



## Identifying the Promoting and Inhibiting Factors in the Development of Women's Professional Basketball in Khorasan Razavi

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### ARTICLE INFO

**Article type:**  
*Original article*

**Article history:**

Received: 9 April, 2023

Received in revised form: 10 August, 2023

Accepted: 13 August, 2023

Published online: 10 November, 2023

**Keywords:**

Sport development  
Professional sport  
Sport management  
Strategic management

### ABSTRACT

The purpose of the current research was to investigate and prioritize the promoting and inhibiting factors in the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi, Iran. This is a mixed study conducted with an exploratory-analytical approach. In the qualitative part of the research, the interviewees included sports management professors, prominent basketball pioneers in Khorasan Razavi province, professional female basketball players, as well as basketball boards' managers and representatives. In the quantitative phase, the statistical population included professional female basketball players, coaches, and basketball pioneers in Khorasan Razavi. In general, 8 interviews and 134 questionnaires were collected in the research process. The qualitative data was analyzed through the content analysis method while the quantitative data analysis process was completed by using SPSS software (v. 22) and exploratory factor analysis, as well as Friedman's ranking tests. The findings of the research revealed that out of 48 items obtained as effective factors on the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi province, 25 items were considered as promoting factors and 23 items were found as inhibiting factors. Also, based on the results of the exploratory factor analysis test, 6 promoting factors ("socio-cultural factors", "technical level", "basic factors", "expert human resources", "competition and event", and "scientific indicators") and 5 inhibiting factors ("financial issues", "motivational supportive factors", "facilities factor", "club ownership" and "management perspective") were identified. "

## Introduction

The world is constantly changing and different nations try to progress faster along with these changes. Along with the development of various aspects of the world, sports have also been used as an important tool for development (Pourkiani, Hamidi, Goodarzi, & Khabiri, 2017). Developing role of

**How to Cite:** Talebpour, M., Arabkhani, N., & keshtidar, M. (2023). Identifying the Promoting and Inhibiting Factors in the Development of Women's Professional Basketball in Khorasan Razavi. *Journal of New Studies in Sport Management*, 4(4), 910-921. doi: 10.22103/jnssm.2023.21322.1181



sports in different aspects of countries has made the governments to include the progress in different fields of sports among the important strategic priorities of the planners in the country. The role of sports in national and international progress is so significant that Levermore considers sports as an engine for new development and believes that the use of sports for development purposes should be evaluated more accurately and followed in a way that includes all members of society (Levermore, 2008). Practically, sport has various dimensions and plays a significant role in economic issues, health related issues, exciting leisure time, social relations, prevention of social corruption and moral deviations etc (Motameni, Hemati, & Moradi, 2014). Sports is not specific to a certain group of people and all members of the society can take benefit from it. Different forms of sports are useful among different groups of society, whether recreationally and professionally, or competitively. Also, sports are important for both men and women, by providing special opportunities for practicing teamwork, learning, being success and different experiences (Andam, Aghaee, Anbarian, & Parsajoo, 2016).

Women's sports are important in many ways; it guarantees the personal and social health of people in the society, besides women's sports can increase doing sports among families. On the other hand, it can play a crucial role in medal winning and improve the status of Iranian sports' place in Asian, world and the Olympics competitions. For this reason, proper investigating should be implemented in women's sports with appropriate planning and regulated principles. During late decades, increasing popularity of women's sports has been reported. Also, various studies showed that the number of female athletes participating in sports competitions is increasing. Today, many women around the world are doing various sports; some as professional athletes and some amateur athletes, some of them try to reach official games and champions, and some strive to maintain their health condition or fitness. Women's participation in sports has various benefits like promoting their level of self-confidence, preventing from using drugs, having no sexual abnormalities, continuing educational progress, and reducing crimes. Besides, sports creates a desire for social participation (Ehsani, Honarvar, Sharifiyan, Kouzechiyan, & Farzan, 2009). Sport is also one of the factors that leads to social growth and strengthens women's social relations. Doing physical activities is also significant for psychological results such as changing attitudes, beliefs, human relations and social efficiency, perception and sensory responses promotion, improving mental and physical health, having relaxed and calm, alleviating mental disorders and learning skills as well as gaining moral experience and strengthening self-confidence. Doing exercise is also a factor in decreasing mental pressures and tensions for dealing with harmful crises in life (Ehsani et al., 2009). Professional sports are also important for women. One of the main effects of professional sports for women is mental effects; group activities create intrinsic motivation which causes energy draining, eliminating negative thoughts and creating happiness. A person who pushes away the negative energies, will think more happily and regularly and will be more successful. Also, because of the continuous training, professional women athletes have strengthened muscles which increases their self-confidence. Usually, women who exercise continuously are very successful people in terms of personal characteristics regarding high levels of self-confidence.

