

# **Volleyball in TRNC: Reasons for Decline of Interest and Recommendations for Improvement**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis examines the causes for the dramatic decline in North Cyprus volleyball and traces the reasons in order to find ways to revive it again.

With the intention of attaining the required data, qualitative approach was used in order to achieve an in-depth study of the research area. Comprehensive and detailed interviews were conducted with the federation president, club presidents, volleyball trainers, physical education teachers and volleyball players.

According to the data collected from the analysis, the main reasons for the setback of country's volleyball can be stated as economic, lack of interest of the government to volleyball as a sport, shifting to technology period, insufficiency of volleyball federation and embargoes.

In the light of the obtained data, country volleyball can be revived with long term planning of regional foundation schools, regulating the by-laws for sponsorship, encouraging trainers who are upbringing players and these new players both financially and morally to provide continuity of the country's volleyball. As a result of the analysis, the following were elucidated; more than one league was preferred with a high enjoyment for watching and competitiveness.

**Keywords:** North Cyprus, sport, volleyball, decline, reasons, recommendations.

## ÖZ

Bu tezin amacı, bitme noktasına kadar azalan Kuzey Kıbrıs voleybolunun azalma sebeplerini bulmak ve yeniden nasıl canlandırılabilceğinin yollarını aramaktır.

Bu tezde ağırlıklı olarak federasyon başkanı, eski ve yeni kulüp başkanları, voleybol antrenörleri, beden eğitimi öğretmenleri ve spocuların ülke voleybolu hakkındaki görüşlerine yer verilmiştir.

Gerekli verilere ulaşabilmek için röportaj yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Kapsamlı ve detaylı bir şekilde yapılan röportajlar, ülke voleyboluna farklı alanlarda hizmet etmiş spor adamlarının görüşleri doğrultusunda voleybolda yaşanan gerilemenin sebeplerine dair çok önemli ve eşsiz verilere ulaşılması sağlanmıştır. Elde edilen bilgiler ışığında, ülke voleybolundaki yaşanan gerilemenin başlıca sebepleri, ekonomik, devletin voleybol federasyonuna olan ilgisizliği, voleybol federasyonunun yetersizliği, voleybol branşının öğrenme zorluğu, beden eğitimi öğretmenlerinin ilgisizliği, özel şirketlerin ve üniversitelerin kurulması, ambargolar ve teknoloji çağına geçilmesi şeklinde sıralanabilir.

Analizlerden elde edilen bilgiler ışığında, ülke voleybolunu yeniden canlandırmak için öncelikle uzun vadeli planlamalarla bölgesel altyapı okulları kurulmalı, sponsor yasaları düzenlenmeli, sporcu yetiştiren eğitmenleri, yetişmekte olan sporculara maddi manevi teşvikler sağlanmalı ve uluslararası turnuvalara katılımlar artırılmalıdır.

Arzu edilen çok takımlı, seyir zevki yüksek, çekişmeli karşılaşmaların yaşandığı bir veya birden fazla liglere ulaşabilme yolları analizlerin sonucunda belirlenmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kuzey Kıbrıs, spor, voleybol, düşünüş sebepleri, tavsiyeler.

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# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Rationale

Cyprus is situated in the North East corner of the Mediterranean and is 71 km south of Turkey, 105 km west of Syria. Cyprus is the third largest Mediterranean island after Sicily and Sardinia ([www.nationsencycloedia.com](http://www.nationsencycloedia.com)). In 1974 Cyprus was divided into two where the Greek Cypriot controlled southern part of Cyprus which is two-thirds of the island and the Turkish controlled northern part which is one third of the island. The Turkish Cypriots subsequently declared independence in 1983 as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus but were recognized only by Turkey. The population of North Cyprus is 265,100 (2006 census) and 55% of the population live in urban area. The urban population is distributed as follows; Nicosia, 85,579; Famagusta, 64,269; Kyrenia, 62,158; Morphou, 31,116; Trikomo, 21,978 (<http://nufussayimi.devplan.org>).

Sport as a whole has many benefits particularly to people who live in an island such as Cyprus. The location and the weather enable all ages to do as many sports as they prefer. While fishing, water sports and carting can also be individually done, indoor sports such as basketball, handball, volleyball, and football is some of the sports available in winter as indoor and in summer at beach tournaments. Sports have been active in the life of Turkish Cypriots for many years.

Although sports had a great role in the lives of the Turkish Cypriots, it has undergone immense amount restrictions due to the political status of TRNC. In 1982, for the first time ‘Sport’ was added to one of the ministries in TRNC and Ahmet Atansoy was appointed to the Ministry of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport. Later in 1983, embargoes restricted the internationality of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. FIFA (Federation of International Football Association) prevented TRNC having a special international match with Turkey in 1984. In 1987, FIFA banned its member countries to compete with TRNC in all regards of sport. In 1988, a campaign against embargoes on sport was carried to the International Olympic Committee with seventy thousand signatures.

In 1992, although there was an embargo on TRNC, Dinamo Brussels football players and Baku volleyball players, and Galatasaray (later followed by other football teams of Turkey) had special tournaments in TRNC. In 1993, a special tournament was done for the Turkish Army National Team. In 1994, volleyball players from Turkey, Macedonia and Bulgaria visited TRNC. Later that year TRNC handball players went to Italy for a tournament. In 1995, FIFA had the embargoes of TRNC on its agenda and Cyprus Turkish Football Federation President Omer Adal went to Paris for further collaborations. In 1996, a group of people from FIFA visited TRNC, inspected facilities and had meetings with officials. In 1997, many protocols were signed between Turkey and TRNC. TRNC basketball players in Iran, the wrestling team in Kazakhstan, cyclists in Germany, disabled team in England participated in international tournaments. In 2000, in an international tournament of cycling in Konya both TRNC and the Greek teams were able to compete. Turkey, TRNC and Greece sharing the same platform was the most important news of the year. In 2001,

Lefke European University table tennis team won the championship in Turkey and had the honour of participating in World Universities Games in Beijing and wrote an important date to the history of sport in TRNC. In 2002, European University of Lefke became the league champion for the second time in Turkey. In 2003, the borders of Cyprus were abolished on 23 April and limited contacts started with Greek Cypriots. In 2004, TRNC football team, although not a member to FIFA had the chance to participate in Norway international tournament with National Federation Board member countries (Hatay, 2006).

It can be seen that Turkish Cypriots participated in many sports and they attempted to go beyond just participating on national platforms and despite the embargoes, it tried to engage in various international platforms as well. However, there is hardly any written information about the nature and the development of sports participation in the lives of Turkish Cypriots. There is a huge gap in the knowledge of this area and a great deal of attention is needed in order to advance the level of understanding in this area. This study by trying to fill this gap focuses on the loss of popularity of volleyball and its reasons.

## **1.2 The Aim of the Study**

The thesis has been guided by a concern with understanding the decline in the popularity of volleyball in TRNC. In order to achieve the above aim, the following objectives were set:

- Identify the main reasons for the decline in the popularity of volleyball in North Cyprus.

- Identify the impacts of universities on the decline in the popularity of volleyball.
- Explore the ways of increasing the popularity of volleyball in TRNC.

### **1.3 Method of the Study**

The qualitative research approach is believed to be appropriate when details of experiences and perceptions are aimed. Thus, to collect detail information in-depth interviews method was used. Further, in order to gain knowledge about the developments and the losses of North Cyprus volleyball, snowball sampling was administered to find the professionals and administrators of the sport. A sample of fifteen interviewees was selected to collect detail information on this topic.

### **1.4 Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is composed of five chapters. The first chapter identifies and introduces the importance of volleyball in North Cyprus. The role of sports in Turkish Cypriot's lives and the significance of volleyball in the country are explained in this chapter. The rational of the research and why it is put into study is explained with the methods used to analyze the research further in the chapter.

Chapter 2 includes the reviews of literature on the concept of defining the history and the popularity of volleyball. The benefits of sport and volleyball will be discussed with the apparent decline in the field along with the popularity of the sport being outlined to emphasize the importance of it in United States of America, Europe and North Cyprus. Then the global reasons for the decline will be discussed to find the relevance with the reasons for the decline of volleyball in North Cyprus further in the chapters.

Chapter 3 describes how the research is carried out and the specific methodology used for the research. Thus, how the data collected and the difficulties during the data collection are also outlined in the chapter.

Chapter 4 outlines the findings and reasons of the research by evaluating the responses of the interviewees and comparing them with the studies used in the literature review to theorize the outcome of the research.

Chapter 5 indicates the problems and provides solutions to improve the country's volleyball.



## **Chapter 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Benefits of Sport**

There are many benefits of doing sports. Accepting successes and failures in positive spirit, dealing with disappointment, relationship and competitive spirit building, teaching players to be participative, developing leadership qualities and fostering team spirit in players, helping to improve the competitive nature of the person such as setting up goals, establishing those goals with the satisfaction of completing these goals, thoughtful planning that involves goal setting, strategy planning and decision making, fostering collective thinking and developing memorial skills, health benefits and doing well in academics are the main benefits of sports. As Merret (2010) suggests, sports involve competition which is winning and losing. This can be then summarized as; sports expose the players to both aspects of life, successes and failures. Those who play sports quickly learn that sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. Players then learn that a good sport has both sides to it. Therefore, it helps them learn to deal with disappointment and go on. Sport is also important in the process of relationship-building and in establishing a relaxed, enjoyable environment beneficial to learning (Tonts, 2010). If a person learns to accept situations, that person will easily build relationships between cause and effect of the situation and establish a relaxed environment; which is the only environment conducive to learning. As a result, playing sports teaches a person to accept both successes and failures in a positive spirit. As the experts of sports like O'Hara (1992) mentions in

his works, the first and one of the most important benefits of sport will be to teach a person to accept life with the positive and negative sides without turning situations into misery for them. Furthermore he appends that, sports build a competitive spirit and teach players to be participative irrespective of whether the participation concludes in a victory or a defeat (O'Hara, 1992).

Sport players learn to acquire the sense of sharing and being one (Australian Sport, 2009). It is also claimed that; sport develops leadership qualities and fosters a team spirit in players (Australian Sport, 2009). Learning and applying team spirit is an important factor in acquiring knowledge about acting as one, which is what a person needs to do not only when he is playing sports but also in his work and social life. Frontiera (2009) suggests that members within a team improve themselves to be able to coordinate with the team: "All participants relayed examples of physical improvements that they had generated that reflect their values and concern for other members of the organization" (Frontiera, 2009: 11). Thus, it is obvious that when a person is lacking team spirit value, they also lack sense of belonging. Another study suggests that: "Without the help and support of the entire team, a player has nothing of his own. Proper understanding and positive communication among the members of a team helps the entire team to build up the team spirit..." (Parsons, 2001: 211).

As a result, we can see that team spirit is gained through sports which reflect positively to the lifestyle of the person. Therefore, sports teach a person to interact with people and act as a team. Furthermore, having sports as part of life helps to improve the competitive nature of a person (Beaumont, 2009). Competitive nature includes goal-setting skills, strategic thinking and decision making: "Sport is where

players can learn goal-setting, strategic thinking and the pursuit of excellence in performance - critical skills necessary for success in the workplace” (Stubbe, Boomsma, Geus, 2005: 564). As Humphrey (2006) recommends in his study of Clinical Applications setting up goals, establishing those goals and the satisfaction of completion helps the self-confidence of the people to boost. So sports build confidence and give players a sense of accomplishment. Sport then, teaches how to set goals and how to go by following them which affects the behaviour of the person. In other words, ability to set goals is reflected in the behaviour of the person. As Carver and Scheier (1988) suggest,

... a control process model of attention, which has proved helpful for understanding the mechanisms underlying the phenomenon of task interfering thoughts. In brief, they proposed that, in achievement settings, human behaviour is regulated by a system of feedback control. People establish goals in relation to certain values or standards and use these standards as reference points. When behaviour is displayed, individuals monitor themselves in terms of these goals (cited in Hatzigeorgiadis, Antonis and Biddle, Stuart J. H.2001: 710).

Thus a person establishes their goals in life whether they are long term or short term and regulates their behaviour according to how to achieve these goals. As Hirth (2006) claims, another benefit of sport is that it teaches people how to set goals. Simply in any sport, it is obvious that a player sets up a goal to score, to spike or to run home which are an individual and a short term goal. Additionally, players set up their team and long term goal to win by the end of the game. Macquet (2009) argues that strategic thinking skills is also developed through sports as they need to plan all moves to reach their goals which enables them to think fast as well:

Taking into account both the updating of knowledge about the players and the game play also allows players to think about what could happen in a situation in which they are committed. The players expect a particular opponent’s action or simulate the consequences of a course of action. Their expectations contribute to investigating a specific course of action while, at the same time,

continuing to assess the way that the situation is evolving (Macquet, 2009: 66). By thinking and figuring out their team's movement as well as their own and also their opponents' at the same time is a strategic planning of the previous, current and future actions. Sports then forces players to have various plans all at the same time (Sallis, 2006). In other words, playing sports requires planning thoughtfully. Athletes need to devise the best ways to score goals, the best strategies to win and plan carefully towards victory. Goal-setting, strategy-planning can be topped off with decision making skills that are enabled with sports as well. In order to make decisions, previous experiences of the person are used both consciously and unconsciously during sport: "Players' experience appeared in: (a) the use of a typical action associated with rules and a preceding event, (b) the focus on critical information, and (c) the anticipation about a particular player's action according to the possible range of actions in a given game situation" (Macquet, 2009: 67). Thus, players are forced to make decisions through their experiences. Therefore, goal-setting, strategic planning and decision making skills of a person can be enforced through sports based on the competitive nature of players (Macquet, 2009).

Kitsantas (2010) believes that the most important benefit of playing sports is the sportsman spirit. Playing sports results in the development of a sportive nature, which is helpful throughout one's life. As Kitsantas (2010) further claims a sports player can be seen from their looks and also from their high self-confidence. Besides, playing sports is very beneficial for the development of social skills in a person. As stated by Hatzigeorgiadis and Stuart (2002) sports foster collective thinking and develop memorial skills.

While there certainly is an element of nostalgia in these collective memories, they also help bind individuals together through shared experiences that are recalled and reinterpreted after the event. Ultimately, these memories are not only central to fostering a sense of social attachment and belonging, but also to place. Embedded within these sporting stories and discussions are memories of the places involved (Hatzigeorgiadis, Antonis and Biddle, Stuart J. H.2002: 709).

Players' memorial skills and collective thinking then is developed through their shared experiences after the event which is to say after the match, game or training. When players share these experiences, they don't only socialize through their experiences but also improve their memory and collective thinking skills (Hatzigeorgiadis and Stuart, 2002). The evidence relating to health benefits of physical activity predominantly focuses on intra-personal factors such as physiological, cognitive and affective benefits, however, that does not exclude the social and inter-personal benefits of sport and physical activity which can also produce positive health effects in individuals and communities. A constructive expenditure of energy that sports bring out is very helpful in keeping a person happy. Exercise generates happiness molecules in a person's body, thus contributing to his/her mental well-being. Sports generate a positive energy (Hatzigeorgiadis and Stuart, 2002).

Playing sports serve as an excellent exercise, which has a wide variety of health benefits. It reduces blood sugar level and the risk of blood cholesterol as well as heart diseases (Hirth, Reybrouck, Bjarnason-Wehrens, Wolfgang and Hoffmann, 2006). "Children have a natural need for motor activities and this should not be interrupted or discouraged. Perception and motor activities in children with CHD are catalysts not only for the child's physical development but also for the emotional, psychosocial and cognitive skill." (Hirth, Reybrouck, Bjarnason-Wehrens, Wolfgang

and Hoffmann, 2006:295). Furthermore, they claim that playing sports decreases the chances of hypertension and several other stress related disorders. Research has revealed that people who play sports regularly can deal with stresses and strains in life in a better manner. Depression, anxiety and other psychological disorders are less probable in people who indulge in sport activities. Regular exercise helps increase the overall quality of life. Playing sports acts as a beautiful blend of recreation and physical activity. It is a combination of both enjoyment and exercise. Moreover, patients in hospital have been studied and the result showed that: “Multidisciplinary interventions that include exercise improve patient and hospital outcomes for acutely hospitalized older medical patients” (Morton, 2006: 6). In short, Morton (2006) argues that, sports has various health benefits for people with heart problems and therefore works on the hypertension as it decreases heart disorders, treats prolonged patients in hospitals, decreases psychological disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Sports thus play a vital role in one's social well-being. Statistics show that people involved in sports activities do well in academics, school and college activities:

Improving in sports translates directly to improving in school. Sports can help you; increase concentration and develop problem-solving skills, learn how to set and attain goals, gain “Training Transfer”, skills that start showing up in school or on the job, improve self-esteem through success (and failure!) , learn time-management skills. Students who play sports work harder in the classroom. A study of 2,308 student athletes in grades 7-12 found that 56 percent received A's, 45 percent received B's and C's (Walter, 2008: 417).

The intellectual side of the people can be improved through sports as well as the social side. As Laura and Kelly suggest: “Sport is now promoted as a form of universal ‘positive activity’ within mainstream policy for children and young people, but has also been utilized as part of targeted social exclusion prevention strategies”

(2001: 129). It is through sports that the social side of people can be improved and developed in the society: Jeroen Vermeulen and Paul Verweel present findings from studies on sport and social participation in the context of ethnic diversity in the Netherlands. They argue that:

...sport participation can help individuals to develop competence in the sometimes subtle and situational processes of social inclusion and exclusion. Sport provides ways to be included, to attain recognition and self-esteem. They assert that while sport may make important contributions to the development of social capital in terms of useful and reciprocal relations and trust in others, bonding and bridging practices are far more complex and differentiated processes than usually assumed (Spaaij, Ramón 2009: 1112).

It can be concluded that benefits of sport help to improve the mental, physical and social manners of people. Basically, sport as a whole improves the well-being of an individual.

## **2.2 History of Volleyball**

Just as any phenomena have a past to define why and where it started and how it continued, volleyball also has a history that dates back to 1890's. 'In 1895, William G. Morgan, an instructor at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Holyoke, Mass, decided to blend elements of basketball, baseball, tennis, and handball to create a game for his classes of businessmen which would demand less physical contact than basketball. He created the game of Volleyball which he first named "Mintonette"(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volleyball>). Volleyball then is not as old as the four sports Mr. Morgan compiled together. However, volleyball became just as well known as the sports put together to form it. Moreover, it is played by more people than some of the mother-sports in the world at the moment.

