school, condemning crime and the use of illicit substances, and help the youth develop important social and behavioral skills through sports activities.

Sports scholarships and mentorship programs

Another way to solve this issue, would be to subsidize governments, which will then provide schools, colleges, and universities with sports scholarships and mentorship programmes, including quality sports training and education for at-risk youth. The existence of these scholarships and programmes will help the youth to develop important behavioral and social skills, and incentivise them to engage more frequently in sports, instead of resorting to crime, violence, and the use of substances.

Collaboration of schools and sports institutions

Sports institutions can collaborate with schools to reach youth. Programs aimed to promote sports to young people can be implemented in the form of after-school activities, school clubs, often scouts organized by sports clubs for clubs' youth teams, workshops with prestigious athletes, workshops for experiencing different sports etc. to familiarize youth with sports and support them.

Easier access to sports programs

Access to sports programs should become easier, especially for socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. In this sense, financial support from governments and sport institutions is crucial, which can be done by sport scholarships. Moreover, governments should inspect financially disadvantaged youth and provide support to kids who can't attend sports because of economic difficulties. Prices of sport institutions and programs should be regulated by governments in order to facilitate youth's participation.

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