Evaluating the current growth rate of women's sports in national and international competitions shows its relative progress. Although officials and sport managers didn't pay enough attention for planning and organizing the women's championship and professional supports in comparison to the investments, competitors' efforts and the existing standards in women's sports (Andam et al., 2016). With the efforts that have been made in our country during few years, women's sports have found their place in Iran's sports. Therefore, it is necessary to provide the essential facilities for women's sports in all practical fields more than in the past. Women's presence as an important part of society in sport championships is an undeniable necessity. Surveys show that for the first time in the country's sports history, Iranian women in the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games were able to take 14 medals (equivalent to 25%) of the positions that were won by the Islamic Republic's athletes (Rasekh, Sajjadi, Hamidi, & Khabiri, 2015). The above-mentioned success emphasizes on potential of Iranian female athletes in sport championships (Shabani, Razavi, & Hadavi, 2020). This system works like other systems. Therefore, for being aware of the path and preventing repetition and wasting financial, human, physical and informational resources, officials and sport managers must develop macro goals, strategies and operational plans. Therefore, the development of sport championships requires a comprehensive, strategic and codified system to manage it (Rasekh et al., 2015). It should be noted

that currently, both in terms of organizational structure and technical and scientific training, compared to global standards, there are significant constraining and worrisome issues and problems about women's sports (Shabani et al., 2020). In order to formulate and implement targeted and strategic programs in women's sport championships, we must first try to identify the obstacles and problems in the development of women's sport championships. Accordingly, the growing success of women's sports at the national and international levels could be predictable. In this regard, various studies have been conducted that show the necessity of using comprehensive and strategic planning to identify the promoting factors for female athletes' success in different sport championships (Shabani et al., 2020).

Afrozeh et al. with the discourse analysis of women's sports in Iran, concluded that one of the factors that make women attempt to reach their rights and the sport organizations leaders is their participation in sports activities (Afrozeh, Niknam Shiri, & Mehri, 2022). Therefore, the support of the media and senior managers are very important to realize this goal. The results of Mousavi et al.'s research showed that two key factors play important roles in women's participation in sports; social support and security. Therefore, it is possible to help and increase women's sports participation with proper planning (Mousavi, Safari Jafarloo, & Afrozeh, 2021). Abdi Ne'matabad et al. studied the sociological issue of the role of gender-based cultural beliefs in women's talent identification (Abdi Ne'matabad, Gadimi, Hojjat, Shojaie, & Alipour Darvishi, 2021). The modification of the inhibiting gender-based attitudes, and reflection of the sport championships' gender-based views in the media and the need to rethink the gender-based culture are among the important findings of this study. Akmal and Nasiri conducted a meta-analysis research on the influential factors and barriers affecting the support of sports in Iran, which showed that managerial factors (1.25) and economic factors (1.03) as the most effective ones, respectively (Akmal & Nasiri, 2021). Therefore, according to the obtained results, sports managers should try to make maximum use of the media and advertising capacities in order to remove the obstacles to attract financial sponsors and gain their trust. Samed considers the significant role of legal and cultural factors such as lack of support and leadership to be effective in women's sport success, while this author considers structural and organizational changes as necessary measures to eliminate gender discrimination in the NBA (Samad, 2021). Collet et al. conducted a study titled "Dynamic elements of sport development: perceptions of basketball coaches". The results showed that the coaches were focused on basketball development and emphasized on systematic settings while they identified the dynamic factors for sport development (Collet et al., 2019).