Volleyball is an Olympic team sport game in which two teams of 6 players are separated by a net. Each team tries to score points by grounding a ball on the other team's court under organized rules. The ball is usually played with the hands or arms, but players can legally strike the ball with any part of the body. Simply, play proceeds as follows: A player on one of the teams begins a rally by serving the ball, from behind the back boundary line of the court over the net and into the receiving team's court. The receiving team must not let the ball be grounded within their court. They may touch the ball as many as three times.

The sport originated in the United States, and achieved its popularity which later received its recognition on global basis, where it ranks behind only soccer among participation sports. Today there are more than 46 million Americans who play volleyball. There are 800 million players worldwide who play volleyball at least once a week. Volleyball has plodded along since 1895 and it's now touted as the second most popular sport in the world. William G. Morgan thought that volleyball would be a great game for young businessmen. It would be a great diversion for a young hard workingman and keep him physically and mentally fit ([http://www.volleyball.com/volleyball\\_history.aspx](http://www.volleyball.com/volleyball_history.aspx)). Mr. Morgan didn't completely finish the job he started, because he didn't see any reason to have a lot of hard and fast rules. There wasn't any limit to the number of players for each team and players could hit the ball as many times as they wanted before sending it over the net to their opponents. But, over the years rules were established much like the ones today and volleyball started spreading throughout the world. In 1964, volleyball was introduced to the Olympic Games in Tokyo. In 1990, the World League was created (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/volleyball>).



Coming back to the actual history of volleyball with Mr. Morgan; during a demonstration game someone remarked to Morgan that the players seemed to be volleying the ball back and forth over the net, and perhaps "volleyball" would be a more descriptive name for the sport. On July 7, 1896 at Springfield College the first game of "volleyball" was played ([http://www.volleyball.com/volleyball\\_history.aspx](http://www.volleyball.com/volleyball_history.aspx)).

### **2.3. Benefits of Volleyball**

Just like all the other sports, volleyball has many contributions to the person's physical and mental health. It also contributes to social well being of the person as well; just as sport in general does. It sustains the self-peace within the person by accepting life as it is. It develops leadership skills and fosters a team spirit as well as maintaining a competitive nature of the person. Volleyball develops collective thinking and memorial skills with the improvement of their intellectual side. So basically volleyball is a sport which has all the main positive characteristics of sports. During the game of volleyball many parts of our body such as shoulders, neck, knees work as well as our internal organs. Since it is a game that needs a lot of concentration of all players simultaneously; for the ball keeps going back and forward to the opposite court, lack of concentration cannot be tolerated. Secondly, the heart muscles work a lot as well because you need to make sure that the ball coming from the opposite court does not hit the floor or you need to hit the ball passed to you in such a way that it becomes a score for you (Campell and Jeni, 2010). Thus, the heart muscle of the volleyball players works to the fullest. "In volleyball your heart muscle is the biggest muscle that works hard with running and jumping. Also, you have to hustle to get the ball because you don't want it to touch the floor, which is another example of using your heart muscle" (Campbell and Jeni

2010: 24). So, volleyball can facilitate to the mental and physical health of the person. Having a good health and appearance always gives self confidence to a person and through volleyball, a good appearance and health is achieved which will help towards the self confidence of the volleyball player (Campbell and Jenni, 2010). Volleyball teaches the person to accept winning and losing on equal basis which leads to self-peace:

The players on a volleyball team exert themselves physically and mentally preparing for and playing a match... athletes must sustain a positive attitude in order to maintain their motivation... athletes look at their performance in a losing game as a learning experience rather than a personal failure, thus making the experience valuable as opposed to having it rob the athlete of confidence (Comeau and Church 2010: 460).

According to Comeau and Church (2010), volleyball then maintains the peace within the player by making them see that losing a game is just as beneficial as winning a game. Losing as a team is a learning experience for all the players as losing means finding the weak points to improve. Therefore, when a person accepts and acts upon their positive and negative actions, then that person is at self-peace.

Playing as a team and having the team spirit of running the game as a team will enable all the players to be more successful and peaceful during the game state Spittle and Byrne 2011: "...teamwork, is a big part of volleyball; if teammates don't work together they won't be able to score a lot of points. Having a team bond means that you are better able to work with each other" (Spittle and Byrne, 2011: 256).

Being able to work with each other during a game and leaving the fate of the game to the team not to the player himself only shows how the person can work in harmony with anyone in the society. This develops the trust that the player may foster to his surroundings: "By focusing the team on its shared goals, values and beliefs, the

bonds and trust between team members will deepen. When a volleyball team has a strong sense of unity, it can be enough to swing the team toward a win during a tight match” (Jagemann, 2003: 3). Additionally, teamwork and leadership skills are based on the trust and harmony the team has and volleyball makes the players achieve this. The competitive nature of all players is explicit but volleyball is one sport branch that forces the player to set goals and think strategically. “Training for volleyball is training for life, if you make it a conscious reflection of what you want to do. Then, you can apply those principles in a consistent manner in everything you do to achieve your goals” (Turner, Kerry 2008: 12). During a set, there are many spikes and in order to spike, you need to plan variously in short times. This planning need goal setting and thinking strategically of course and this is what a volleyball player is obliged to do during the game. In short, volleyball has the main benefits of sports within its body. The following article summarises the importance of volleyball briefly:

Setbacks are frequent throughout life, yet must be overcome if you are to move forward in a positive manner. Every point in volleyball is the result of a failure by someone. How we respond to that failure will determine where our next potential success can come. The athlete must find personal strength to not carry the negative emotional baggage toward their next opportunity. Teammates/friends can learn to support, encourage and love unconditionally those that have failed. This will allow everyone to bring positive opportunities in the future. The coach/employer can learn to share failures with those she is responsible for and aid in minimizing or preventing them in the future (Pritchard 2008: 224).

Volleyball also helps people:

... it has positive consequences on people that like to take part in it ... it helps people to stay healthy and to preserve physical fitness, as it happens with other sports. At the same time it is a way, for young people, to release tension without turning to dangerous outlets such as violence and crime... volleyball, is its contribution to the development of solidarity and cooperation between the members of the team. The common effort, brings individuals that participate in a volleyball game, closer to each other, while this game gives

them the chance to cooperate for the best possible result” (Dithurbide, 2009: 494).

However, phenomena as important as sport is seem to be losing its importance and popularity in the society. It is also unfortunate that volleyball is also losing its popularity, especially in North Cyprus. The reasons for the decline in sports participation and volleyball will be analyzed further in the chapter.

## **2.4 Sport moving towards Decline**

Sport is something that people should continue to practice throughout their lives for the many benefits it has on the person and its surroundings. However, participation in the sport has been declining in ever since the era has shifted to a technological and individual focus rather than the real participation, one to one. Lives of people have changed due to the working conditions and lifestyles of people: “In Britain in 2002, 72 percent of 16–19 year olds and 61 percent of 20–24 year olds were playing sport at least once a month. In the South Caucasus the participation rates (ever in a year) were just 34 percent at age 16 declining to 14 percent at age 30” (Birchwood, Diane, Roberts, Ken and Pollock Gary 2008: 134). This shows that participation of sport is dependant according to the ages. Another study stated that after adolescence, participation in sport decreases as well: “Estimated activity levels increase during childhood into early adolescence, and then decline as youth pass through adolescence” (Malina, R 1999: 54).

Women’s sport advocacy groups are also concerned with the declining activity levels for women in relation to age, homophobia in sport, the lack of representation of women in leadership positions, and the image of women in sports (Comeau, Gina S. and Church, Anthony G. 2010: 461).

One of the most important reasons for the fall of sports is the family status (Kay 2006). Especially females do not tend to continue with their sports after they get married and have children. They tend to dedicate themselves to their family and since the majority of females are working mothers, they prefer to have their sport time with their kids. As Clark (2008) points out the lack of participation is more in women than men: "Sports participation of boys has declined from 66% in 1992 to 56% in 2005. Over the same time period, sports participation of girls has changed from 49% to 45%" (Clark, 2008: 54). Also, just before people get married, they have to have a good education to be able to compete in the working field with the rest of the university graduates. Another study states that:

Among both men and women, overall sports participation has decreased since 1996. In 1996, 71% of men had participated in at least one activity, including walking, in the four weeks before interview, compared with 65% in 2002. Similarly for women, the four-week participation rate, including walking, fell from 58% in 1996 to 53% in 2002 (Fox, Kate and Rickards, Leicha 2004: 7).

It is explicit from the studies that both men and women are participating less in sports due to the changes in their social and work status. Another research explained the fall of participation rates for women in relation to household responsibilities.

They claim that:

... housework and motherhood restrict women's leisure, more so than the leisure of husbands and fathers, and that this makes it particularly difficult for women to retain their own personal leisure time and activities, including taking part in sport (Birckwood, Diane, Roberts, Ken and Pollocks, Gary 2008: 98).

Thus, it is clear that age, marital status and working conditions of people affected their lack of participation in sport.

It is unfortunate that volleyball is a sport which has been losing its popularity in the last decades. As Dithurbide (2009) pointed out: "Volleyball is unfortunately a

neglected sport. It has neither been promoted as should have been nor is it of the most popular among young people”.

Another reason for the decline in sport participation is the technology. The era being the technology era is preventing many people from participating actively in sports as well as other activities which requires the usage of the body functions. It is with technology that internet and media has intervened in our lives and imprisoned the people to the computer, chair and table along with television and the programs to the couch. People have lost the active involvement with the nature and sport due to the technology being so heavily impacted in our lives. Rosandish (2010) emphasizes the importance of technology in our lives in a very clear manner:

We are living in the midst of one of those very unusual occurrences that come along once every few generations: a society wide paradigm shift. The close of the last millennium has seen a fundamental change that is moving society the age of industry to the age of information. The currency in this new society that is being formed is information and the medium of exchange is called IT (and sometimes computer technology - CT). IT is simply the tools and methods used for the identification, organization and manipulation of facts that we call data. IT has become the engine that is driving all sectors of today's economy be it industry, government, education or indeed, sports (Rosandigh, 2010: 44).

Information technology is transferring all the data from one sector, one unit to the other which makes it easier for people to obtain information through technology. This stops people from moving too frequently and therefore doing sports as well.

It is obvious that the world is going through difficult conditions especially in terms of finance. During such times people are less likely to spend their money on personal habits and luxuries. Sport is a luxury at the moment as it costs a certain amount especially if it is to be practiced along with a trainer.

Thus, in order to become a professional sport person the player can continue doing the sport individually, financially there needs to be support and with the economic crises of the world at the moment, it is difficult to continue the sport. It is then the families with high income who can involve themselves and their families in sport participation:

In 2005, 51% of two-parent households with children spent money on sports and athletic equipment. Those who made such expenditures spent an average of \$579 during the year. In addition to these equipment expenses, families may also spend money on facility rentals, transportation to sports events, club memberships and competition entry fees in order to support their children's participation in sports. In light of such costs, it is not surprising that sports participation is most prevalent among children from high-income households (highest adjusted income quintile) at 68%, and lowest among children from lower income households (lowest quintile), at 44%. (Clark, 2008: 56)

It is then obvious that with the economic crises there is also a reduction in sports participation.

Sport is often practiced on voluntary basis. This is valid for volleyball as well. Volleyball is played at the stadium, on the beach, at picnics between the family but most of the time it is played on amateur and therefore voluntary basis. The changing lifestyles of the people of the period do not enable them to continue their voluntary habits such as playing volleyball. The trend of declining sport volunteers and the impact of this on the community sport system has become a serious concern. One of the reasons for this is that governments tend to increase the bureaucracy associated with running sport facilities in clubs and organizations. Everyone would agree that each government has distinct policy for the operations of sport activities and this makes it difficult for the volunteers to participate in sports as well as people who are in the workforce. Ringuet (2008) listed a number of difficulties for the volunteers to participate in sports.

...the demanding nature of volunteer roles; capability of sport clubs to attract suitable volunteers; long serving volunteers not making 'space' for newer volunteers to become involved; and pressure to gain external funding... Personal issues; pressures of family and paid work; hour involved in volunteer work; fear of being abused and lacking knowledge or skills about the sport and/or administrative processes to operate the club. (Ringuet, 2008: 221 ).

People need a motivation to start and continue something that they would do as voluntary, the support of the family, work place and officials such as council and government is crucial. The social context of sport is salient to participants' motivation. Participants report social reasons for engaging in physical activities including affiliation, being part of a team, and social status (Allen, 2003). According to Ringuet, (2008) the officials also play a major role in the society's participation in sport; however, we can see in the study again that the interest of the officials is at minimum for the encouragement of the society to participate in sports:

Aging volunteer workforce; volunteer roles are too demanding and lack of council support... Government agencies at the state level should: provide funding support for the delivery of a series of club workshops... Allocate financial resources to support local sport clubs through regular maintenance and annual upgrading of facilities; increase their recognition of local sport clubs by providing adequate resources for volunteers. (Ringuet, 2008: 224)

It can be summarised that the changing of lifestyles is the workforce people are obliged to be involved in and it is with the workforce being difficult to handle that people need the support of officials to encourage them for the time and financial management.

Thus, we can then say that the limitations and barriers in social, personal and organizational areas are the major reasons for the life changes of the people which prevent them from participating in sports which leads to the decline of all the sport branches and therefore volleyball as well.



## **2.5 Popularity of Volleyball and Its Decline**

Popularity of a sport lies in the interest people have to that particular sport. It also lies under the exciting innovations and stable rules constructed to make that particular sport fair and worth playing. It is seen by the history timeline of volleyball that diverse parts of the world had worked to improve various fractions of volleyball. Although the main importance to volleyball is seen in America from the history timeline, one of the main movements occurred when the Philippines invented the “spike” or overhand manoeuvre which drove the ball hard in to the opponents’ territory. This “spike” became an intricate part of the game and is used today as one of the most crucial movements to make the game exciting and competitive. It is with spike that there is also the ‘block’ of the opponent to stop the spike going to their own territory. A movement as important as these two have been constituted in Philippines, Asia; where the emphasis at that time to volleyball was in Brooklyn, California and other states of America, as it is seen on the table. Volleyball being introduced to Olympics for the first time in 1964 was again not in America but in Tokyo. So in short, we can say that the popularity of volleyball spread throughout the world gradually by hitting off in America first (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/volleyball>).

Although volleyball in the USA remains second only to basketball in terms of team sport popularity, with an estimated 29 million people playing indoor or beach volleyball, in this ever more global economy, the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) continues as the largest international federation in the world With 217 national federations as members (<http://www.bvbinfo.com>). The FIVB’s most recent

estimate of 800 million participants reflects both the worldwide scholastic popularity of the sport and its lifetime nature (<http://www.bvbinfo.com>).

Beach tournaments were another tremendous addition to the interest of volleyball and volleyball is the first sport to be played on the beach besides water sports (<http://www.bvbinfo.com/history.asp>). Beach tournaments started in the 20's in sunny California, thus offering a new twist to the game of volleyball. By the 1930s it was being played in the strangest places: Riga, Sofia and Prague, the capital cities of Latvia, Bulgaria and the then Czechoslovakia (<http://www.athleticscholarships.net>). Beach volleyball became so popular that in 1996 it made it to the Olympics. 2008 summer Olympics in Beijing was one of the most attractive sports as 48 teams played from 32 different countries (<http://en.beijing2008.cn/sports/beachvolleyball>).

However, as America was the main interest of origin to volleyball, the first beach tournament was also held in 1920's and later become the Olympic game in 1996 for the first time (<http://www.bvbinfo.com/tournament.asp>). Beach volleyball which was an American phenomenon in the past is growing globally and is no longer dominated by USA players. Brazil and several European countries had winning teams battling on international television in the two year international qualification process towards Sydney 2000 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/09/25/sports/sydney-2000-roundup-australian-pair-win-beach-volleyball-gold.html>). We can again support the fact that although volleyball as well as beach volleyball was originated in America, it spread throughout the world from Asia to Europe to Oceania.

In USA, the code option of volleyball, one of the sport's strengths, consistently remains indoors, with a 50-50 balance between males and females. At the intercollegiate level the sport shows the same ratio, with the women's intercollegiate game again second only to basketball in team sports participation. The National Intramural Recreation and Sports Association (NIRSA) are now in the second decade of hosting a National Club Championship. It is unfortunate that day by day it is losing its importance as it cannot compete against the difficult lifestyle of the world. This simply means that, there is interest in volleyball but the current circumstances do not suit the cheer of volleyball in the world. So, just as any sport volleyball is declining as well.

### **2.5.1 Popularity of Volleyball in USA**

Since its birth in United States, volleyball has remained one of the most popular sports in this country. The country has nursed the sport as a mother and has helped it grow as a global sport. This fact can't be denied that the sport owes its very existence to the United States. Thus United States and Volleyball are inseparable. Presently there are associations and it's United States' Volleyball Association that is looking into the interest of the sport as it's national governing body. The USVBA is striving for the growth of volleyball within and outside the country. The association also aims at making a powerful American representation at international volleyball bodies. The association also aims at fairing well at various championships including Olympics (<http://www.thefullwiki.org/USVBA>).

In order to popularize the sport further, the association also introduced domestic tournaments of different age groups and sexes. In 1986, US also witnessed a Women Championship. In 1987, Indoor Volleyball Women's league was introduced. The Association also went on establishing Junior Olympic Club Volleyball. It was done

with a view to train young boys and girls for national squads. Club level tournaments and provincial tournaments provide enough opportunity for budding talents to get groomed into national players. US every year witnesses nine qualifying championships for various volleyball clubs striving for an entry into national championship (<http://www.thefullwiki.org/USVBA>) .

In recent years in the US, women have been found to be taking more interest in the game than men. Volleyball can be termed as one of the most popular school level girls sport in US. Annual festivals of volleyball at Nevada and Reno are also very popular. US national team, junior national team and youth team of both sexes have registered fair amount of success in overseas competitions. Different genres of Volleyball in US offer variety to the lovers of this sport. For example Beach volleyball, Indoor volleyball and park volleyball tournaments are organized separately. Therefore, again the impact of work and effort put on the sport does not fulfil to the increase of the sport. Instead it is leading towards a dramatic fall especially in the USA.