Basketball is one of the most beautiful and exciting ball sports in the world, which also has a special place in the Olympics. Basketball is played in two ways: five-person (5 v 5) and three-person (3 v 3) basketball, or street ball. The history of basketball in Iran goes back to 1931 and after four years in 1935, it was officially introduced by Fereydoun Sharifzadeh. The Iran Basketball Federation was also established about ten years later in 1945. The first presence of Iran's national basketball team in the Olympics was in 1948, the London Olympics, and then in the 2008 and 2021 Olympics. The women's national basketball team was also participated in the West Asian basketball tournament in 2018 after the Islamic hijab was accepted by the World Basketball Federation. This was the first official appearance for Iranian women after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in an international competition, in which they won the third place. Also, the women's first division basketball league started in 1998, which was the highest level of club basketball in Iran, after that, the premier league was added in 2001. Women's basketball team in Khorasan Razavi also entered the basketball league in 2010. In this year, they won the first place by participating in the second division league and were promoted to League B. In 2011, by participating in first division league and winning the first place, they were promoted to the Super league or A league. Finally they promoted to Super league B. In 2012 they were promoted to the Super league or the Premier League. Unfortunately, despite the presence of strong basic teams at a younger age, Khorasan Razavi women's basketball teams have not succeeded in winning a place in the Premier League until now. Many factors are involved in development and progress of basketball teams. Inhibiting factors should be solved, and promoting ones should be strengthened for progress.

Therefore, it is vital for official planners to identify the effective factors for women's sports via scientific results and analysis to formulate strategic planning. Thus, the current research was conducted with the aim of identifying the promoting and inhibiting factors of the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi.

## Methodology

This research is a practical one considering its' purpose; with an exploratory-analytical method within the realm of mixed-method studies. The statistical population of this research was different in qualitative and quantitative phase. In the qualitative part of the research, the interviewees include sports management professors, prominent basketball pioneers, professional female basketball players, and basketball board managers and representatives of Khorasan Razavi province. To obtain the number of interviews, purposeful sampling was used until the level of data saturation during a period of one month. In general, 8 interviews were conducted making a Delphi group among these participants. In the quantitative part, the statistical population included top female basketball players and coaches as well as women's prominent basketball pioneers of Khorasan Razavi province, which were approximately 150 people. Also, the sampling method was based on the total sampling method, and finally, 134 questionnaires (N=134) were collected, and this process lasted for 4 months. In this research, first by examining the theoretical foundations of the research, the factors affecting the development of Khorasan Razavi women's professional basketball were identified, and then in the qualitative part, through a semi-structured interview, participants were asked to identify the increase or decrease rate of these factors and complete the information. In the second part, the identified items were again given to the interviewees to express their opinion about the promoting or hindering items that play a role in the development of Khorasan Razavi women's professional basketball by mentioning the reasons. The validity of the initial questionnaire was first examined by 5 specialists and experts about-face and content validity, and after its approval, it was distributed among the statistical population and the reliability of the questionnaires was obtained 0/87 and confirmed using Cronbach's alpha method. The data analysis procedure in the qualitative part was through using the content analysis (conceptual) method and repetition of factors, and in the quantitative part, by using SPSS software (ver. 22) and exploratory factor analysis and Friedman's ranking test.

## Results

In Tables 1 and 2, the features of the interviewed participants and the demographic characteristics of the quantitative part of the research were stated.

**Table 1.** Descriptive statistics of the interviewed people

Code	Occupation	Job experience	Educational degree	Interview duration
I1	Sports Management professor	8 years	PhD	30 minutes
I2	Basketball pioneer	20 years	Master degree	25 minutes
I3	Basketball pioneer	25 years	Master degree	20 minutes
I4	Sports Management professor	14 years	PhD	25 minutes
I5	Professional female basketball player	7 years	PHD student	35 minutes
I6	Sports Management professor	10 years	PhD	40 minutes
I7	Professional female basketball player	6 years	Master degree	25 minutes
I8	Board of basketball committee	12 years	Master degree	30 minutes

For the sake of brevity, the factors affecting the development of professional basketball were not mentioned in the article, and in Tables 2 and 3, promoting and inhibiting factors were identified. After

interviewing the experts and examining the theoretical foundations, a total of 48 items were identified for the factors affecting the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi. These items were given to the interviewees again and they were asked to express their opinion about the promoting or hindering nature of each item. Finally, they identified 25 items as promoting factors and 23 items as inhibiting factors.

**Table 2.** Promoting factors in the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi

code	Promoting Factors
1	History of basketball in Khorasan Razavi
2	Variety of basketball games like mini-basketball
3	Access to gym
4	Families' eagerness to play basketball
5	Potential talents in Khorasan Razavi province
6	High culture and interest of people in cities with a positive perspective toward sports specially for leisure time
7	The presence of prominent pioneers
8	Technical level of the Khorasan Razavi female basketball players in comparison to other provinces
9	The possible potential of earning income for basketball board
10	Having prominent coaches
11	Having talent identification teams in Khorasan Razavi basketball
12	The ability for hosting the women's basketball competitions in Khorasan Razavi
13	Having prominent basketball players in cities of Khorasan Razavi province
14	Having prominent basketball coaches in cities of Khorasan Razavi
15	Having prominent and national basketball players in Khorasan Razavi
16	Scientific views toward the development of Khorasan Razavi women's professional basketball
17	Positive views of people toward ladies' and girls' sports
18	Reduction of the religious boundaries for women in sports
19	Technical sources in Khorasan Razavi basketball
20	The scientific view of universities and Youth Affairs and Sport Organization to the development of Khorasan Razavi women's basketball
21	Social support for women for entering the professional sports
22	The possibility of basketball playing for disabled people
23	The presence of Wheelchair basketball team in Khorasan Razavi province
24	The occasional competitions' happening like "Ramadan cup" for women
25	The recreational based nature of basketball



**Table 3.** Inhibiting factors in the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi

Code	Inhibiting factors
1	Having open air spaces and parks
2	Basketball Private lounges
3	Proper advertising about the women's sport
4	Planning for attracting girls to basketball
5	Monitoring process of basketball board committee on cities' basketball
6	Holding Continues basketball competition
7	Having enough budget for the developments of women's basketball
9	The population of basketball players in Khorasan Razavi
10	Concluding official contracts with female basketball players
11	The possibility for using the potentials of men basketball players
12	Paying Enough attention to basketball in girls' sport time in schools
13	Attracting private sectors' eagerness for supporting women's basketball
14	Having technical and advanced facilities for playing basketball
15	Gaining united perspective toward the development of women' basketball among related organizations
16	Having various private gyms and basketball clubs in Khorasan Razavi
17	Supporting prominent basketball players completely
18	Having modern basketball facilities and equipment in villages and the suburbs
19	Committeemen to the financial contracts of female basketball players
20	Observing different financial budget for female basketball players in comparison to men
21	Capturing local media' attention to female basketball players' success
22	Having basic and professional basketball gyms in Khorasan Razavi
23	Having huge groups of fans in Khorasan Razavi province

Exploratory factor analysis was used to identify the items and questions of the research questionnaires. Table 4 shows the results of KMO and Bartlett tests. The KMO test shows whether the number of samples is suitable for factor analysis or not, and the Bartlett tests analyses the research hypothesis as "the correlation matrix of the observed variables is united". This test confirms that the variables are not related to each other respectively that is resulted through the chi-square significant test.

**Table 4.** The results of KMO and Bartlett tests

Hypothesis	The observed items		Criteria	
	Inhibiting factors	Promoting factors		
KMO test for finding suitable sample size	0.801	0.795	More than 0.6	
	1263.405	4536.33	Chi-square	-
Bartlett test for proper differentiation of items	1051	1275	Degree of freedom	-
	0.001	0.001	Significant level	Less than 0.05

In table 5 and 6, the results of factor analysis method about promoting factors were reported.

**Table 5.** Items of factor analysis for promoting factors

Code	Component name	Number of components	Eigenvalue	Percentage of eigenvalue variance	Cumulative percentage of variance
1	Socio- cultural factors	7	19.37	24.52	24.52
2	Technical level	5	13.17	16.79	41.31
3	Basic factors	4	8.90	13.9	55.21
4	Expert human sources	3	6.17	9.81	65.02
5	Competitions and events	3	4.25	6.43	71.45
6	Scientific criteria	2	2.13	3.66	75.11

After the Varimax rotation step of 25 variables in exploratory factor analysis, only one factor had a factor load less than 0.5, which did not fit into the above categories and was removed. The results of Varimax rotation and factor loading of each item are reported in Table 7.