### **2.5.2 Popularity of Volleyball in Europe**

European Volleyball Championships history started in 1948. Until now there has been 24 European tournaments (<http://www.cev.lu/>). The most medals won by Soviet Union. Europe in global is the continent with the best teams such as Italy, Russia, Serbia & Montenegro, France, Poland and the best volleyball players of the world are playing volleyball leagues in Italy, Russia, Greece and France. The European Volleyball Confederation (CEV), which coordinates the activities of 54 European Federations and promotes the expansion and popularity of Volleyball within Europe (<http://www.cev.lu/>).

As a satellite organisation of the World Volleyball Federation FIVB, the CEV represents the continental link between all national volleyball federations throughout Europe and is responsible for the organisation, staging and supervision of the European Champions' League. Producing and distributing each year 3 million units – refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers and cookers - throughout Europe. Supporting such a prestigious sports competition like the European Champions' League is a premium opportunity for companies and organisations to show to a large public their values, products and services”, said CEV President, André MEYER (<http://www.cev.lu/>).

The European Champions' League represents a major challenge for us and will give us the opportunity to socialise with a young and dynamic generation that is to say, the Volleyball scene in Europe.” The European Champions' League looks back at a very short history with the first edition of this major Volleyball event having taken place in 2000-2001. The competition develops nevertheless into an unforgettable manifestation for Volleyball devotees – players, spectators, media, and organisers – and gathers Europe's top club teams, yet some of the world's best players. The edition 2001-2002, whose official presentation took place in Warsaw on 17th November 2001, will consist of 16 teams for the men and 12 teams for the women ranging from Russia to Spain and from France to Greece(<http://www.cev.lu/>).

From December 2001 to January 2002, the men played a double round robin system (home & away matches) in four pools of four teams each and the women in three pools of four teams each. In the men's competition the first and second ranked teams of the league round qualify for the quarterfinals during the month of February 2002. In the women's competition the first and second ranked teams plus the two third

ranked teams with the best score proceed to the quarterfinals. During the month of March 2002, the winners of the quarterfinals will meet for the Final Four consisting of semi final matches, a classification match (3-4) and the Final (1-2). The champion will receive the “Indesit Cup” (<http://www.cev.lu/>).

The games and the effort spared for the tournaments did not help the decline of volleyball in Europe as well. Europe did not go beyond international tournaments to increase the number of teams it had in the last ten years. On the contrary, we see a great diminishing of the teams playing in the tournaments.

### **2.5.3 Popularity of Volleyball in North Cyprus**

Although participation in volleyball showed its popularity in USA and Europe, there definitely had been a decline in volleyball as well as other sport branches in North Cyprus. On June 24, 1970 the volleyball Federation of Turkish Republic of North Cyprus was formed under the presidency of Asım Hilmi (Spor Suurası VII, VIII 168, IX 183). Volleyball federation is the third federation in North Cyprus. In the early 1990, volleyball in North Cyprus was actively televised and publicized especially the final matches were very important which was highly anticipated by the supporters. Nowadays volleyball in North Cyprus is not treated with the same respect nor it is as popular as it used to be. In other words, currently there is a decline in volleyball as there are only 4 teams participating on a professional level. So, there had been a decrease in the number of teams, players, referees, trainers and clubs (see table 1 below) (Spor Suurası VII, VIII 168, IX 183). Embargoes on country's sport are the main reasons for the in-advancement and even for the regression of the country's sport. Since 1955, Turkish Cypriot has been denied of FIFA membership and as a result cannot play against any FIFA register clubs or national side because of

political problems on the island. Since 1984, even friendly matches are banned, with FIFA issuing fines for any club playing against a team from North Cyprus (Hatay, 2007).

**Table 1: Volleyball in North Cyprus**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Players</b>	<b>Referee</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Club</b>
2009	276	40	43	9
2008	265	44	40	9
2007	244	47	39	9
2006	252	41	37	10
2005	356	70	33	10
2000	500	35	30	14
1997	380	48	52	19
1994	140	23	27	10
1991	976	20	97	26

(Spor Suurası VIII 168, IX 183).

In 2011, there are only three teams which participate in volleyball league in Northern Cyprus. Thus, it is crucial to explore this sport in North Cyprus in detail to reach a conclusion in order to explain the reasons for the decline of participation and support in volleyball.

Playing volleyball in North Cyprus was one of the most popular ways of doing sports. If we look at the Volleyball Federations Activities between 2001 and 2005, we will see that Turkish Cypriot teams competed in many internal and external tournaments. (See table 2 below).

**Table 2: Volleyball Federation Activities 2001-2005**

No. of Activities	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Internal	14	15	19	18
External	8	7	3	1

(Spor Suurası VII, VIII 168, IX 183)

Today, these numbers are well below the numbers stated in Table 2. The Table 3 below show the details of the leagues by years for volleyball from 2001 to 2011:

**Table 3: Men and Women Teams of Volleyball from 2001-2011**

YEARS	MEN'S TEAMS	WOMEN'S TEAMS
2001-2002	EUL, NEU, EMU, VAKIFLAR	EUL, EMU, NEU, GAU, VAKIFLAR
2002-2003	EUL, NEU, EMU, VAKIFLAR	EUL, NEU, EMU, VAKIFLAR, GARDIYANLAR
2003-	EUL, NEU,	EUL, NEU, EMU,



2004	EMU, VAKIFLAR, BORASPOR	VAKIFLAR, GARDIYANLAR
2004- 2005	EUL, NEU, EMU, VAKIFLAR, ERENKOY, MAGUSA IHTISAS	EUL, EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR
2005- 2006	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, ERENKOY	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, DUMLUPINAR
2006- 2007	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, ERENKOY	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, DUMLUPINAR, MTG
2007- 2008	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, ERENKOY	NEU, VAKIFLAR, DUMLUPINAR, A TEAM
2008- 2009	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, AVTEPE	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR, A TEAM, ESENTEPE
2009- 2010	NEU, EMU, VAKIFLAR, AVTEPE, MAGEM	EMU, NEU, VAKIFLAR
2010-	EMU,	NEU, VAKIFLAR, MAGEM

2011	VAKIFLAR, AVTEPE, MAGEM	
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It can be seen from the table that there is no steadiness in the teams played every year. For example, Dumlupinar participated in the women's league for four years in a row and then stopped just like Erenkoy which no longer participates in the leagues.

The data also shows that between 2001 and 2005 volleyball was one of the sport branches that had the most competitions in North Cyprus and abroad (Spor Suurasi VII, VIII 168, IX 183).

From the data in the table 3 below, years, tournament names, names of internal tournaments, names and places of the external tournaments can be inferred (Spor Suurasi VII, VIII 168, IX 183).

**Table 4: Volleyball Federation Internal Activities 2001 – 2005**

Year	Competition/Tournament Name
2001 - 2002	Men's League; Men's Federation Cup; Women's League; Women's Federation Cup; Young Women's League; Star Men's League; Star Women's League; Women's Super Cup; Men's Super Cup; II. Merit Crystal Cove Hotel Beach Volleyball; UBP Lefkosa Youth Branch Memorial; I. Sport Ministry and Volleyball

	Federation Volleyball; Beach International Volleyball;
2002 - 2003	Men's League; Men's Federation Cup; Women's League; Women's Federation Cup; Young Women's League; Young Men's League; Star Men's League; Star Women's League; Women's Super Cup; Men's Super Cup; III. Merit Crystal Cove Hotel Beach Volleyball; UBP Lefkosa Youth Branch Memorial;
2003 - 2004	5.Suleyman Memorial Cup, 3. Levent Soykut Memorial Cup, 4.KTSYD
2004 - 2005	5.KTSYD, 4. Levent Soykut Memorial Cup, 6. Suleyman Koseoglu Memorial, Men's League; Men's Federation Cup; Women's League; Women's Federation Cup;

(Spor Suurası VII, VIII 168, IX 183)

It is explicit from the tables above that volleyball had active years with various tournaments throughout the season. Thus, there were many teams, players, referees and trainers involved in volleyball. This research aims to explain this fall in the popularity of volleyball in North Cyprus.

## **Chapter 3**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aim of the Research**

The purpose of this study is to analyse the decline of volleyball in North Cyprus, trace the reasons for the decrease and find ways to revive volleyball again. Precisely, this study is expected to observe the diverse perspectives of the important names who have contributed to country's volleyball. Recorded data about volleyball of North Cyprus is very limited; so furthermore the study intends to enlighten the hidden data of volleyball by the interviews of the contributors who discuss volleyball's history to obstacles in volleyball to the solutions for the obstacles.

Thus the study was aimed to investigate;

- The main reasons for the decline in the popularity of volleyball.
- The impact of the universities on the decline in the popularity of volleyball.
- The ways of increasing the popularity of volleyball in North Cyprus again.

This study then, examined the reasons of the decline of volleyball and by the responses determined the ways to solve the setbacks to improve the popularity of it once again.

## **3.2 Methods and Methodology for the Research**

### **3.2.1 Theorizing Methodology**

Methodology in a study draws the path of the whole research. It is basically the reasoning of the methodology however that guides these methods. The reasoning here is the theory of the methodology. The reasoning of a methodology can be deductive or inductive. Deductive reasoning work from the more general to the more specific which is also called “top-down” approach. Here, conclusion follows logically from the premises. Deductive research develops theories or hypothesizes and tests these theories or hypothesizes through empirical observation (Lancaster, 2005). On the other hand, inductive approach reasons the methodology by moving from specific observations to broader generalizations and theories which are called “bottom-up” approach (Trochim, 2006). Inductive research approach involves a degree of uncertainty (Burney, 2008). Deductive research develops theories or hypothesizes which is tested using empirical observation from the world (Lancaster, 2005).

### **3.2.2 Research Approach**

Scientific research methods, as science itself, have undergone changes and innovations over time. There are two main currents in scientific research: quantitative and qualitative (Batistam 1987) and researches have long debated the relative value of qualitative and quantitative inquiry (Patton, 1990).

Qualitative research refers to the any type of research that produces findings not arrived at by statistical procedures or other means of quantification (Potter, 1996:17).

Qualitative analysis builds upon natural ways of thinking (Strauss and Corbin, 2002:20). Qualitative research allows researchers to get at the inner experience of the

participants, to determine how meanings are formed through and in culture and to discover rather than test variables (Strauss and Corbin, 2002:20). It refers to research about person's lives, lived experiences, behaviours, emotions and feelings as well as organizational functioning, social movements, cultural phenomena and interactions between nations (Strauss and Corbin, 1998). Qualitative research uses a naturalistic approach that seeks to understand phenomena in context in specific settings (Golafshani, 2003:600).

Qualitative research seeks illumination, understanding and extrapolation to similar situations (Hoepfl, 1997). Qualitative research reports, typically rich with detail and insights into the participants' experiences of the world; "may be epistemologically in harmony with the reader's experience" (Stake, 1978:5). The two prevailing forms of data collection associated with qualitative inquiry are interviews and observation (Hoepfl, 1997). Qualitative interviews can be used either as the main strategy for data collection or in combination with observation, document analysis or other techniques (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982). Qualitative research can also be done in the form of focus groups, that is, groups of six to ten respondents at a time to carry on group discussion which is led by a trained moderator.

Unlike qualitative researchers, quantitative researchers seek casual determination, prediction and generalization of findings (Hoepfl, 1997). However, the quantitative research method involves large numbers of respondents, typically 100 or more and yields results that are representative of the total population and its' results are reliable ([http://www.macroinc.com/html.art.s\\_qua.html](http://www.macroinc.com/html.art.s_qua.html)). Quantitative research allows the researcher allows the researcher to familiarize herself with the problem or concept to

be studied and perhaps generate hypotheses to be tested (Golafshani, 2003). Quantitative research is based on observations that are converted into discrete units that can be compared to other units by using statistical analysis (Maykut and Morehouse, 1994). Quantitative research represents and manipulates observations numerically for the purpose of describing and explaining the phenomena that those observations reflect (Casebeer and Verhoef, 1997). Numerical estimation and statistical inference from a generalized sample is used in relation to a larger 'true' population of interest (Casebeer and Verhoef, 1997). Quantitative research is an inquiry into an identified problem, based on testing a theory, measured with numbers and analyzed using statistical techniques. The goal of quantitative methods is to determine whether the predictive generalizations of a theory hold true (Batista, 1999). Quantitative data are said to be objective which indicates that the behaviours are easily classified or quantified, either by the participants themselves or by the researcher. The data are usually gathered with an instrument that can be scored reliably with little training required. Quantitative researchers prefer questionnaires, observations and documents such as records (Gliner and Morgan, 2000). Quantitative researchers also gather types of data (perceptions, feelings and attitudes) into numbers by using rating scales (Glinger and Morgan, 2000).

Both qualitative and quantitative researchers need to test and demonstrate that their studies are credible (Golafshani, 2003). Credibility in quantitative research depends upon instrument construction in qualitative research 'the researcher is the instrument' (Patton, 2001 cited in Golafshani, 2003).

For the purposes of this research, a qualitative approach was used to collect data since data collection in this approach is obtained by interviews as the main strategy. Researcher here explores the understanding and illumination of participant's experiences through interviews or observations to determine the research questions responses for further analysis and evaluation.

### **3.3 Research Instruments**

#### **3.3.1 In-Depth Interviews**

The in-depth interview is a qualitative method of analysis, which proceeds as a confidential and secure conversation between an interviewer and a respondent. By means of a thorough composed interview guide, which is approved by the participant, the interviewer ensures that the conversation encompasses the topics that are crucial to ask for the sake of the purpose and the issue of the study. The method of the in-depth interview is appropriate if you need to gain an insight into individual evaluations of specific material. In this case, it is logical for the researcher to use this instrument as the participants responses directly relate to the aim of the study which is to find the reasons for the decline of volleyball in North Cyprus and suggest stable solutions for the improvement.

Namely the method can produce very precise and specific answers as well as an exhaustive and varied knowledge about individual determined experiences, opinions and motives, which the group interview and the quantitative methods cannot encompass. The method of the in-depth interview is also appropriate if your subject and issue are in the nature of something controversial, sensitive or tabooed. One of the advantages of the in-depth interview is that there is time for the respondent, in peace, to further develop and give reasons for his or hers individual point of views -



without being influenced by the opinions of other respondents. Apart from that the method typically involves different techniques which encompass spontaneous, emotional and perhaps unconscious circumstances within the respondent. These kinds of responses are needed and crucial for the responses and their analysis.

### **3.3.2 Snowball Sampling**

Snowball sampling is a method in which a researcher identifies one member of some population of interest, speaks to him/her, then asks that person to identify others in the population that the researcher might speak to. So, you can ask the interviewed persons to nominate other individuals who could be asked to give information or opinion on the topic. You then interview these new individuals and continue in the same way until the material gets saturated, i.e. you get no new viewpoints from the new persons (<http://www2.uiah.fi/projects>). Snowball sampling is very good for cases where members of a special population are difficult to locate. In the case of finding the important names for North Cyprus Volleyball this is applicable.

We can then say that the technique identifies potential subjects in studies where subjects are hard to locate. (<http://www.experiment-resources.com/snowball-sampling.html>). The process of snowball sampling then is much like asking your subjects to nominate another person with the same trait as your next subject. The researcher then observes the nominated subjects and continues in the same way until the obtaining sufficient number of subjects (<http://www.experiment-resources.com/snowballsampling>). Also, the way that the participant is chosen by target people makes it liable to various forms of bias. People tend to associate not only with people with the same study selection characteristic but also with other characteristics. This increases the chance of correlations being found in the study

(<http://changingminds.org/explanations>). This in fact is what had happened in this study as it was through snowball sampling those participants' perceptions and experiences were all correlated.

### **3.4 Data Collection**

#### **3.4.1 Participants of the Research**

There were fifteen people who were interviewed for this research whose contribution to North Cyprus volleyball has been significant. Fourteen males and one female were interviewed. During the interview, recording system was used. The interviews were done at various times of the day, depending on the availability of the participants. The details of the participants are below:

- Cemal Konnolu, 42, Male; Eastern Mediterranean University Sport Affairs Director; Executive Board Member of Sport Government Office
- Mehmet Kanan, 50, Male; Vakiflar Sport Club President
- Enver Kaya, 47, Male; Volleyball Federation President; Ruso High School Physical Education Teacher
- Olgun Kumova, 51, Male; Youth Government Office Vice Director; Trainer of Near East University Female Volleyball Team
- Mustafa Cerkez, 50, Male; Cerkez Sport Club President
- Ahmet Hidiroglu, 51, Male; Avtepe Sport Club President; Eastern Mediterranean University Academician
- Ecevit Savas Cankat, 36, Male; Trainer of Eastern Mediterranean University Male Volleyball Team

- Caner Toyal, 45, Male; Trainer of MAGEM Male Volleyball Team
- Sedat Kaplan, 51, Male; Trainer of Vakiflar Male Volleyball Team; Lefkosa Turk High School Physical Education Teacher
- Serpil Kayalp, 42, Female; Namik Kemal High School Physical Education Teacher
- Emin Ozkalp, 50, Male; General Secretary for Cyprus Turkish Secondary Education Union; Namik Kemal High School Physical Education Teacher
- Ugur Gazi, 40, Male; Vakiflar Sport Club Volleyball Player, Physical Education Teacher
- Ismail Kovanci, 28, Male; Eastern Mediterranean University Sport Trainer and Volleyball Player
- Ali Duvarci, 29, Male, Eastern Mediterranean University Volleyball Player
- Burcin Gunfer, 30, Male, Vakiflar Sport Club Volleyball Player

### **3.4.2 Difficulties During Data Collection**

The researcher had difficulties in the data collection process as relevant data for North Cyprus Volleyball was basically missing in the volleyball federation, sport government office, clubs and universities. There was no such data recorded consecutively for the competitions, tournaments, league games, champions or number of teams. Since there was hardly any recorded data to be found, researcher had to rely on the little data that is put together in the Government Sport Office in 2010 and the views of the interviewees.

In terms of participants, although they are all important names to the contribution of North Cyprus Volleyball, they all have occupations as well as their current volleyball lives. Therefore, setting up dates for the interview with them was difficult which sometimes was cancelled by their behalf and a new appointment was given to the researcher. This indeed delayed the data collection process as a whole. As well as participants not meeting the set times for the interviews, while being interviewed it had to be cut short when something urgent came up. Then, another appointment had to be set.

## **Chapter 4**

### **DATA ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Reasons for the Decline in the Popularity of Volleyball in North Cyprus**

According to the results of the interviews, a number of reasons were identified which explained the decrease in the popularity of volleyball in North Cyprus.

The majority of the participants emphasized the fact that the world crisis in 1994 and 2001 caused the inflation of the century which resulted in many companies and institutions closing down. One of these institutions was the volleyball clubs that already had no finance to run the club. This meant the inflation had disabled the operation of the club as a whole. The other major cause for the decrease was said to be operation system of Volleyball Federation being mismanaged and the mismanagement of the administration led to the decline of interest of North Cyprus as a whole to volleyball. Physical education teachers of primary and secondary education tended to ignore volleyball as a sport to form a team and compete against other schools when the Ministry of Education stopped encouraging the formation of athletics as the main branch and at least one team of the physical education teachers' preference only. This preference of teachers brought up the next reason of the recession in volleyball; which is being a difficult sport to teach and learn. Ministry of Education's lack of encouragement and force to the teachers to form teams of every branch affected volleyball which brings us to the fact that Ministry of

Education is also responsible for this decline. Next, private institutions and universities forming teams with the basis of finance led to the players of club teams moving to these teams which gradually caused the closing of club teams. Shift of interest of the era through technology and communication is another major cause for the decrease of active sports as a whole that directly influenced volleyball as well. One of the most discussed causes was the embargoes the country is facing in every field as well as sports.

As it was documented early on, there were many teams in the volleyball leagues in North Cyprus. According to interviewees' responses there were many teams in the past and there was even more than one league:

*"I remember there were 2 leagues with twelve teams in each. I watched Cerkez and Yenicami match first and I was affected by it very much; it was a very competitive game. As years went by, teams started getting less and less". (Burcin Gunfer)*

*"If we talk about the past, women had one league with ten teams and men had two leagues with twelve teams in each. We as Vakiflar come from the second league to the first league. We had 12 teams in the league and we became the champions and moved to first league. Later on, the teams decreased". (Mehmet Kanan)*

#### **4.1.1 Development in Technology**

Almost all of the interviewees believed that one of the main reasons for the decrease in the popularity of volleyball in North Cyprus was caused by the development in technology. As three of the interviewees clearly stated:

*"It maybe because this technology era has shifted us to different interest areas of life. Since we can connect with the world easier, this has moved our interest to other areas". (Cemal Konnolu)*

Another interviewee claimed that:

*The other reason is the shift of values of the society in terms of social and technological development; also the beginning of the communication era in 1990s shifted the interest of people." (Enver Kaya)*

He claimed that 20 to 25 years ago, children and young people had limited activities to do and lots of time after school. But since then education system changed and it is more difficult to find time to do sports. Although there is an increase in tutoring hours, development of technology is the reason for the sport branches and not just volleyballs to decline in popularity. Another interviewee also stated this:

*“Of course there is technology as well. The dimensions of children shifted as economic conditions improved and being able to buy computers and going to bars at nights affected volleyball negatively”* (Sedat Kaplan).

#### **4.1.2. Lack of Encouragement and Support from the Authorities and Federation**

The participants of the interviews also emphasized the lack of encouragement and support from the Sport Ministry and Volleyball Federation;

*“Also federation presidents that came after Mr. Damdelen did not encourage the clubs to have volleyball teams. We should have players from primary school. But we do not even have one”*. (Sedat Kaplan)

*“If you as government do not compensate this economically, the interest at this era will shift to other areas and this will lead to the decrease in the number of teams and difficulties in establishing clubs. The current clubs are not supported financially by the government as well”*. (Enver Kaya)

In order for all sport branches to have continuity, they need to proceed with the foundation level of that particular sport. Federations which do not give sufficient importance to this level of training will eventually have to face the point of diminishing to the minimum interest of that sport. Unfortunately, Volleyball Federation’s administration of the last ten years did not show the concern to the foundation level trainings and spreading volleyball to North Cyprus that they showed to the by-law formation, data recording and archiving. At the moment, secondary schools having their annual competition with four to five teams are a significance of

the diminishing volleyball. The players who have given up volleyball not being replaced with the foundation level players, is the main reason for the leagues to be reduced to teams of three or four. Three interviewees emphasized the lack of interest of the Volleyball Federation with different aspects as one stated the fact that the president of the federation is not appreciated by many of the interviewees as he is working on irrelevant strategies according to the interviewees:

*“Federation also has a role. For example, the president Enver Kaya is a physical education teacher and his school does not have a volleyball team. I wanted to state this from here as well... By organizing these teams with a good federation, volleyball can go back to its old days. I think, if Enver Kaya had paid more interest to building a court for the foundation teams rather than building the Arena and running beach volleyball there, it would have been better. Beach volleyball is played at the beach. We need a closed court”.* (Mustafa Cerkez)

*“When volleyball comes to mind, the current federation is worse than all the others in the past ... He knows when which match was played but he did not bring up even one player. He is a teacher at Ruso High School but he did not contribute to this at all. He did not do anything as the president there and when you ask, they say country is going bad. He wrote the by-laws but this game is not played with by-laws it needs players”.* (Caner Toyal)

*“As volleyball federation you may support EMU both financially and morally but you should sport smaller teams such as Avtepe, Esentepe more. You should even encourage the newly formed teams by providing them with balls and uniforms”.* (Ecevit Savas Cankat)

### **4.1.3 Economic Problems**

The country's volleyball was affected by the economic crisis in April 1994 and February 2001. Many of the volleyball clubs were closed down so there was a decrease in the number of volleyball teams. As a result, primary and secondary schools had also difficulties in trying to pay for the volleyball players' uniforms and transportation. These financial difficulties were not helped by the attitudes of the government. The majority of the fund that government spares for sport is given to Football Federation. For example, in 2009 2.763.645 Turkish Lira was spared for



sports and 2.270.000 Turkish Lira (82% of the whole budget) of this amount was given to football which left 493.645 Turkish Lira for the thirty federations (X. Sport Consciousness, 137). The three of the interviewees stated the impact of economical problems on volleyball:

*“Economically, there is not much spent on this sport. You could finish off the league along with the uniforms, transportation and trainer fees with a one person transfer rate in football”.* (Caner Toyal)

*“If you don’t support them financially, they will not play as good. If we look at world’s volleyball they all receive government support which is a wise thing to do as these people represent you and provide an activity for your country. So there is not enough government support and it has to be increased”.* (Ahmet Hidiroglu)

*“Government is responsible for the schools to change their point of view. Schools have financial problems. They think, if my teams are weak and I pay for their buses to go to another city to compete, then it is the loss of school’s budget. But if government volunteers to provide free transportation for schools, principles then may look more positive towards forming teams. Namik Kemal High School spends 20-30 thousand TL every year for transportation”.* (Emin Ozkalp)

#### **4.1.4 Lack of interest in Physical Education Teachers**

There used to be encouragement of the Education Ministry, directors and principles to the physical education teachers to form sport teams of every branch at their school. There is a rule now that every school needs to have athletics as the main branch and one sub-branch. This by-law is insufficient and pushes the physical education teachers to be unproductive. Since there were many teams competing in the field of volleyball before, physical education teachers can continue to form teams and be more productive again. School is the place for students to determine their interest in sport. So, the more students are motivated to play volleyball and other sports at school, the more the number of clubs will increase. Two interviewees indicated two different views of the physical education teachers. One group supported the fact that they do not pay enough attention to bringing up players, the other as the physical

education teacher stated that lack of budget does not allow the teachers to concentrate on difficult sport branches like volleyball:

*“Physical teachers in the past were like physical education teachers and they used to know almost every branch and if not they used to try to find out about different branches. So the national teams were formed of the players brought up at school ... there were national players and physical education teachers used to concentrate seriously on bringing up players in this way at schools” . (Cemal Konnolu)*

*“I as a physical education teacher only form handball teams in the last three years. I don't have much to give to a student interested in volleyball. All I can say to that person is to do volleyball as a hobby. As schools have limited budget, I would not like to form a team that will be eliminated from the first match as there are not many students interested and the ones who are interested are not enough to make a team” . (Sedat Kaplan)*

#### **4.1.5 Embargoes**

According to the interviewees embargoes on country's sport is one of the main reasons for the lack of advancement and even for the regression of the country's sport. Since 1955, Turkish Cypriot has been denied of FIFA membership and as a result cannot play against any FIFA register clubs or national side because of political problems on the island. Since 1984, even friendly matches are banned, with FIFA issuing fines for any club playing against a team from North Cyprus (Hatay, 2007).

Successful teams and national teams of the country cannot compete with teams other than TRNC teams to improve their standards. This prevents these teams from updating themselves. It also prevents them from learning new techniques at the world standards. Actually, in order to be able to break the embargoes on the country depends on finance and contacts. We may not be able to participate in world and European championships but we can always participate in smaller international tournaments and universities tournaments. By this, we can improve our standards of

playing and also represent our country on international platforms. Two interviewees indicated that although there are embargoes on the country, teams can still participate on international platforms on less popular tournaments and one interviewee mentioned that with the establishment of the republic, we ourselves put embargoes on ourselves:

*“I think embargo means money. If you have money you can participate in any tournament. We went with the support of our university and government to an international tournament. It could be done. I accept that we have embargoes and we cannot play in European teams but we can participate in smaller organizations”.* (Ismail Kovanci).

*“... in 1983 when Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was established; although it looked like a good thing at first, it came back as sport embargoes for us. This was the beginning of our problems. Because in 1980, we were a team who participated in Islamic Countries Sport Games as Federal Government, after 1983 with the influence of the Greeks on the world as a nation which disregards political solutions, were isolated. This led to the lack of international contacts of our nation. This was a big handicap for us. We have to say this not as someone who is against our republic but realistically as TRNC was a point of breakdown for our country’s sports and volleyball”* (Emin Ozkalp).

*“If you have money you are not under embargoes. If we take International Volleyball Federation organizations into consideration, logically we cannot participate in these events because we are not a recognized country. But besides FIB, we can participate in any of the international events as long as we can afford it financially. There are many special tournaments where eight, ten, twenty teams participate from different countries. We can participate in such tournament, thus we have experienced this before and will continue to experience it”* (Cemal Konnolu).

#### **4.1.6 Lack of Interest of North Cyprus Government**

Contribution of government to sport branches other than football is insufficient. Foundation level teams that have been champions many times and the players country’s volleyball gained from these teams have not been rewarded anything morally and financially from the government. For example, Esentepe Primary School, High School and Junior Teams have been champions for the last five years but the government did not even bother to build a sport salon to the village. Ministry

of Sport in this case needs to support the federations with amending their by-laws for contribution to the federations. Ministry of Sport should also encourage physical education teachers morally and financially who bring up players. To be able to do all this, by-laws of sports should be regulated. Three interviewees tended to blame the government for the promises they made whether during the election time or after they officially took part in the government of not supporting the sport branches financially:

*“If government wants the federations to be in better positions, it should support them. The regarded people should go to government and determine the staff of federations to make the balance in the reality of the federations. But with the current back up of the government it is impossible to improve. When people criticize the status of one federation, they should also criticize the lack of financial support they get from the government”* (Enver Kaya).

*“But if we are to state a reason here, it is up to the government to spread sports. Although there are many promises given at the election period and even in the by-laws as every citizen has the right to do sport is never the case. No one takes action”* (Ugur Gazi).

*“If government also contributes to the expenses of the teams when the teams compete on international tournaments by saying league champion and cup champion will be sent to international tournaments. So, if half of the money our ministers spend on sending flowers to weddings is used for this purpose, it will be enough. So it all depends on the good intention of the government and they way they view sports”* (Emin Ozkalp)

#### **4.1.7 Difficulty of Learning Volleyball**

The learning period of volleyball compared to basketball, volleyball, and handball is a lot more demanding both for the instructor and the player. The instructor has to have a volleyball background with all the strategies and techniques. This is because; volleyball has sophisticated moves that a normal physical education teacher will not know. For instance, the main hit of volleyball is forearm and a learner needs to practice it many times in order to be able to control it with the instructor.

Another difficulty is in football and handball you score by hitting the ball to the post and in basketball you score by getting the ball into the net but in volleyball, in order to be able to spike to ball for a score, a learner needs to practice it a lot. If a player has an ‘easy give-up’ character, he will just walk away from that branch. Professionals of volleyball in the interviews also emphasized the difficulty of the sport:

*“Volleyball needs more effort and energy to teach and to learn. There are moves that need a lot of training such as forearm past. How much can a student pass the ball as forearm to his partner? He needs to play a lot. It is not the same in basketball. Basketball is easy. In handball and football there is a goal post and you can somehow score... The lack of target and aim in volleyball for players prevent them from choosing volleyball. It is not going towards professionalism where players will receive money either” (Sedat Kaplan).*

*“Everyone can play football but not everyone can play volleyball. You have to be talented to be able to play volleyball and it is not enough just for you to be talented. You also need another player who is just as talented” (Ecevit Savas Cankat).*

#### **4.1.8 Private Institutions and Universities**

In 1980’s private institutions started to establish volleyball teams and this was the first time for sport to meet with money. Professional and elite players of the time aimed to play in these teams as they provided money or job opportunities for them. These teams reached the success they had aimed for in a short period. But this affected the teams with no money negatively as they lost many of their good players and power. In 1990’s banks established volleyball teams to take place more in media. In 1990’s again, universities established teams and offered scholarships. The players who wanted to benefit from the scholarships moved to university teams. Institutions who had difficulties during the crisis minimized their expenditure and moved out from volleyball. One of the interviewees supported the university teams for she sees

them as a door to be international whereas another interviewee states that volleyball started to decrease in size due to the financial power of universities:

*“I think, universities contribute to volleyball and from what I see, players of university teams have a better chance of going abroad to participate. So, I have seen both Near East University and Eastern Mediterranean University go abroad for tournaments”* (Serpil Kayalp).

*“Indeed there were two places where university students were gathered; Eastern Mediterranean University and Near East University. Since EMU was more popular, it was the first choice of the players and EMU as an undefeated champion four and half years in a row. So, the private sector teams started closing down as they did not have any financial support nor brought up any players from the foundation teams”* (Burcin Gunfer).

## **4.2 Recommendations of the Interviewees for Improvement**

### **4.2.1 Opening Regional Foundation School**

Regional foundation schools should be established. Foundation level is very important in every branch of sport especially in volleyball. Person who wants to be successful in sport should start getting the training for that sport branch at primary school or latest by secondary school. At the moment there are four or five teams competing on high school level in North Cyprus. This is the main reason why there are only four teams in men’s and three teams in women’s leagues. It is not possible to increase the number of teams to eight or ten in a couple of years. There needs to be a thorough four-five year action plan prepared for the long term actions of bringing up volleyball players to North Cyprus again. Currently, there are no volleyball teams from Girne and Guzelyurt region but there are sport salons in both cities. One interviewee emphasizes this in his interview: *“We suggested to him to have sub teams in the cities of Magusa, Lefkosa, Girne, Guzelyurt and Karpaz open up foundation schools that 3-5 years later will have an explosion in volleyball”* (Caner Toyal).

So the first thing that needs to be done in North Cyprus is to have foundation schools for trainings in the five regions under the observation and authority of experienced physical education teachers who are specialized in volleyball just as one interviewee says:

*“...if foundation schools are established in every region on the condition that federation will be the examining body, we could have 100 players in 5 years. Because I think for a volleyball player to be proficient, he needs three years. That is why I said 5 years. So these foundation schools under the federation can bring volleyball further in the future”* (Olgun Kumova).

The players who will be trained at these schools will be eligible for volleyball in terms of their height and physics after a proper elimination with detailed criteria as height is very important in volleyball. Another interviewee strongly suggests the opening of foundation schools:

*“In order to spread volleyball around the country, volleyball schools should definitely be opened. It is up to the federation to spread this around the country though... They can announce this in every part of the country and ask for interested players. They do not have to know how to play volleyball... If they are sufficient in terms of fitness and height the rest can be taught. We are deficient in terms of height”* (Serpil Kayalp).

#### **4.2.2 More Integration with Media**

Both visual and written media should be more integrated to volleyball. In other words, there needs to be more news about volleyball in the media. All the sport programmes' critics talk about football only. These sport programmes should also have critics to criticize volleyball. Final matches should be given live on television and radio and publicized. With this, the players and their relatives will be more integrated to the sport. There has to be journalists to write about football just like there are for football. An interviewee states this in his report as well:

*“... football clubs take place on media more than they should. Teams that are not worth anything are written on full page newspapers. On the other hand, volleyball*

*final matches are written with small articles to state that the champion” (Caner Toyal).*

These writers should inform the public with their articles and photos. Additionally, seminars should be given in different regions of North Cyprus to inform people of volleyball and popularize it: *“In order to spread this sport with these volleyball schools, media and federation should work together, take films, photographs to emphasize the importance of sport to parents especially” (Serpil Kayalp).* The new techniques of volleyball should be delivered to trainers, players. Seminars will be useful for the sport lovers who want to develop themselves as well.

#### **4.2.3 Establishing Sponsorship By-Laws Regulations**

Companies who are financially well off should be encouraged to establish clubs to form teams with the regulations of sponsorship. These by-laws should be regulated towards the contribution of sport and satisfy the companies financially at the same time. Clubs which have football teams should be encouraged to form volleyball teams too. An interviewee states a recommendation of how this could be done:

*“Under the umbrella sponsorship, if you announce that the company’s taxation will be reduced if they sponsor a team to be sent abroad, maybe one company will volunteer to sponsor the teams. We don’t have money is not an excuse and government officials should be more cautious” (Emin Ozkalp).*

There is an immense difference between the amount spent on football and volleyball in North Cyprus. For example, the money given to one football players’ transfer is equal to one volleyball teams’ annual expenditure. The big teams of Turkey such as Galatasaray, Fenerbahce and Besiktas have schools in North Cyprus for football. The same should be done for volleyball. Magusa Council formed a men’s and women’s league and started to participate in the volleyball league. This should be an example to the other councils of North Cyprus. The reason for having sponsorships is discussed by one of the interviewees:



*“Don’t we have good sponsors like Telsim, Turkcell who already do a lot of beneficial things for the country to also contribute to volleyball? Adem Kaner had a basketball team for example. They don’t have to have much budget to run these clubs but if they compensate for their players as well then the university teams will not take club’s good players”* (Sedat Kaplan).