**Table 6 .**Components' factor loading and extracted questions of promoting factors

Factor	Component	Factor loading
	History of Khorasan Razavi Basketball	0.712
	Families' support for playing basketball	0.693
	People' high level of interest and culture in cities toward sports ,specially recreational ones	0.572
Socio- cultural factors	The presence of professional pioneers in basketball boards	0.581
	People's positive view toward girls' and women's sport	0.712
	The reduction of religious difficulties for women in doing exercises	0.571
	Social support of women for doing professional exercises	0.600
Technical level	The presence of potential talents in Khorasan Razavi	0.640

	Technical level of female basketball players of Khorasan Razavi in comparison to other provinces	<b>0.595</b>
	The presence of professional athletes in Khorasan Razavi cities	<b>0.612</b>
	The presence of professional and national basketball players in Khorasan Razavi province	<b>0.691</b>
	Technical and special resources in Khorasan Razavi basketball	<b>0.730</b>
Basic factors	Various subfield like mini-basketball	<b>0.661</b>
	The possibility of playing basketball for disable people	<b>0.575</b>
	Having a wheelchair team in Khorasan Razavi province	<b>0.595</b>
	The recreational nature of basketball	<b>0.613</b>
Expert human resources	The presence of professional coaches	<b>0.578</b>
	The presence of talent identification teams in Khorasan Razavi basketball	<b>0.581</b>
	Having professional coaches in cities of Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.603</b>
Competitions and events	The possibility of income earning by basketball board	<b>0.701</b>
	The ability to host basketball competitions in Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.613</b>
	Holding occasional competitions like “Ramadan Cup” for female basketball players	<b>0.588</b>
Scientific indicators	Having scientific view toward the development of female professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.551</b>
	scientific view of universities and Youth Affairs and Sport Organization to the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.582</b>

In table 7 and 8 the results of factor analysis about the inhibiting factors were reported.

**Table 7 .**Extracted components of factor analysis of the inhibiting factors

Code	Component name	Number of components	Eigenvalue	Percentage of eigenvalue variance	Cumulative percentage of variance
1	Financial issues	6	19.85	25.84	<b>25.84</b>
2	Motivational supportive factors	5	15.77	19.42	<b>45.26</b>
3	Facilities factor	4	13.42	15.09	<b>60.35</b>
4	Club ownership	4	6.88	10.18	<b>70.53</b>
5	Management perspective	3	4.13	5.71	<b>74.24</b>

After the Varimax rotation stage of 24 variables in the exploratory factor analysis, only one factor had a factor loading less than 0.05 and was removed from the analysis. The results of Varimax rotation and factor loading of each item are reported in Table 8.



**Table 8** .Items' factor loading and extracted questions of the inhibiting factors of the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Factor loading</b>
Financial issues	Proper advertising about women's basketball	<b>0.722</b>
	Enough budget for development of women's basketball	<b>0.648</b>
	Attracting financial sponsors	<b>0.593</b>
	Private sectors' eagerness to support women's basketball	<b>0.600</b>
	Commitment to financial contracts in women's basketball	<b>0.557</b>
Motivational supportive factors	Differentiated budget for women's basketball in comparison to men	<b>0.569</b>
	Concluding official and legal contracts with female basketball players	<b>0.645</b>
	Paying enough attention to basketball in girls sport time in school	<b>0.589</b>
	Support the professional basketball players completely	<b>0.796</b>
	Attracting local media's attention to women's basketball	<b>0.593</b>
Facilities factor	Attracting huge groups of fans over the Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.812</b>
	Open air places and parks	<b>0.693</b>
	Special basketball gyms and clubs	<b>0.711</b>
	Having professional facilities for playing basketball	<b>0.571</b>
	Providing facilities and equipment for playing basketball in villages and the suburbs	<b>0.602</b>
Club ownership	Holding women's basketball competitions continuously	<b>0.637</b>
	The population of basketball players in Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.591</b>
	Various private basketball clubs and gyms over the Khorasan Razavi	<b>0.573</b>
	Having basic and professional teams in the province	<b>0.601</b>
	Planning for attracting girls' attention to basketball	<b>0.681</b>
Management perspective	Basketball boards' monitoring on basketball boards in cities	<b>0.583</b>
	Having united perspectives toward the development of women's basketball among related organizations	<b>0.651</b>