#### **4.2.4 Making External Contacts**

Going to different countries and participating in tournaments with international players contributes to the development of the players and broadens their visions. No matter which level and what the international tournament is, it is very crucial for North Cyprus players to improve themselves. Ministry and Federation should organize matches firstly in Turkey later in other countries with the contacts they will make just like one interviewee suggests: *“For international tournaments, there should be specific trainings with long term plans. We are not capable to play at world’s standards at the moment. In 1999 we went to Bulgaria. It has been 11 years and not once again we had international contacts”* (Ali Duvarci).

For example, Eastern Mediterranean University volleyball team participated in Euro Valencia 2010 International Sport Tournaments and represented Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. They received a successful result of coming third in the tournament which was followed by two international tournament invitations. So, participation to such organizations should enhance both for the experience players will get by playing against international players on international platforms which they can reflect to the country’s volleyball as well as to represent the country on international platforms:

*“The only overseas is Turkey for us. If our federation has collaboration with other federations, we can go to other countries to participate besides Turkey. If Eastern Mediterranean University can do this, so can our federation but of course only if they want to. Federation basis this on financials only but I am not sure if this is right, I think it can be done”* (Serpil Kayalp).

## **Chapter 5**

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Discussion**

This study investigated the reasons for the diminishing volleyball in North Cyprus and the potential recommendations that could be taken into consideration and transformed into an action plan for the improvement of volleyball in North Cyprus.

It was stated that volleyball has lost its popularity in the recent years in North Cyprus and the study was supported by the fifteen participants' interviews and the data from the Ministry of Sports.

The data existed in the Ministry of Sport and Volleyball Federation revealed the statistical inconsistency of volleyball as a whole. The study however, showed that the main reasons for the decline of volleyball which were gathered under eight major rationales. All participants stated the same reasons for the fall which was; economic, lack of interest, lack of attention by the authorities, embargoes, difficult nature of the sport, private institution and universities integration and changing lifestyles.

Most interviewees were sadly informing the researcher of volleyball in the fall for the last 25 years. Interviewees were in favour of taking precautions to liven up volleyball once again. Interviewees all agreed that regional foundation schools should definitely be established and for five years players will be trained in order to

have the same competitiveness in the leagues with the same excitement of the players, trainers and spectators. Interviewees again all agreed that volleyball should be played on international level and to achieve these authorities should start to have contacts.

## **5.2 Managerial Implications**

The thesis is aimed to give a detailed insight into North Cyprus volleyball which is believed to be one of the biggest sport branches of the past. Although North Cyprus is a small island with embargoes, sports can be the door to overcome the embargoes put on the country due to the ‘freedom of participation in sport’. It is with sport that Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is heard around the world; especially with the universities who have internationality brand.

If the Ministry of Sport and Volleyball Federation take the study into consideration and act upon it with solid action plan, volleyball of North Cyprus will be back on its feet in four to five years. This study not only investigated the reasons for the decline but also revealed the recommendations of the important names in volleyball for the improvement of the sport.

Thus, the thesis is believed to be useful in concerning the statement of critical factors of diminishing volleyball. Finally, it is also believed that, it will be helpful for the ministry, federation, private companies and clubs to be aware of how more actively they can all take place in volleyball.

### **5.3 Limitations and Implications for Future Research**

The thesis employed snowball sampling and in-depth interview methods for analyzing the reasons and acquiring the recommendations of the important names in volleyball in North Cyprus.

Further studies can increase the reinforcement of sport branches representing TRNC on international platforms. Also, further research can be based on testing the validity of popularizing volleyball for the benefit of the country's recognition. Finally, reasons for the diminishing volleyball in North Cyprus was analyzed but contribution of volleyball for the society's benefits and whether it is worth increasing its popularity can be studied.

### **5.4 Conclusion**

The thesis aimed to explore the reasons for the dramatic decrease in volleyball in North Cyprus. So firstly, researcher interviewed fifteen important names of North Cyprus volleyball to find out the progress of the volleyball in the last twenty five years, the ways to spread volleyball in North Cyprus and strategies to participate on international platforms. After the exploration of reasons, particular statements were put through the light of particular recommendations.

The response of the interviewees towards volleyball decline was done through in-depth interviews. The interviews were done in a social manner and interviewees expressed their experiences of the topic in a sincere and genuine way. These responses were then analyzed thoroughly and the reasons as well as the recommendations were stated in the thesis for further studies. Moreover, if precautions are not taken against this drop, we will not have any volleyball left as a

sport branch in North Cyprus. Therefore, it can be summarized that volleyball in North Cyprus is falling dramatically but with the recommendations stated in this thesis, actions can be taken accordingly.

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## **APPENDIXES**

## **APPENDIX A: INTERVIEWEE 1**

**Ahmet Hidiröglu, 51, Male; Avtepe Sport Club President; Eastern Mediterranean University Academician**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

I think there are many factors to the recession of volleyball but the main factor is financial. We need to have budget for the transportation of our players and we never had it. We had to use our own transportation. You do this of course for a certain extent. City club's main advantage is that they can find sponsors whereas we are a village club and it is more difficult to find sponsors. City clubs may not have transportation, uniform or shoes problem but they have other problems. They operate on more professional basis. If they want to transfer a player, they financially support that player. So again it is based on money. If you don't support them financially, they will not play as good. If we look at world's volleyball they all receive government support which is a wise thing to do as these people represent you and provide an activity for your country. So there is not enough government support and it has to be increased. There also has to be more enjoyment at matches. Club numbers need to increase, there has to be more enjoyment at matches and less financial problems. My aim was to have indoor sports center and now there is one in my region. Volleyball as you know is not as popular as football. This is due to the trend of the world and the country. If you make people aware of volleyball and provide more opportunities then people will start to like volleyball too. This is where the federation comes in.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

It all depends on the region to have many teams or not. For example, my team Avtepe is the only one in the region and it should be because it is a small region. But technically you cannot have just one team. So within one club, the director can have masters, young team, small team and normal league team. If we want volleyball to move forward, we need the government support. If government does one tenth of what it does for football, it will be better for volleyball. Volleyball is a more gentleman sport. In Beach Volley, we have many successes in volleyball. If government support increases, federation will have more opportunities for its players. Matches need to have more fans watching and following the matches. If you want to spread a sport, it needs to have more fans. We all have a duty in this case.

## **APPENDIX B: INTERVIEWEE 2**

### **Ali Duvarci, 29, Male, Eastern Mediterranean University Volleyball Player**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

There is a big regression in volleyball. There are no players brought up from foundation levels. A good example for this is Lefkosa has not established more than one team and Girne never had a team. There should be more courts. There are three courts in Lefkosa but there are three different branches that use these courts.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

Sport Ministry should determine trainers and establish foundation schools in every region. This can only be seen in Magusa. Whoever takes on volleyball wants to give it up as it lost its attractiveness. Good quality matches are played very rarely. Around 10 years ago we never came home from courts. There used to be matches with 500 supporters.

I don't agree that universities affected volleyball negatively. University provides good opportunities for the players. But this does not mean it affected volleyball negatively.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

For international tournaments, there should be specific trainings with long term plans. We are not capable to play at world's standards at the moment. In 1999 we

went to Bulgaria. It has been 11 years and not once again we had international contacts. Visual training is also needed.

Volleyball needs physical and strength. We need long term plans with good training and game opportunities.

## **APPENDIX C: INTERVIEWEE 3**

### **Burcin Gunfer, 30, Male, Vakiflar Sport Club Volleyball Player**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

I have been playing volleyball since 1992 in the island. I played in many of the teams in the island. I started playing when I was in high school and continued to play in senior high school and EMU. I later continued my career in Vakiflar and Near East University. When I started volleyball, I remember there were 2 leagues with twelve teams in each. I watched Cerkez and Yenicami match first and I was affected by it very much; it was a very competitive game. As years went by, teams started getting less and less. At first there was a big argument about this because universities had the chance of bringing foreign players into their teams. One player played in one of the university teams as a student and this was going to cost a lot of money for the private sector so they reacted to it argued about it. A player named Hussein from Sudan who played in the national teams in 1994-95 and was also beyond the standards of the island volleyball started playing for EMU and EMU became a champion two years in a row. Indeed there were two places where university students were gathered; Eastern Mediterranean University and Near East University. Since EMU was more popular, it was the first choice of the players and EMU as a undefeated champion four and half years in a row. So, the private sector teams started closing down as they did not have any financial support nor brought up any players from the foundation teams. This year Near East showed not being able to succeed as an excuse and closed

the team. So now we have only four teams; Vakiflar, two from Magusa EMU and MAGEM and the other is Avtepe. Avtepe is made up of young players brought up from the foundation team who has a trainer that sacrifices a lot. There needs to be more attention given to the foundation teams. At the moment, there are four and a half teams in high school and senior high schools. This is because the physical education teachers do not bring up any volleyball players. Therefore, the numbers of volleyball players are decreasing day by day. The players are getting old and not playing anymore and there are not anymore players brought up to replace them are the reasons why players are decreasing.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

We need to gather all the players who will be brought up from the high school volleyball teams in three, four years under the national team umbrella and send the team to one place every year to improve the standards of volleyball. This will be a motivation and a target for the players. I've played for so many years and we've only been to Bulgaria. Aim is not to go and have a holiday, but to play against hundreds of other teams. In my opinion, embargoes are not obstacles. It can be done; just as EMU went to Valencia and came third.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

One thing I want to say is that, if four or five of my friends wanted to play volleyball in Lefkosa, there is only one team who can we can play in and that team has a full quota of fourteen players. Every year, players give up playing and if we give up playing because there are no teams to play in, then volleyball of the island will lose

more of what is already losing. I would appreciate it if you tell this to the president as well.



## **APPENDIX D: INTERVIEWEE 4**

### **Caner Toyal, 45, Male; Trainer of MAGEM Male Volleyball Team**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

If we go back more than 25 years when my father in law was having matches in Limassol, that is how far the history of volleyball goes in this country. It is a suitable sport for hot blooded Mediterranean people of Cyprus. Even though we did not have much physical capacity, we could had 1.90 tall men play for us. This has many reasons in which one of them is economic. Football teams used to cover all the expenses. Now, universities try to cover some but it is not enough. For instance, Near East University could not find twelve players and closed the team down. If they don't contribute too, then volleyball will collapse. Presidents of the federation in the past did this and that but managed to have two leagues and we came to these days. When volleyball comes to mind, the current federation is worse than all the others in the past; Asim Burc, Turkmen Sencer, Mustafa Damdelen, Erkan Sucu. But the best vision at the moment is having a two metre album of matches. He knows when which match was played but he did not bring up even one player. You are teacher at Ruso High School but you did not contribute to this at all. You did not do anything as the president there and when you ask, they say country is going bad. You wrote the by-laws but this game is not played with by-laws it needs players. You know when a new president is coming and everyone does lobby, we said to Enver Kaya, we will be happy if you become the president because you are a volleyball player.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

We suggested to him to have sub teams in the cities of Magusa, Lefkosa, Girne, Guzelyurt and Karpaz open up foundation schools that 3-5 years later will have an explosion in volleyball. We said to him let's go to schools and search for teachers who are interested in the sport. If we had 20 players from each region, the league would have 10 teams. These players have families and one uniform one pair of shoe would have done the job. But, Enver Kaya just built the Arena, renovated the office, and combined the by-laws. Were these needed? Yes they were but you did not go and watch a match where a 12 year old played and motivate him by encouraging him. He never said well done to any player, this is not part of his vision. We are blaming everything on Enver Kaya at the moment but football clubs take place on media more than they should. Teams that are not worth anything are written on full page newspapers. On the other hand, volleyball final matches are written with small articles to state that the champion was. This is totally because of the uselessness of the federation. You could not communicate with these people. Football clubs want the money to be transferred to their branch; they do not want the money to be invested to basketball and volleyball so these branches will slowly close down. If this branch is desired to live up again, this is up to the federation. Each region needs to be searched as this is a long term investment. Our president goes for political meetings and if the Cyprus problem gets resolved, you don't have a team and it will be a scandal. Magusa is better because there are few people interested but the rest of the regions are basically finished in this sense. All of Lefkosa with just Vakiflar and that is only with Mehmet Kana's efforts. It would be good if councils like Famagusta council contribute to volleyball but there is no such locomotive as in Famagusta.

There is not even one team in Girne nor a trainer, if there was such liveliness in volleyball then maybe there could have been demands to the council. You don't have teams, because there is no locomotive in the other regions there is no need for courts. In Lefkosa there were a few teams and gradually they closed up. Economically, there is not much spent on this sport. You could finish off the league along with the uniforms, transportation and trainer fees with a one person transfer rate in football. Enver Kaya, I think is thinking of us because I want to blame him for most of the things because it did not suit him to have such a passive attitude despite his volleyball background. Unfortunately, there is no better candidate. We could have tried our options if we had other candidates to change the atmosphere of the federation.

Universities I think did not contribute much to country's volleyball because they used the current players did not bring up new ones. Universities have many foreign students and if they search for the talented players amongst them, there could be color added to the leagues. Our players can learn something from them and the leagues will be more competitive and exciting. Universities did not pay that much attention to the foundation stages of volleyball but the university which mostly did was Eastern Mediterranean University. Volleyball has become an ecôle in this regard. This is because it is located in Magusa which still has good foundation.

This means that Magusa people like this sport still. For example, when a match is organized for masters even, tribunes still get full. On Thursday nights they want the courts to be open so they can play. I think volleyball is the sport of Magusa. Could it be better? It should be a lot better. If some people try to contribute more it could be even better. But it is in a stable position at the moment and will not go

further, it will go backwards. Like I said, young players who love this sport such as you can improve this sport. You have come from Lefkosa and you are now playing at EMU. I have been watching you for a long time and you really like this sport. When you first came to EMU, you were not that experienced. You were strong and fit but were not that experienced. In years you learnt volleyball and you really love this sport. So, players such as you should take over from us. We gave Ali Cobi the women's team because I want him to do better. Osman is the same. He did not do anything although he graduated from physical education. I think he should guide the young players such as you. Then volleyball can go better and we can improve our capacity. We opened up summer school and we wanted our teachers to train the players. We could have found trainers but we specifically wanted them to train. We had 150 players we are training. There is more demand but we cannot keep up with all the trainings as everyone has something to do; training, work. We will start in December once again I think.

Seminars are also very important. For years, there has not been any training courses offered in volleyball and many things have changed.

## **APPENDIX E: INTERVIEWEE 5**

**Cemal Konnolu, 42, Male; Eastern Mediterranean University Sport Affairs Director; Executive Board Member of Sport Government Office**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

If we consider the last 20-25 years, country's volleyball in terms of its quality is in a very good condition. I mean, the volleyball played here is at the same standards of the volleyball played in the world; in terms of system, training program and movements in the matches are the same/parallel of the world's volleyball except the deficiency in physics which is our handicap when we ourselves with the world. Playing modern volleyball has made us lose the amateur spirit and love of volleyball. Not only in volleyball but in the basis of sport we have started to live this seriously. Maybe because this technology era has shifted us to different interest areas of life. Although we can connect with the world easier, this has moved our interest to other areas. For example, 20 years later there were two leagues with 12 teams each but at the moment there is only one league with four teams in males and when we consider the female league there are only three. The foundation teams are four to five which shows the serious decrease and lessening of teams and clubs.

In the past, volleyball was the second best sport played in villages after football. Volleyball used to be played not basketball seriously such as Gecitkale's concrete court was more modern compared to the court in Nergisli's soil court. Nergisli used to draw the court with lime and play the games in that way. Gecitkale liked

volleyball more so they built a concrete court. Alaykoy built a concrete court. Gonyeli used to play their games in the schools. In Girne there were volleyball teams under clubs such as Girne Halk Evi, Dogan Turk Birligi. So volleyball was a common sport like football. However, in the long run there are reasons why volleyball has come to this point; shift of interest to other areas which is the basic problem of the port. More importantly, at the beginning of the 80s, end of 70s national teams used to be formed and 90percent of the players in these teams were brought up in schools. LTL, 20 Temmuz, Namik Kemal, Canbulat, Guzelyurt Kurtulus teachers used to bring up players according to their specified fields. Physical teachers in the past were like physical education teachers and they used to know almost every branch and if not they used to try to find out about different branches. So the national teams were formed of the players brought up at schools. There are many examples to this Senol, Ugur, Erdinc, Emin put their words onto volleyball, also Enver Kaya was one of them. They were well known in their high school years because like I said there were national players and physical education teachers used to concentrate seriously on bringing up players in this way at schools.

At the moment we have modern courts but the children at school are not getting enough training for this. I think we as physical education teachers are responsible for this. If we as teachers do not do our lesson properly, students will not take this seriously. There are many things to do at the moment but in the past there was a football club or so which was like the taboo of the village. The club was run by a physical education teacher who knew every topic of the villagers' lives. But at the moment, people talk more and do less. I think this is because of the system. I don't want to put the blame on anyone. System started losing its seriousness. If we look at

the last ten years, how many players have actually been brought up as sincere players? Not more than ten unfortunately. Why is this like this? The sport done in our country is not professional at all. Due to media, television, we started getting the negative examples of Turkey and the world and we implemented them to our sports. For example there are sport programs in media and if you look into these programs, the imitation of the bad programs are implemented in our country. How many people are interested and know about the indoor sports and volleyball? If we look at media, is there a volleyball sports writer? No. by listening and watching television, we try to continue. There aren't many professional people in the market who can guide us because the system is corrupted. If we come to the duty of the federation; according to the first regulation of the by-law says that the duty whose of the federation is to make volleyball more interesting and attracting, to make the society like volleyball, to increase the number of clubs and players, to organize matches between the teams, to form the national team and to provide match possibility to them in various different times. Federation just like other federations operates in the same way. How does it operate? With the president and the administration but who knows about them? Administration is formed with volunteers and it is mainly on paper. Federation presidency is formed of one or mostly by two people just like the other federations. It is tried to be run in this way.

## 2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

Some of the duties of the federation is to make the society like volleyball. We as EMU said many times that regional school have to be established, paid-trainers should be hired and from the foundation level they should bring up volleyball players. It does not matter what the name of the organization would be. Foundation

schools under regional schools were established in East Bloc countries where volleyball is an important sport such as Russia, Czech Republic, East Germany many of the good players come out from these schools and this system ruled the world for a long time. I want to give example of the Mediterranean Games in 1970s which was held in Antalya and Russia and Germany who were the ecoles played the final games whose players were all from their own foundation teams. At that period, we tried to follow these from the black and white newspapers which all said that the agencies were important and regional agencies brought up real players. I think regional agencies should be formed regardless of the name given to it. Federation should take this into attention and although we warned the federation many times, no step has been taken in this regard. We have just had a meeting with the president just the other day about this issue and he told me that he is trying to spare a capital for this and that he is aware of the fact that he needs to do this. Maybe the recovery will come from this, also from the players who can be trainers, by working with more experienced trainers, they should make children like this sport in these schools. This is going more towards business. Physical education teachers who realized that there was a deficiency in volleyball training took the opportunity and opened up volleyball schools just to earn money. But since there are no productions launching to the market it mean these schools are unsuccessful. The word is unsuccessful indeed. If you want something to be successful, it has to start from the federation where it would promote professional trainers and assistant trainers to help them. Of course this should not affect the courses of the players. I think in five years time, the proper training and equipment will bring us somewhere with the condition that it is spread all over the island. I think there is a contribution of the universities to volleyball. We used to say that sport used to end after high school which was exactly that. Sport



used to finish as soon as high school did as well. It wasn't easy to get into university. If they did go to university it was in Turkey, or they graduated from high school and found jobs. Sport used to end like this. This was applicable for all the branches of sport and volleyball was the same. Now the universities are concentrating on these sports especially volleyball. So volleyball finished after high school is now replaced with volleyball finishes after university. This reality is lived at the moment. In the past, an 18 year old sportsman used to end their sport career but now this is moved to the ages of 23, 24. Universities and clubs help players to continue their volleyball careers even after they complete their military service. Another advantage of the universities is if a student is not financially well off, it provides scholarship opportunities for them. Football players earn money but the other sport players do not idea goes down the drain with this system. Sportsman who are successful, qualified and play with discipline are provided with the opportunity to get scholarship during their education. This extended their career in sport. So I think universities have contributed.

### 3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

I also don't believe in embargoes. Now there are two questions in this case; one how are embargoes applied and if there was no embargoes at the moment, where will our sport be in the world? Sometimes I pray that embargoes continue because in short term we are not ready. With many facilities, we do participate in international tournaments and we see on TV that we cannot compete with them. Let's imagine TRNC or Turkish Cypriot team and Cuba national team playing together. I cannot even imagine it. There is a big gap between us and them. We are not ready. If you have money you are not under embargoes. If we take International Volleyball

Federation organizations into consideration, logically we cannot participate in these events because we are not a recognized country. But besides FIB, we can participate in any of the international events as long as we can afford it financially. There are many special tournaments where eight, ten, twenty teams participate from different countries. We can participate in such tournament, thus we have experienced this before and will continue to experience it. When we go to these tournaments, I see that like I said at the beginning, there aren't much difference amongst us and them in terms of system and training but since we do not participate in these events much, we don't have much experience. The population being less is another big factor. There is a difference between twelve players coming from 80 million and twelve players coming from 250000 people. Also, like I said because we do not have professional training system, we don't have the opportunity to compete with them. If we are to give numerical example, a normal team here does 50 training and around 30 matches in a season. But, a normal standard team in Europe or a recognized country's volleyball team, on average they do around 350 trainings and about 200 matches. So there is a big difference and this difference shows the result. We should know where we stand with these results. I think a national team or a federation team put together, regardless of the name given to it, should participate with ten or twelve players to these events as much as possible. Are we saving the lot, no but it makes a big difference for that 15 people.

## **APPENDIX F: INTERVIEWEE 6**

### **Ecevit Savas Cankat, 36, Male; Trainer of Eastern Mediterranean University Male Volleyball Team**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

I have been in volleyball of this country ever since 1994 when EMU Volleyball Team was established. I trained the foundation team for four years and later I have been training the A Team for the last four years. The reason for country's volleyball to recede is mainly due to economic problems. The majority of the capital spared for sport goes towards football. Football is very popular. Embargos is another drawback for the sport to develop in the country. Everyone can play football but not everyone can play volleyball. You have to be talented to be able to play volleyball and it is not enough just for you to be talented. You also need another player who is just as talented. Secondly, I do not think that the federation supports this sport as much as they should. As volleyball federation you may support EMU both financially and morally but you should sport smaller teams such as Avtepe, Esentepe more. You should even encourage the newly formed teams by providing them with balls and uniforms. If there were two leagues with twelve teams in each playing on the underdeveloped courts, this means there is interest to volleyball in this country. At the moment, there are two courts in Magusa, 3 in Lefkosa and 2 in Girne but there are only 4 teams in the men's league. Fortunately, MAGEM is established in Magusa and fans have come back to watch. It is not important who they support; if you ask players which match was the most enjoyable, they would say that the four or five

final matches when there were a lot of fans. The president may do something to liven up the federation.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

In my opinion, he may do this with integrating education institutions into it. Because we cannot form the national TRNC team and get anywhere with it but with the efforts of universities, this may be possible. For example, no one knew us but we participated in one tournament and we got an official invitation to two more tournaments. We lived this one to one as a team. If we attend three or more tournaments, the recognition will increase. Despite all the embargoes, we have the capacity to compete on international platforms. So the university teams need to compete on international basis abroad which has to be supported by the federation. When they see that Umut, Kemal can go and participate in these tournaments, it will encourage the others too. There are teachers who train players from foundation. A fourteen year old comes and tries to bargain with us. We don't take these players into consideration as we find it early. I think a fourteen year old player should not be trying to negotiate financially; he should concentrate on improving himself. We as EMU will not support these kind of players even if it takes closing the team. We need trainers who train players from foundation. So, they should guide the players to volleyball itself and their career instead of finance. If teams are formed in regions by the federation, this can help in improving volleyball in the country. Another way to do this could be just like Galatasary, Besiktas and Fenerbahce opening up football schools here, volleyball can do the same. As a start, changing of administration and financial support can move volleyball forward in this country.

## **APPENDIX G: INTERVIEWEE 7**

**Emin Ozkalp, 50, Male; General Secretary for Cyprus Turkish Secondary Education Union; Namik Kemal High School Physical Education Teacher**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

In 1980, I participated in Islamic Countries Sport Games. I was in high school then. Countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and we lost all the games. Our trainer was Vedat Duzgit who came from Ankara. But in terms of modern volleyball, it was the time when we first stepped to modern volleyball. We used to play with the setter from the middle and our trainer Vedat put the setter into number two, pulled aside our tall players and in terms of system, we integrated with the world. Although we lost the games, our performance was high and promising for the future. In terms of individuality, we brought up good players ever since then from time to time. But country and population being small and government not putting enough contribution to Olympic sports and in 1983 when Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus was established; although it looked like a good thing at first, it came back as sport embargoes for us. This was the beginning of our problems. Because in 1980, we were a team who participated in Islamic Countries Sport Games as Federal Government, after 1983 with the influence of the Greeks on the world as a nation which disregards political solutions, were isolated. This led to the lack of international contacts of our nation. This was a big handicap for us. We have to say this not as someone who is against our republic but realistically as TRNC

was a point of breakdown for our country's sports and volleyball. We could not participate in any other country's sport tournaments besides Turkey during this time. After all, high schools participated in tournaments and competitions in Turkey and this can be considered as an international contact for us. We came to the point where we cannot find four teams to put together. At the moment, financial issues have more importance as people are trying to manage their financial situations. Clubs are not concentrating on sports other than football, are some of the factors for the decrease of volleyball teams. Another factor is universities. I must admit that universities have contributed to the development of university students and there are many good university teams. But I as Emin Ozkalp personally do not think that universities should not take players from foundation clubs. Because universities are appealing and parents and players want to be in university teams. If there are thirty players in the foundation level and they all want to go to university teams, then if we are to talk about Magusa city, the other clubs such as Dumlupinar, Canakkale, Magusa Turk Gucu do not find any players to form a team. This is a handicap. This is not illegal of course for universities to take players from the foundation schools but I think there could have been a principle put towards this so that universities do not take any players from the foundation schools. Opportunities at universities are good as there is scholarship. They cannot give scholarship to high school grade students but universities still have them play in their teams. But, with this amount of players packed into university teams makes the clubs de-motivated in trying to form a team. Clubs cannot compete with universities as you know. So this is another handicap but as I mentioned before, embargoes in our country are a big handicap.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

I as a teacher believe that schools have a big duty as well. Today, there is no obligation for each school to form teams for each sport branches. It was not official obligation before either but school principles requested to form teams or ministry did not state any by law to encourage students to do sports and it still does not have such a by law. But, there were more participation. I believe, the more students are enforced to participate in sport activities at school, a better population of players we will have in the future. In the last fifteen years Namik Kemal High School became champions probably thirteen times and participated in Turkey and was very successful. We came fifth in Turkey but when I look at the school teams, there aren't more than five at the moment. This also does not satisfy me. I want all the schools to form teams. If there are thirty schools, I want thirty teams to be formed. So if you have thirty schools with twelve players each then you have 360 players but if you have five teams you have sixty players only. So, clubs forming teams decrease as there are not enough players. Schools then have to change their point of view of sports. Government is responsible for the schools to change their point of view. Schools have financial problems. They think, if my teams are weak and I pay for their buses to go to another city to compete, then it is the loss of school's budget. But if government volunteers to provide free transportation for schools, principles then may look more positive towards forming teams. Namik Kemal High School spends 20-30 thousand TL every year for transportation. So school sports should be developed. How can you do this? There is no such by-law for it but you can encourage the teacher who does sports by reducing their teaching load or you can give them a minimum wage if their team becomes champions five years in a row.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

If government also contributes to the expenses of the teams when the teams compete on international tournaments by saying league champion and cup champion will be sent to international tournaments. So, if half of the money our ministers spend on sending flowers to weddings is used for this purpose, it will be enough. So it all depends on the good intention of the government and the way they view sports. Every year before the leagues start, which is also applicable for basketball and football already does this by going to England to play in special tournaments; you can announce as the ministry of sports that the champions of the league will go to England or Holland. If you do this, it will be a good motivation. You don't have to be a fortune teller to know this. If the tickets are bought in advance, they become cheaper as well. EMU is a champion and asks the government to support them financially for instance. The tickets then can be 800 TL each whereas if this was known at the beginning of the league and tickets were bought then, it would have been a lot cheaper. There are tickets for 50 Euros to Europe at the moment. All this just needs planning ahead. Maybe they don't think about them. I don't know maybe this research of yours will get through as a message to people who should be thinking about these. These depend on savings. For example, they changed the ministry cars. Instead of doing that they could have sent two teams to participate in international tournaments to Europe. This is a better promotion. No one is going to know which car you drive here but if you participate in international tournaments, you represent your republic. As you know I am part of the union and when we go abroad, they ask you if you speak Greek and whether there really are Turkish people on the island. We need to be able to send our teams abroad and this appraisal system should be announced at the beginning of the semester. Just like in Turkey when they announce where the first three teams will compete on international tournaments at the



beginning of the league, the same thing could be done here. This all needs thinking and brainstorming what can be done. Under the umbrella sponsorship, if you announce that the company's taxation will be reduced if they sponsor a team to be sent abroad, maybe one company will volunteer to sponsor the teams. We don't have money is not an excuse and government officials should be more cautious.

## **APPENDIX H: INTERVIEWEE 8**

### **Enver Kaya, 47, Male; Volleyball Federation President; Ruso High School Physical Education Teacher**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

One of the most important factors in this country is that, unfortunately there is no back up of what has been done in institutions and establishments. There is no database of what you desire to find as things have been over-passed in the past. So if you want to find out some information of the past, you have to rely on a few people's say. We have been forming a database from what people are saying which I think is totally inconvenient because what these people have to say only appeals to their own era. In order to back up what has been happening in the last 35 years or so with actual backups, I think what you are trying to put into thesis at the moment really needs as well. Otherwise given information by people are never used as database anywhere in the world nor it is taken as evidence. It cannot be valid anyway because there is no written document with validity which prevents your research flow as well. For example, you can go to the ministry of education and ask for the data of all the high school leagues of the last 35 years and you may only be lucky to find the champions of each year. But the matches, which school has participated in the matches cannot be reached at all. This is a big deficiency in our country in all sectors. So, what is done at the moment is putting everything into record so in the future years, people can reach this information. But of course this is not our topic at

the moment and it is not what you are asking me either. But there is a change. If you are searching about something, you need to have a look at the changes and the advantages and disadvantages of these changes. If you look at volleyball, there are advantages and disadvantages of the changes that have happened to volleyball in the last 40 years. One of the biggest disadvantages is the potential players who used to play back 40 years were like 14-15 years old. Besides 2-3 teams, there were not many teams with players over 25. Because there was no A and B teams, there were more than 10-12 teams in one league. If you look at Lefkosa, it had 7-8 teams, Guzleyurt had Yalova, Guzelyurt Wrestling Club, Guzelyurt Council, Girne had Dogan Turk Birligi and Girne Halk Evi. This is in the close past, in the 80's. If you look at the players of the teams then, they were all high school students and because there were no differentiation amongst them, leagues looked quite crowded. If you look at the last nine years, in both men and women leagues there were six categories for players including junior category. Having six categories, high school players playing in two categories at the same time and some good players playing even in the A league is a reason why the teams are reduced. The second reason is financial. In the past, economically, it was not much of an expense to the clubs and the players used to play for the sake of playing, but at the moment university scholarships, compensations of the clubs decreased the number of teams and led the clubs not being able to take this load anymore. The third reason is the amount of compensation of the government to the other units besides sport and federation reduced the number of teams. The other reason is the shift of values of the society in terms of social and technological development; also the beginning of the communication era in 1990s shifted the interest of people. If you as government do not compensate this economically, the interest at this era will shift to other areas and this will lead to the

decrease in the number of teams and difficulties in establishing clubs. The current clubs are not supported financially by the government as well; for example Dumlupinar was established. A Team was established. Dumlupinar women's team was champion four years in a row and their junior team was a champion as well but if you look at the team now it is closed due to economic reasons. I am asking from here how much this club received government support for being champions so many years in a row? They did not get anything. So the portrait has to be looked at as a whole and the people who will be in the photo should be determined correctly. If we want a real report then all these factors have to be taken into consideration. Today, there are many talented players in the country but in order to continue with success these factors have to be reviewed. Firstly, there are many exaggerated positions in the country. The population of the country is explicit and if we take the number of players in the 32 federations, volleyball should have 8 clubs and these clubs should have all categories; men, women, junior, small. If we take South Cyprus as an example, until three years back, with the population they have they only had four teams in the women's league. Financially they are better but if you compare them with us we play with the same number of teams. So there were mistakes and these mistakes are country's mistakes not individual's. This is the picture of the country at the moment and if we want these problems to be overcome, we need to take precautions. As a result, lack of interest to the matches in the school teams, decrease of competition at schools and lack of training at schools have led to foundation level at schools to decrease. You can have as many players brought up as you like but if you don't have financial resources to support them under an umbrella of an established club, even if you have 500 players it will not mean anything. The important thing is for players to be able to continue their matches, improve themselves and compete in the best way

possible. But unfortunately, as I mentioned before financially establishing clubs have gone through crisis. If government wants the federations to be in better positions, it should support them. The regarded people should go to government and determine the staff of federations to make the balance in the reality of the federations. But with the current back up of the government it is impossible to improve. When people criticize the status of one federation, they should also criticize the lack of financial support they get from the government. An average married couple's annual income is 50000 which is difficult for them to get by and the government expects federations to run with 50000 a year.

## 2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

The problem with university teams dropping the performance of the leagues is not the issue at the moment. Our problem is finance and once we have our economic problems overcome, then we can discuss other obstacles. Unfortunately, when these problems are not faced and solved, there is no point in discussing other issues. This is basically political economy. Universities have not affected the country's volleyball negatively. They have found teams, offered scholarships, motivated the club's players. Other club's financial problems have led to a loss of their players but the factors I mentioned before are the main factors. Therefore, we have to look at the picture as a whole. Is it bad for universities to form teams? No I don't think so. Lefke European University became the champion six years in row. They have handicaps but, Dumlupinar, Magem, Vakiflar, Avtepe are not university teams. In order to increase club teams, we need to do other things. We witnessed an official interviewed who said that there were clubs in the past which are not in the league anymore and we should support these clubs to come back to the league. But I am

saying that we have volunteer teams playing so why don't we support them, Esentepe and Dumlupinar. If you have this intention of supporting teams, support the current ones so maybe the ones who are not in the league now will also be motivated by this support and come; while you preserve the current teams. If you say to Yenicami team, come and have this money and start, it will not mean much. You can increase the number of teams parallel to quality players. If you gather these people under one umbrella with the support of the government then there will be an increase and it should be announced to people through media. I can be an institution or an establishment but I need to know that legally, I will get support and it will not be a verbal. Otherwise this support promise will lose its validity and reliability. If you have by-laws as a Sport Ministry and under the rules and regulations you support the clubs, it will be reliable and then we will have an increase in the teams. This was not the case before; x person gave to y person because they had personal relations and x person then did not give any support to z person because they did not have any relation at all. This is how the system worked in the past. If this is how we continue of course teams will close and teams will open.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

If we come to the internationality of country's volleyball, this is quite tragic. In 1971 Cyprus Volleyball Federation was an official member of International Volleyball Federation for many years. In 1980 we did not participate in Moscow Olympics, it was decided to defer the membership of Cyprus Volleyball Federation. In 1978 Greek Volleyball Federation applied to be a member and objected to the membership of Cyprus Volleyball Federation by stating the invasion of Cyprus as an excuse. Firstly, Azeri Baku Team was here and played. We brought world's famous

beach volleyball players to this country. Years later both men and women teams of Azerbaijan came again. Our other federations go abroad for tournaments too. This means that if there is an action plan and financial resources properly stated and given, any team can come here and any team from here can go abroad. You should not see these tournaments as holiday. We may not be able to participate in the Olympics, European Volleyball Tournament, World Volleyball Tournament but besides these organizations there are more. If you insist on participating in the top three tournaments, then you cannot and also we don't have the capacity. You cannot go and play against a German Football team. You don't have that capacity. So we should develop ourselves by participating in smaller tournaments with plans and projects. If we are recognized tomorrow as a republic and we can play against any team in the world, how are we going to do that and with which teams. This year football and handball teams participated in tournaments of Turkey and I can tell you that they had a lot of financial problems; just to go to Turkey. No one supported these teams and they had a lot of difficulty in finding funds for these tournaments. There is basically nothing motivate these federations. I want to add that if we want to improve the country's sport, we need to urgently take into consideration what the professionals have put forward as problems in those fields. These problems should be reported and solved. This will guide the country's sport in the correct way. We have been discussing the same problems for over thirty years and if problems have been discussed for over thirty years in one country, it means there really is a big problem. Especially the people in that specific field should comment and criticize these problems; not a person from outside who does not know anything about that particular sport. We need people with faith and we need to trust these people who have faith. These problems could be solved. If you can build five star hotels to

Karpaz and other regions in Cyprus, people from all over the world come to stay there. But, there needs to be promotion. If you don't promote then it will not be known.