## Discussion and Conclusion

The aim of the current research was to identify the promoting and inhibiting factors for the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi. The findings of the research showed that out of 48 effective items on the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi, 25 items are in a good condition and were introduced as promoting factors. Based on the results of exploratory factor analysis, these 25 items are categorized into 6 main factors. The first identified factor was "socio-cultural factors". This finding was in line with Mousavi et al.'s research because it listed the social factor as one of the most important factors of women's participation in sports (Mousavi et al., 2021). In the same way, Abdi Ne'matabad et al., note that

cultural beliefs were mentioned as important factors in talents identification in women's sports, which overlaps this finding (Abdi Ne'matabad et al., 2021). The most important component of this factor are the history of basketball in Khorasan Razavi province, families' eagerness toward basketball, people's high level of interest in some cities, proper perspective toward doing sports especially recreational amateur basketball, the presence of outstanding pioneers in the province's board of basketball, people's positive attitudes towards girls and women who are exercising, reduction of women's religious restrictions on doing exercises and social support for women to enter professional sports. In Khorasan Razavi, fortunately, women's professional sports has been accepted greatly among people that they pay more attention to women's sports during late decades. On the other hand, the problematic issues for women to participate in professional sports have been reduced. For example, in recent years, due to the religious characteristics of Khorasan Razavi people, some people restricted the exercise for girls and women, but now, everything has changed and it is clear to all members of the society that doing exercise, as it is for men, is also necessary for women. Therefore, it is a promoting factor in the development of women's professional basketball. The second identified factor is "technical level". This finding is in line with Jeyhoni et al. research (Jeyhoni, Momamadi, Doosti, & Amirnejad, 2022). The presence of potential talents in Khorasan Razavi, the technical level of female basketball players in Khorasan Razavi compared to other provinces, the presence of prominent athletes in the cities of Khorasan Razavi, the existence of prominent national basketball players in Khorasan Razavi and technical and specialized resources in Khorasan Razavi basketball are among the most important subjects identified in this factor. Fortunately, Khorasan Razavi is in a favorable condition not only in women's basketball but also in many sports fields in terms of technical and talent identification. As mentioned before, female basketball players of Khorasan Razavi even have representatives in the national teams, which shows the potential talent and high technical level of this province. Therefore, this factor is another component that promotes winning. The third identified concept was "basic factors", which specifically refers to the basis of the sport of basketball. The positive nature of this sport is significant through the fact that basketball can be followed professionally, is a recreational sport and even the possibility of disabled basketball players. Also, with a basketball hoop and ball, it is possible to play mini-basketball, which shows that this sport in itself has diversity and a progressive nature. The fourth identified concept was "Expert human resources". This finding is consistent with the research of Fielding et al. that emphasized the importance of human resource for gaining sport success among the main priorities (Fielding, Riede, Lugo, & Bellamine, 2018). One of the strengthened points of Khorasan Razavi basketball, both in the men's and women's divisions, is the presence of expert and experienced coaches in the cities of this province. This is the reason why the cities in Khorasan Razavi have successful background and nowadays other smaller cities can introduce professional talented basketball players and it is not limited to Mashhad. On the other hand, in recent years, talent identification teams have been able to identify and nurture female basketball players successfully. Therefore, this concept is considered a promoting factor. The next identified concept is "Competition and event" among promoting factors that have the most important components of earning income for the basketball team, hosting women's basketball tournaments in Khorasan Razavi, and holding special basketball tournaments such as the Ramadan Cup for women. Undoubtedly, one of the most important strategies for sport development is holding sports events and competitions. Fortunately, women's basketball occasional competitions are held in Khorasan Razavi, and this province has the potential to host national and even international sport competitions. The last identified promoting factor is the "scientific indicators". This concept states that in Khorasan Razavi, the development of women's sports and the development of basketball should be considered scientifically and there are many scientific views about women's sports in Khorasan Razavi. Therefore, it is considered a promoting factor. This finding was consistent with the research of Seyed Bagheri and Sharifian (Seyed Bagheri & Sharifian, 2017).

Furthermore, the findings of this research showed that out of 48 items as effective factors on the development of women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi, 23 items are in an unfavorable condition and were introduced as inhibiting factors. The results of exploratory factor analysis showed that these 23 items are categorized into 5 main factors. The first concept in the inhibiting factors was "financial issues". This finding is in line with the research of Akmal and Nasiri

as well as Jeyhoni et al. (Akmalı & Nasiri, 2021; Jeyhoni et al., 2022). In all these studies, financial and economic issues were suggested as the main factors of women's participation in sports. Women's basketball in Khorasan Razavi has problematic issues like lack of proper advertising on women's basketball progress, insufficient funds for the development of women's basketball, inability to attract financial sponsors, unwillingness of the private sector to enter women's basketball, lack of commitment to financial contracts in women's basketball and lack of the different budget of women's basketball in comparison to men's. Each of the above mentioned factors can have a strong negative impact on the development of women's professional basketball. Since professional sports require financial resources from the private sectors, this problem can be considered as the most important inhibiting factor. "Motivational support factors" are also another inhibiting factors. Unfortunately, Khorasan Razavi sport is struggling with these problems not only in women's sports, but also in all areas of professional sports. There are no legal and official contracts with professional basketball players, no enough attention is paid to school sports especially basketball playing while there is no support from professional basketball players. On the other hand, local media are indifferent to women's basketball. Afrozeh et al. showed that the support of the media and senior managers are very important for the empowerment of women and should be taken into account (Afrozeh et al., 2022). Samad also considered lack of support and leadership for women's sports as one of the main restrictions and inhibiting factors for the development of women's sports (Samad, 2021). Also, Ferkins considered the supporting role of governments in providing facilities and modern equipment for the development of sport championships (Ferkins, Shilbury, & O'Boyle, 2018). These studies show that support and motivational behaviors play important roles in the development of professional sports. The third identified factor was "factor of facilities". Akmalı and Nasiri and Goudarzi also noted similar findings in consistent with the results of this research (Akmalı & Nasiri, 2021; Goudarzi, 2016). Although basketball is a sport that can be played in open air spaces and parks, this factor is a limitation for women because they cannot use these spaces to the same extent as men. In Khorasan Razavi, there are no special basketball clubs and gyms with modern facilities. Therefore with these basic facilities, only basketball can be trained, while rural areas and small towns are deprived of these basic facilities, as an inhibiting factor. The fourth identified factor is "club ownership". The concept of having a club is considered vital for continuing professional sports because the development of professional basketball sports depends on the existence of clubs and teams. However, there are inhibiting factors in women's basketball in Khorasan Razavi. Besides, Women's basketball tournaments are not held continuously, there are few private clubs, and there are few basic teams and professional clubs in the province. Finally, the last concept identified in the inhibiting factors was "management view". Thus, in consistent with the obtained results on this research, Motameni et al. as well as Ferkins emphasized on the management problems in sports development (Ferkins et al., 2018; Motameni et al., 2014). The most important factors of this component were lack of plans to attract girls to basketball, lack of basketball board supervision of province over cities, and lack of a united view of the development of women's basketball among related organizations. In conclusion, it should be stated that women's professional basketball in Khorasan Razavi has countless opportunities, despite this, in some cases, the influence of inhibiting factors has caused less successful episodes as it should. According to the conducted discussions and analyses, female basketball players should be able to use outdoor facilities and city parks with more freedom, considering the socio-cultural factor in the promoting factors. This solution can be useful for several reasons. First, the cost of renting basketball gyms or clubs can be reduced, secondly, playing basketball in open air places gives women a greater sense of freedom and self-confidence, and develops recreational forms of basketball among women.

## **Acknowledgments**

We thank participants in this study for expending their time and energy to support this research.

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