## **APPENDIX I: INTERVIEWEE 9**

### **Ismail Kovanci, 28, Male; Eastern Mediterranean University Sport Trainer and Volleyball Player**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

If I go back to my childhood, we used to play football, volleyball or anything with ball. But now children come from school and start using the computer. So I think volleyball is defeated by the era. If you look at the matches EMU and MAGEM have, there are over 200 supporters watching the match. There is a big competition between these two teams but also people come to watch because they like volleyball. In the past, even in villages they had teams in the past and the settlers used to go and watch these matches. But now you ask someone to come and play for you and they ask you how much you will give them. So everything is financial now. The ones who are after money are still playing but they are not more than four teams as you can see.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

I don't think volleyball will ever be the same again. Everyone is just trying to survive. So sport is in the background now; especially volleyball. Volleyball is a difficult sport. There are many tournaments organized like beach volleyball and even to that there isn't much interest. There is nothing to motivate players to play volleyball at the moment. If they had more tournaments like street volleyball, three player tournaments between schools will be an attraction. Volleyball is now left to

universities only. EMU brought us to Valencia for an international tournament. We played against such teams that I never dreamt of playing with. This is how players can be motivated.

Universities are not to blame for the decrease in the number of the teams but it has affected it a lot. Because parents would like their children to play somewhere that could help them financially as well. So they choose university teams for their children. Having teams at universities helped the universities a lot of course. But country volleyball is affected negatively. If you look at the teams now university teams all have good players whereas club teams have some good some fair players.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

I think embargo means money. If you have money you can participate in any tournament. We went with the support of our university and government to an international tournament. It could be done. I accept that we have embargoes and we cannot play in European teams but we can participate in smaller organizations.

## **APPENDIX J: INTERVIEWEE 10**

### **Mehmet Kanan, 50, Male; Vakiflar Sport Club President**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

In the last 25 years we have lived a lot. If we talk about the past, women had one and men had two leagues. We as Vakiflar come from the second league to the first league. We had 8 teams in the league and we became the champions and moved to first league. Later on, the teams decreased. This is because the country is going through various crisis. And we are affected by that. Also, federations only had short term plans to satisfy that category. Crisis of the country is a big problem but the actual responsible people for this decrease are our federation, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sports. For example, Ministry of Education let schools free to choose whichever sport they would like to participate in. This was not the case before. Every school had to participate in every branch. Sport players basis is school sport and this was closed down. I have been a club president for many years and we were competing to appoint the physical education teacher who as training a school team so that those players can come to our team. Genclik Gucu team's players were based on 20 Temmuz High School, Olgun Kumova's team, Gencay used to form the Cetinkaya team. When I formed Vakiflar Sport my team was based on 20 Temmuz. This is an example but later promotion based issues were on the agenda. We had a bank issue. We also had a basketball team which came from the second league as well. Then there were bank teams in basketball and later in volleyball. These teams of banks required advertisement. Promotion based establishments wanted free

promotion. If they were going to have free promotion, why should the rest of the banks pay for advertisements? So I was approached by bank managers newly established and I resisted the transfer of players but banks wanted to have teams who can promote them every day. Me and the other club presidents let this bank issue be this way at that time. As you know there is the university issue as well. New universities were formed which worked in the same way as banks and they needed the same things. We as clubs gave them opportunities. So the point we have come to now is, there are three teams in the women's league and there are four teams in the men's league. This is due to wrong strategy of the federation and ministry and the administrators' short term decisions of the federation. At the moment, these decisions may look correct as there is an increase in the number of university teams. It is proven that it cannot work this way. We defended the decision of not having university teams then. The reason was that it would lead to a decrease in the number of teams. Besides the decision we defended, it was because the whole administration depended on a couple of people. The administration of the federation may have said that it is not possible for universities to have teams because they are not clubs. They are continuous staff of the universities instead of administrators of clubs. They may have financial difficulty and therefore want to go towards savings. Also, there are limitless opportunities at universities. Anyone could have got scholarship. At the beginning the universities opened themselves up a lot in this case. But they are right. I mean if my child said to me that he wants to play in Eastern Mediterranean University team to get scholarship, I would send him to that university. After all, it is inconvenient for most families to budget the expenditure of their child's education. Since universities give scholarship to anyone doing sports, this was a disadvantage to

club teams. The good players were also motivated by this scholarship scheme to play in university teams.

This shouldn't have been the system that the federation followed. The structuring should have been different. I am not against universities having teams but it should have been done with a proper system. After solid structuring, I am not against universities having teams. The structured system should not have negatively affected the clubs with less money. The system needs to show continuity and not negatively affect certain teams. If a player had financial problems and they left their teams to play in a university team, this is not right. For example this year EMU closed up the women's team and NEU closed up both men and women's team. Last year NEU transferred many good players we brought up in summer schools to start with good players. This year these players are not playing anywhere now and we will not be able to take back all and this leads to good players de-motivation as they will not play in any teams this season. On one side you want good players to be brought up but on the other side you lose good players with this principle. Magusa is the same. There are teams but people are focused on EMU because it has more opportunities. We should work hand in hand to form strategies for these problems as clubs and the federation together. We should come to a consensus somehow. We should do the best we can. Later, we should report our strategies and meet with the ministry of sports to consult with them. This is the only way to make things positive. Because volleyball is not going well. A league with three teams is not a league; there is no motivation and excitement.

Like I said before, everyone should work together without any negative intentions. This is the first thing I am defending. The number of clubs at the moment

is I think 8. These 8-9 clubs can be encouraged to form volleyball team also. We can call these clubs such as Esentepe Sport Club for example. They could be called and encouraged to open volleyball teams and federation can appoint paid trainers for the club for motivation. They can be offered to open up the men's team and federation could help them in opening up the women's team.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

Clubs and federation should sit down and come up with an action plan of what can be done for volleyball. There are volunteer volleyball players now who play at the weekends by themselves. They are your raw material. You can appoint them to different teams of the league. MAGEM for example did this. They were supposed to be two teams but now they are three. They used to have summer schools in some ministers time in the past and we never had summer schools after that. Let alone we allowed the schools to choose the sport branch they would like to compete in, we did not have these summer schools either. For example, I had players in the primary school but they did not form a team as there were not enough players. This is not an excuse but this is what they do. So foundation schools are very important. We get a lot of applications. But I don't answer them as we cannot find courts for these trainings. The courts are closed up in summer but we do not use them.

## **APPENDIX K: INTERVIEWEE 11**

### **Mustafa Cerkez, 50, Male; Cerkez Sport Club President**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

I finished primary school and when I started Bayraktar High School, I was the shortest in the class. Volleyball did not cross my mind for a bit. Babur teacher, our physical education teacher of the time, lined all of us up and told us to hit the ball. All he did was to choose 12 people and he chose me as well. The teacher is very important at those ages to make you love a sport. Also, starting early is very important as high school is ideal and after senior high school it is late. When we established a team in 1989, there were no other teams to play against. I played for Cetinkaya, Yenicami, GKK also formed a team when I went to England and played too. So, I continuously played without giving any break in between. I thought to myself, I should form a team as the current teams do not have training and the only time they have six players together is at the match. This is when my company was doing well. We first started with six people even, just to have training. There aren't any teams who have one to two trainings a week. Look at Vakiflar, they don't have regular meetings. How can you expect them be successful? You beat them because you have regular trainings. We started off in the second league with twelve teams and with some ambition we went up to the first league. Once we went up to the first league, we thought that we had to improve the team. Foundation team is important to bring up players. Many teams take players from other teams and gather all good players to strengthen the team but foundation is also very important. That is the way

to move forward in volleyball and the region that does this is Magusa. Olgun is the only trainer who does this. There used to be two leagues with twelve teams in each and the interest was quite high. We used to fill up the front seats of Ataturk Sport Salon. Especially MTG used to come to matches with four buses full of fans. We used to bring musicians and that is how the matches were played. In terms of finance, you need to give something to the players to contribute for them somehow. I used to employ the unemployed players of the team. They used to get the minimum wage but the only condition was they needed to attend two trainings a week and come to the matches with no excuse. Then we were criticized for involving money to sports. The money given before us was like one third or quarter of what we were giving. Then, universities got involved and the picture changed altogether. Universities participating in the leagues affected country's volleyball in a negative way. The most productive period of sports is high school and university. Later, job and family issues start to affect the performances. Once the universities started offering scholarships, it was difficult for the private sector to compensate the same amount of money for their own players. Therefore, all of the good players used to play in university teams. If you looked at EMU, it had twelve players. When six played the other six sat at the reserve seat and the ones sitting at the reserve seat were also good players.

## 2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

I appreciate MAGEM a lot. If the other councils like Lefkosa, Girne, Guzelyurt put together a volleyball team, volleyball will be like the old days. I think the first thing to be done is the foundation teams. There is a saying; there is no good in using the current water to operate the mill. The water will finish and the mill won't work. It is



the same if you don't have a foundation team. Federation also has a role. For example, the president Enver Kaya is a physical education teacher and his school does not have a volleyball team. I wanted to state this from here as well. There was also one league for the female but it had twelve teams in it. There was a lot of devotion in putting the teams together. Club like Cetinkaya, Esentepe, Alaykoy, Kaymakli, Genclik Gucu used to have a tendency towards volleyball. If clubs don't contribute, then this volleyball business will go down the drain anyway. Every club has supporters of their own. By organizing these teams with a good federation, volleyball can go back to its old days. I think, if Enver Kaya had paid more interest to building a court for the foundation teams rather than building the Arena and running beach volleyball there, it would have been better. Beach volleyball is played at the beach. We need a closed court. Ataturk Sport Center is a nice salon but cannot serve for the volleyball players only. It is not a salon that serves 24 hours for volleyball, basketball, concerts and conferences. I brought up my son and he is now a volleyball player. But he is at that stage that he goes for the sake of going. If there was a good league that motivated him, then he would try to improve himself more. Role models are also very important. I remember at high school, when we were training, if the A Team's players came to watch us, it was a great motivation. Even by going and talking to them would make them say 'Look he is paying interest to what we are doing'. For example, there was a volleyball player in Magusa. His name was Osman Marasli. His life was volleyball. He did not care about money at all. He did it because he loved it. I am against the word embargo. Any team can go and play in Turkey. For example, we went for a camp in Eczacibasi's foundation facilities. We played against Azerbaijan and Sweden teams there. If you work for it, you would achieve it.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

There is no need to hide behind embargoes. Many times teams went to Islamic Games. Embargo means preventing them from coming but it does not prevent you from going. In short, if there were eight teams with ten people each, it will mean eighty people. If you bring them up, four years later they will be ready for an exciting league. You need to invest in this; you cannot find it as you go along. You need to plant the trees to grow. You may bring any professional you like, there will be no good league next year. We may have a good league after four, five years. You can have masters playing a match in between as well.

## **APPENDIX L: INTERVIEWEE 12**

**Olgun Kumova, 51, Male; Youth Government Office Vice Director;  
Trainer of Near East University Female Volleyball Team**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

There are three main reasons for the changes in volleyball in the last 25 years. In 1995 I was a physical education teacher and after that I was a unit manager in Government Youth Office and later a vice principle since 2005. Before 1995, there was a decision taken by the ministry of education. This decision was having athletics as the main branch and sub branches that could be volleyball, basketball and handball at schools. So every school had to have one main and one sub-branch every year. This I think is wrong. The physical education teachers, of course this is not to criticize them would choose the easy sports. For example, I would choose volleyball and I would find 6 people to play it. This is a disadvantage on the other sports. Because, schools used to give players to clubs for example, 20 Temmuz High School. So when a student came to the first grade of high school until he graduated six years later, Olgun Kumova or the physical education teacher's branch would bring that player up with his style and techniques. But now if you look at 20 Temmuz High School now, it has become a science school and there is no secondary school there. It is just a lycee. So how can you bring up a player in three years? So, schools sending players to clubs stopped. What happened then? Clubs started choosing players from primary schools which lead to the physical education teachers to go to

specific clubs. So they started training in the clubs. This led to the spread of players. For example, from Ruso they took 5, from Bayraktar they took 3, from College 5. What happened then was the clubs got stronger but the performances at schools dropped. Because schools used to give clubs players as a team, when they played at school they were the same team, when they played at clubs, they were the same team and when they played in Turkey they were the same team. Then there were play-offs. So the same team would have played more than 20 games together. This team used to get prepared for national team together as well. So everyone used to get prepared as one. But what is happening now is that clubs have players coming from different schools. You have 3 good players from Bayraktar for example. I have a team in Near East. However, 3 of them got into Turk Maarif College and left. So if I had 9 players that I trained play in the same team, it would have been different. But it is now different as some have gone to Bayraktar and the team spirit and technical development is gone. This leads to regression of volleyball. I don't want to be regional but Magusa is doing this. But there is the same problem there. Players, clubs and schools are all mixed. There used to be Namik Kemal high school with 6 years Canbulat High school with 6 years. So player would play volleyball for 6 years and the team used to be as one all that time. Technology also affected it as we cannot move the children from in front of the computers, pulling them to the trainings which is up to their trainer. Volleyball as well as other sports is affected by this. So, country's sport is affected by this not just volleyball. There is also the financial factor to the backing off of volleyball. Magusa is the popular city for volleyball. Most players come from primary schools in Magusa. I have players who cannot serve still after 2 years because they did not come from primary school. If a player starts at 11

years old, it is way different to someone who starts at the age of 14. Time affects the players very much.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

Most federations complain about the lack of finance. They say that football has the majority of the budget but with good planning and programming and presented to Sport Ministry, it could be effective. For example, if foundation schools are established in every region on the condition that federation will be the examining body, we could have 100 players in 5 years. Because I think for a volleyball player to be proficient, he needs three years. That is why I said 5 years. So these foundation schools under the federation can bring volleyball further in the future. I don't want to state specific years because it is the same in basketball as well. They only have three teams too. We cannot blame volleyball only. If you look at basketball, it is popular but they face the same problems as volleyball let alone they have 12 Giant Men foundation schools in every region. They also have a few teams.

At first universities could have affected volleyball negatively as the best players started going to universities for the scholarship. However, players going to universities as a crowd did not work. The clubs did not pay attention to the players. So, the club teams were going to be closed anyway, this university movement accelerated the process only. If club teams financially wanted to close down, they found a reason to with the university teams opening.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

We need to be in contact with the teams in other countries. We can have something like a tournament and invite them to come and informally play with us.

This is for the main league not for young teams. Priority is personal contact and then universities and clubs will come automatically.

## **APPENDIX M: INTERVIEWEE 13**

**Sedat Kaplan, 51, Male; Trainer of Vakiflar Male Volleyball Team;  
Lefkosa Turk High School Physical Education Teacher**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

I came to the island in 1985 with my wife Aysen who is also a volleyball player. In 1987 we moved to Cyprus. I played volleyball in Turkey for a long time as well. When we first came to the island, volleyball had a lot of deficiencies. Especially in the rules, the training styles and I am not saying this because I come from Turkey and Turkey knows the best but there were a lot of deficiencies in teaching and learning styles. This is because they have not been abroad and played with different teams. They didn't know what was happening in the world. This is what I used to think. I started to play in Genclik Gucu team with Enver Kaya and after two years I became the trainer of the team. Then I trained Vakiflar, Cerkez Spor and continued. In 1989 we were in the second league when I was training Cerkez Spor and if I am not mistaken there were ten teams in the second league and twelve teams in the first league of males. Females used to have one league with twelve to fifteen teams. It was Mr. Damdelen the federation president then Turkmen Sancar took over and that is the time when volleyball started losing its popularity. Private institutions are the main reasons for this. I don't know when EMU was established but private institutions wanted to invest to volleyball to become champions. It was the same for my team Cerkez Spor. We became the champions. Players such as Ugur Gazi, Cahit, Tagmac, Tolga were gathered in our team and compensated financially to the

players. So as a private institution, it reached its aims in a short while. We had already established the foundation level for this team but. Gonendere High School was the champion and 20 Temmuz High School which was trained by Aysen Hoca came second. These teams were combined for the foundation team of Cerkez. But once the team did not get any contribution from the government as it expected in terms of taxation for example, a couple of years later the team closed down. Later Akdeniz Garanti Bank closed. Teams such as Gonyeli, Kultur Dernegi, Cetinkaya closed down one after another. The reason for this closing is because players were gathered in good teams and later these teams closing down due to its crisis with the government. This damaged the non-private teams such as Cetinkaya. These teams had foundation teams but they closed down. This is basically what these clubs wanted too as they were always in favor of football. The players from foundation levels do not have any aim as they cannot compete anywhere besides North Cyprus. Besides high schools competing in Turkey, there is no other way that players can compete anywhere besides North Cyprus. Of course there is technology as well. The dimensions of children shifted as economic conditions improved and being able to buy computers and going to bars at nights affected volleyball negatively. But trainers also have a role in this as besides Magusa which has the most teams there is no schools with volleyball teams. In Lefkosa, there are no school teams basically. Also federation presidents that came after Mr. Damdelen did not encourage the clubs to have volleyball teams. We should have players from primary school let alone we do not even have one.

Education ministry should think of what needs to be done to improve the number of volleyball teams in the schools. It should encourage the teachers and schools.



There is a team from Ruso High School. I as a physical education teacher only form handball teams in the last three years. I don't have much to give to a student interested in volleyball. All I can say to that person is to do volleyball as a hobby. As schools have limited budget, I would not like to form a team that will be eliminated from the first match as there are not many students interested and the ones who are interested are not enough to make a team. I train badminton and handball teams instead as they are easier to teach and do not require a foundation. Volleyball needs more effort and energy to teach and to learn. There are moves that need a lot of training such as forearm pass. How much can a student pass the ball as forearm to his partner? He needs to play a lot. It is not the same in basketball. Basketball is easy. In handball and football there is a goal post and you can somehow score. This will motivate the player but in volleyball this is not the case. Besides this, the actual teams need to be an example to society with international tournament participations, there is no news on volleyball in media. The lack of target and aim in volleyball for players prevent them from choosing volleyball. It is not going towards professionalism where players will receive money either. Society has lost its interest to volleyball as well. In Esentepe primary and high schools had teams but this year they did not. But as there is not much to do in Esentepe village, students are interested in doing sports. I think there was one teacher who encouraged it and he is gone. High school of Esentepe started to have problems as well so they did not have any teams. In Lefkosa I spoke with Bilgen Hoca and took students to Vakiflar whwere they lost all their matches. But some of them came to our school and our school team became the champion. Every year Magusa used to win but that year we became champions after Ruso, we came second afterwards and then became

champions again. It is a difficult and good sport to do and whoever starts to play it cannot give it up but it is a difficult sport.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

Education Ministry and Volleyball Federation has a big responsibility to encourage volleyball. Teachers should be encouraged for example. Federation should be given more budget to organize tournaments. It does not have many teams so it does not matter who is going to win in the tournaments. Volleyball does not have much aim as they have to meet three sets and you keep hitting the ball. It is not much interesting. Volleyball schools can be opened in every region instead of wasting their energy on leagues. They do not have to have Cemal or Olgun trainers to train these teams; they can easily have some players from the actual teams to train them. They do not have to have hundreds of players it can start with ten players from each region for example and you can have matches to integrate them. There should also be a reward at the end such as participating on international tournaments, taking them to camps. These do not cost very much. Federation can do all this themselves. At the same time, these schools will help in the formation of school teams as the player who plays in the federation school team will also play in their school team. So they will themselves encourage the physical education teachers to form teams; because that player will want to play in their school teams as well. Education ministry, federation and clubs should sit together and decide what they can do altogether. We used to play against Magusa Turk Gucu before. When I first came to the island, there were only two indoor courts; Namik Kemal and Basaran. When we used to go to Magusa Turk Gucu or Genclik Gucu here in Lefkosa, they were all open courts. After I

returned from Turkey, it was the first time I played volleyball on an asphalt court. Now there are many courts everywhere.

I think with a good action plan we can improve volleyball. You cannot do it on your own. Schools cannot either. A school can say that I will have a handball team instead of volleyball because there are more talented students for handball and that you cannot interfere with. Besides athletics no sport branch was compulsory. The reason for schools to have so many teams was because of the motivated teachers. They have lost their motivation now I guess.

Universities have positive sides to the country's volleyball. They used to give us players, I gave them many players as well. Universities only contribute for themselves. I like it when they give scholarship to their players. This is a good opportunity for students with financial problems. So universities contribute. But we as clubs bring up players and then they are taken by the universities as they offer scholarship. This looks like I brought up a player for the university to benefit from. This is because there are not many teams. This brings up another issue about the clubs. This means that clubs do not have a good foundation. Don't we have good sponsors like Telsim, Turkcell who already do a lot of beneficial things for the country to also contribute to volleyball? Adem Kaner had a basketball team for example. They don't have to have much budget to run these clubs but if they compensate for their players as well then the university teams will not take club's good players. So I think universities did contribute and I also like the fact that players are encouraged and taken care of with scholarships. For example Near East closed its team and I think it was wrong to do that but those players do not have a team to go to. If they had asked me to give them a few players so they can continue

their teams, I would have given them some of my players. University's aim should not be to become champions. When that is the case then you lose teams just like Lefke European University closed its team as well. Universities have foundation levels as well. A school team also plays in a club team as well. These are the advantages of playing together. The more the players play together the better they will be. Only if I had a high school team and made them play in my club as well who all later go to same university team. So I don't think universities damaged the number of teams. If universities are guided properly, they would have more advantage to the country's volleyball. Universities have more opportunities. There are embargoes on the country but there are no embargoes on the universities.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

I don't think embargoes affect the internationalization of North Cyprus volleyball. I think if you have money you can go anywhere. If you have money you can go and have a match with the Russian team. It may not be a formal match but it could be special. Maybe you will not live the full enjoyment but you will. So if you have money, you can go anywhere. There are special tournaments in the world and you can deposit your money to it and participate. These organizations don't listen to embargoes or other nation's judgment about you. But the best is of course to have a solution so you know where you stand. You can participate on international tournaments, Olympics or whatever. So if the Cyprus problem is solved it will be better but it is difficult at the moment. This country is having financial crisis all the time and this is hard of course. But you can get free invitations for tournaments; you can get help from Turkey as Turkey is doing great in sports at the moment. But the main problem we have is financial. If you have money, none of these problems will

be there. You can have regional foundation schools and then you will not depend on anyone for players. If these players are motivated by uniforms and shoes for example, then they will go to their schools and force their teachers to have volleyball teams as well. Maybe the players parents will be interested to watch their child play and as time goes by this can improve.

## **APPENDIX N: INTERVIEWEE 14**

### **Serpil Kayalp, 42, Female; Namik Kemal High School Physical Education Teacher**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

At the moment we are going towards corruption in terms of country's volleyball ever since I have been in this sport. When I started volleyball it was in 1996 with Magusa Turk Gucu team. The school team was quite good so they wanted me to train the MTG team and my players to play as well. That is how we got into the club. MTG was very interested in volleyball and they did everything to contribute to the team. I can say that I became a professional volleyball trainer with this opportunity as I was a physical education teacher only. Then, volleyball was better; the federation president was different, there was more interest to this sport. Then, there were no university teams. Lefke University had a team but Near East University and Eastern Mediterranean University did not. I can say that participation was a lot better then. There was not much expectation of the players financially and I think they did it more because they like the sport; you would agree that when money is involved it takes a different dimension. There was more devotion then. If I go back to when I was playing volleyball, when we had a match not only the school but the whole of Magusa artisans supported us. The tribunes were full of supporters. They also supported us financially. For example we became the champions and one of the businessmen of Magusa bought us sport shoes as presents. But if we look now, it is even difficult to find sponsors for the teams in indoor sports and volleyball is one of

them. Of course it is also up to the trainer. If the region or the school has a physical education teacher then there will be volleyball in that school otherwise there will not be. This is also wrong. For example, Girne never had a volleyball teams nor as a school or as a teams. This is due to the fact that the foundation of volleyball in this region was never established.

## 2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

Federation should be responsible for forming teams in regions. Federation should state that they are appointing a volleyball trainer to the region and announce that they have a volleyball school;. They could have made excuses in the past about not having a court but now there is a good quality court in Girne. Even the schools have courts there. So volleyball then has to be brought to this region with the support of the federation. We could have introduced volleyball here. Erdinc Hoca took over the volleyball in Erenkoy and now Erenkoy has a volleyball team for the last three, four years. This means, schools and federation play a big role. When a teacher is appointed to a certain school, he needs to be made aware that there has to be volleyball. They can have courses designed to teach volleyball. Federation can design these courses for the teachers too. I don't know volleyball and I am not in the position to quite rule this game is not an excuse not to have a team. What should the federation do in this case? It should collaborate with the Ministry of Education and organize seminars for teachers to inform them and train them. They should demand for teams to be established. What do I do? In summer because I don't have time during the year to form a team from scratch as matches start in September and I need the team by then, I form and train my team in summer. Schools wait until the beginning of the year and then realize that they cannot form a team it is too late. So

formation should start in summer. This does not require any finance, it only needs devotion. This is totally up to the teacher. I continue my trainings in summer. In order to spread volleyball around the country, volleyball schools should definitely be opened. It is up to the federation to spread this around the country though. Federation should lead the way with a couple of trainers with determined job descriptions so they know what to do. For example they had 12 Giant Men for basketball which is a great example and something like that can also be done for volleyball. They can announce this in every part of the country and ask for interested players. They do not have to know how to play volleyball. I can say that our children are very talented. If they are sufficient in terms of fitness and height the rest can be taught. We are deficient in terms of height. When we go for tournaments to Turkey, we lose because of our height. If we search for tall players to form the basis of the teams, we can have them trained at the volleyball schools which will be opened. We can take this further. In order to spread this sport with these volleyball schools, media and federation should work together, take films, photographs to emphasize the importance of sport to parents especially. For example, there are tutoring schools now and it was not that popular at our time. There are many now. There were no internet cafes then. So, if something like this is established under the umbrella of volleyball school, children will start doing more beneficial things. Families will be more conscious of volleyball so country's volleyball will somehow start to develop. Media is very important because if you are doing something, it needs to be advertised, this is what I think and it is the same everywhere in the world. When something is getting done, it needs to be advertised. It is a motivation for the players too. For example, my team goes for a match and the next day they come and ask me why they were not on the newspaper. They want to see themselves there. Schools should contribute and give more



importance to them as well because they devote their afternoons to trainings. We do not have this problem in our school because the administration supports us a lot. If there is a match and a class at the same time, the administration allows us to have substitution afterwards. This is why we have been successful all these years. We have a system in the school, there is a responsible vice principle for sport and under that umbrella, the injured players get sent to hospital. We do not leave it to the parents. This is also important. I don't know if it's going to be right to say this but there was a match and the player of the other team was injured. I called the family at night and they complained about the school administration not taking care of their daughter. So what is going to happen now? The family will say why should I send my child to play sports for this school? So the families expect this attention too. So schools whichever branch it is, there should be teachers assigned for them and they should be the responsible teacher for that branch instead of just the physical education teacher. This is a team work and teachers should be assigned for different branches to take care of. There have been many arguments about universities having volleyball teams and their contribution to volleyball. I think universities should have volleyball teams. As well as universities, there should also be clubs with volleyball teams in order to have competition. If there is no competition in volleyball, there cannot be any improvement either. If you ask them how many teams there are and how they became a champion and there was no competition, players will not feel motivated. This is what is happening at the moment. There are only three teams, there is no competition and if there is a weak team that will be established and will not get any championships, then they will not form that team. Competing with three teams in league is no competition and therefore no motivation. This is what is happening with the women's volleyball league at the moment. Young teams are

increasing in number but like I said, if there were volleyball schools established, we could have had more teams. Universities should be I think also clubs should be because if you are in the university you get a scholarship, so why should they play for clubs? How much will the clubs pay them? I think, universities contribute to volleyball and from what I see, players of university teams have a better chance of going abroad to participate. So, I have seen both Near East University and Eastern Mediterranean University go abroad for tournaments. When I went abroad last year, we got an offer of having us as their guest with accommodation and training courts free of charge for our use. So it could be done even for us, then if I can do this by myself our administration can perfectly do it as well if they had wanted it to. However, this did not happen whether at the ministry level or at federation level. They tend to send the champion team abroad for participation. The other teams should also be sent. We have been going to Turkey once we become the champions and since we become the champions continuously, we get to go to Turkey and it is just Turkey that we go to. The only overseas is Turkey for us. If our federation has collaboration with other federations, we can go to other countries to participate besides Turkey. If Eastern Mediterranean University can do this, so can our federation but of course only if they want to. Federation basis this on financials only but I am not sure if this is right, I think it can be done. Schools can do this, for example we have sister schools in Turkey. My school Namik Kemal is a sister school with a high school in Izmir and this could have been done for volleyball as well. With the collaboration of the volleyball federation and the ministry of education, they could have done something like this. But unfortunately, our federation not just in volleyball but the rest of the federations should be in collaboration with the ministry and they are not. For example, I had a match in the morning with my school

team and also one in the afternoon with my club team. We complained about this and they did a bit of adjustment to the programs but of course it was not enough. So even at this point they are not in contact but I think in order for volleyball and other sport branches to improve, federations should walk hand in hand with the schools. When you say country volleyball, the foundation starts at the schools. Hopefully, for our players and trainers who work with great devotion, receive more motivation and encouragement. For example if I did not do volleyball, there wouldn't be any volleyball. There are three or four of us in this region and because of our competition there were a few teams formed. In other regions there aren't any. Something motivating should be done for the trainers and the players. This has never been done. This is my school, my team I cannot complain but ministry never rewarded me for living my tenth championship or bringing up so many players. This is totally up to our own devotion. We work on holidays, weekends and some trainers of course say 'why should we?' and they don't. I think there has to be more encouragement.

## **APPENDIX O: INTERVIEWEE 15**

**Ugur Gazi, 40, Male; Vakiflar Sport Club Volleyball Player,  
Physical Education Teacher**

1. How do you see the progress of country's volleyball when you think of the last twenty five years?

Society in general is going towards de-generation. There is a corruption. Maybe we have not been able adapt to the era but we are doing something absent I don't know we did something wrong. This de-generation is general but. If you look at basketball it is facing the same things. The branches have increased but they all have the same problem. We cannot say that this is just in sport. The country as a whole is facing de-generation socially, culturally and in all the rest of events. There is impassivity and regression. If we look at the society as a whole, it is all the same. Volleyball got the grant for it as well. Did it have to be like this and at this level? Of course not. Volleyball and the branches have come to this point it all face this problem. It should not have been like this. Everything depends on education. Before 1974, there was more possessiveness of their own society and less individuality. People used to feel belonged to their village, school, community, town more in the past. Now, this individuality increased which reflected to the clubs as well. People lost their sense of belonging. As a result, team sports make people feel belonging somewhere. So once this sense of belonging was lost, it reflected to the team sports. Sportsmen feel valued if they belong somewhere and are successful. So once we lost all this, it reflected to volleyball. Magusa has a distinct case. Volleyball is like the mother sport

of the city. From what I see, not just parents but also grandparents bring their kids to foundation trainings of volleyball. Due to this, there are more teams for volleyball in Magusa and most players come from Magusa as well. So what could have been done when I brainstorm, since Magusa was the center for volleyball and there were foundation schools here, maybe volleyball administrators could have spread volleyball in the same way to the other cities. This was the solution I guess but this was not done and we came to the point that most players come from Magusa, female team only comes from Lefkosa. What should have been done? Why wasn't it done? Why couldn't it operate? I think these should be discussed. But if we are to state a reason here, it is up to the government to spread sports. Although there are many promises given at the election period and even in the by-laws as every citizen has the right to do sports is never the case. No one takes action. The popular and trend sport football has been invested into only. But then again football players are under inflation. All this time, investments have been done to football but if you look at football, there are no talented players.

If we are to continue, football has the most budget from the government or from the clubs themselves. So quality is not even in the question. Are our players not talented at all in football so they can go and play in Turkey? These are questions to be asked. So everything does not depend on budget although it is needed for the foundation level. Football as we see has a high budget, but the players are not getting anywhere. So we blame the embargoes for this. We do have embargoes in official institutions but this does not mean that we cannot compete on international competitions. Even the competitions in Turkey motivate our players let alone we have regional

tournaments now where the players of our country are able to compete after 30-35 years. This should have been done long ago.

2. How can volleyball be spread throughout North Cyprus again?

We definitely need a foundation level. We need to bring up players from very young ages. This needs to be done by the federation regionally as every region has courts. This cannot be done by clubs. In 4-5 years, the teams will increase in number gradually. There are many examples in the world that this has been done. If you look at our country, it is quite reachable but we tend to depend on the embargoes. Also officials and the way they look at these problems as federation or ministry is important. Are they aware of these? Yes they definitely are but they don't do anything in this regard to improve it. You need to talk to them about their reasons.

The aim of the federation is to organize matches and tournaments for the players and recruit more players for this sport. So, not only for volleyball but all federations need to do things. What do they say about these? Are there bureaucratic obstacles? As a person who is also involved in basketball, I can say that there are serious bureaucratic obstacles. They can be supportive but at the same time they can be a fob. It needs a lot of devotion. Trainers training any team at the moment think that they are in European teams. They should be aware that they need to bring up players as good people first. They technically try to improve the players and the player can be a very good smuggler, he can be technically very good as well, but if you did not bring him up as a good person, as soon as they see something difficult they will try to escape from it. An example to this is Turkish football or TRNC football. Rules and regulations are same but culturally it is totally different. Indoor sports are a bit more different. I work on the foundation level but I also work on the

12 Giant Team basketball team. There is no claim that they will bring up good basketball players. They want to first bring up good sports people. If physically the player is good and talented, then they can be good basketball players in the future but they are saying that first we need to bring up good people who love sport.

3. How can we participate on international platforms in volleyball tournaments?

Basketball and volleyball of Turkey is well known in Europe and world. They organize the world championships and get an appreciation award. They have players in Europe leagues and NBA. But they have a way of bringing up players. If you look at football, you will not be able to see this. In football they also have good ways of bringing up players in private institutions but in general this is not the case. But basketball and volleyball schools in Turkey first bring up good people and these players later with their ethical attitude and knowledge hold onto their teams. A player cannot be a one tournament player. In order to give their best to the team, they need 4-5 years. Good players should know how to improve themselves and players who cannot do this fade away in their sport field. If we put these aside, in order to prevent our young generation, we need to bring up people who are confident and value himself. These people will be beneficial to their country. He is the one who will act upon his adoptive attitude towards his country, TRNC community.