

**STUDY ON THE FACTORS DETERMINING THE  
ATTENDANCE TO INFORMAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:  
DANCESPORT**

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**Keywords: determinants, class attendance, informal education, dancesport;**

**Summary:**

The current study aims the Dancesport subject, within Children's Palace in the Municipality Suceava. The curiosity was to find out how often do these young students attend to this type of informal physical activity, what are the reasons for choosing it, and what causes them to constantly attend this subject.

In this regard, we handed out for filling out, to a number of 50 parents, one sociological survey with a series of questions relating to the concerned activities. The questions from the survey were both with closed answer, and with options. To find out the reasons for which their children come to this class, we considered that as a result of the filling out of the survey by the parents, we will be able to determine the main factors which make them constantly attend this activity within informal education.

**Introduction:**

It is a generally known fact that the lack of exercise has an effect on the health status of the population, resulting in downright alarming increase in the rate of morbidity, sedentary lifestyle and obesity. With these, the diminishing of the motor ability of the population appears, meaning the ability to move. People suffering from overweight, move harder, they are unable to cope with everyday activities, they can no longer keep up with the activities from the workplace, etc.

Lately we are seeing increasingly less children and young people who play or walk in parks at the end of school hours, most of them preferring to be trapped in the virtual world. This virtual world has become indispensable to today's man, regardless of age, whether it is at home, at work or visiting friends. The human being has come to perceive as indispensable both the computer and the mobile phone. Everywhere we see people talking on the phone, some even hours in a row. All these

activities are undertaken to the detriment of movement, physical exercises.

Excess weight and physical inactivity is steadily increasing among children and young people today, and in order to combat this, the most important task falls on the parents. Some of them, out of convenience or due to the lack of knowledge related to health benefits of sports, prefer to take medical exemption from the family doctor for any minor health problem and thus, physical education classes in school end up being neglected.

The parent plays a decisive role on the frequency with which the exercise is practised in their child's life and cultivating their interest for acquiring a healthy lifestyle. The parent must be an example for the child in terms of acquiring a pleasing physical appearance, a healthy diet and a state of optimal health. Any parent should look for physical activities enjoyable for their child and to guide them towards practising them. As long as these physical activities are made for fun, they will only bring benefits for both child and parent.

Informal education makes available to children a wide range of activities such as: dancesport, modern dance, painting, robotics, popular music, textile art, etc. In this way, regardless of a child's inclinations, they certainly will find 2, 3 activities to further develop their skills. This type of informal education is accessible to every child, regardless of their background or financial situation of the parent, because the courses are free of charge. All the child has to offer is seriousness and much goodwill.

Thus, the child's free time will be fructified by learning new things (dance steps, driving a cart, shooting sports and many other activities designed to develop creativity and the knowledge level).

#### **Material-method:**

The current study aims the Dancesport subject, within Children's Palace in the Municipality Suceava. The curiosity was to find out how often do these young students attend to this type of informal physical activity, what are the reasons for choosing it, and what causes them to constantly attend this subject.

Dance sport is a sport discipline practised in pairs and it consists of two sections: standard (Viennese waltz, slow waltz, tango, etc.) and Latin (Cha-cha, salsa, merengue, etc.).

It represents the manner of artistic expression of the human body, which gives young students the opportunity to spend their free time

constructively, being the necessary exercise, and especially the chance to learn an action that they will meet frequently throughout life.

In the practical study, under teacher guidance, the students discover the secrets of this non-verbal art, as well as the means by which its contents may be expressively transposed as movements. The didactic approach is tiered, beginning both by identifying and training the musical rhythm and orientation in space and time.

Once young people choose to attend this type of activity, they will have a multitude of benefits, the most important being: the formation of the body posture by developing bio-psycho-motor skills, forming the capacity of young students to exploit a potential acquired in races/competitions and the development of competitive spirit and personality traits favorable to integration to groups.

This activity can be carried out by all the children, from the age of 6 years and who have been declared fit to exercise, and both girls and boys can register to the class.

Hypothesis:

*We consider that as a result of the filling out of the survey by the parents with a series of questions regarding the reasons for which their children come to the Dancesport class, we will be able to determine the main factors which make them constantly attend this activity within informal education.*

It is quite true that the parents, especially of the little children, have to make certain sacrifices to be able to take them to these classes. Thus, their daily program will be influenced by the dance class, because they will have to make time to bring the child to the Palace and even to wait for them until class ends in order to be able to take them home.

To find out what are the reasons for which these children attend the Dancesport class, we handed out for filling to a number of 50 parents a social survey with 5 questions. The survey questions were both with closed answer, and with options.

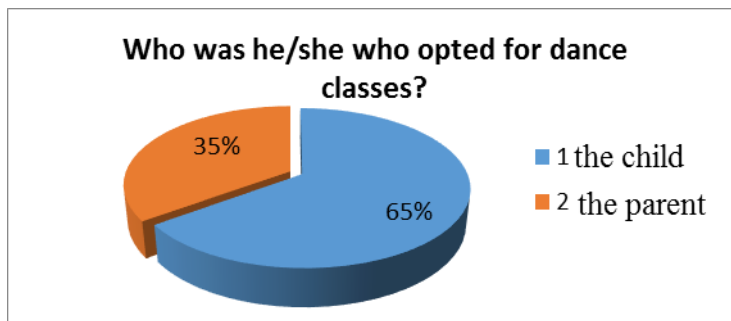
In this survey they had to answer questions such as: *Who was he/she who opted for dance classes?* - a). The parent, b). The child; *For how long are they attending the dance classes?* - a). 1 semester, b). 1 year, c). 2 years, d). For longer than 2 years; *Why does your child come to this class?* – a). For fun, b). Because the parents want it, c). The courses are free of charge; *What are your expectations as a result of your child attending this type of activity?* – a). To acquire an aesthetic body posture, b). To learn to dance, c). To consume their energy, d). To occupy their spare time; *If the operating mode of the informal education*

would change and the courses would be paid, would you still bring your child to dance class? - a).yes, b). no, c). I don't know.

### Results:

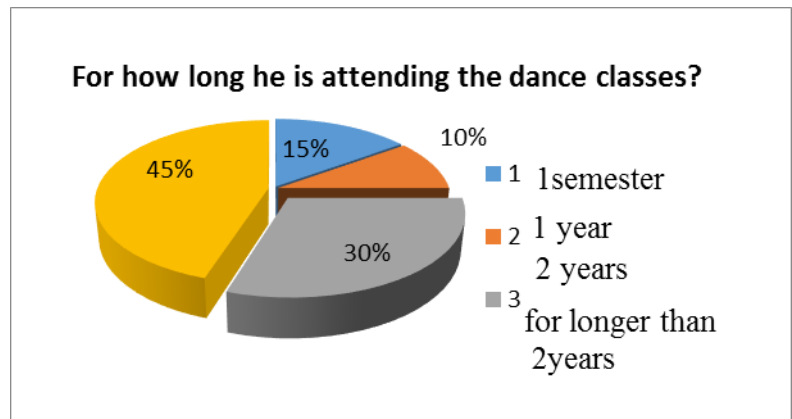
After applying the sociological survey to the 50 parents, we summarized their answers, in order to make the interpretation of the obtained results. Data summarization was carried out by graphic method, to facilitate the understanding of these results.

The first question of the survey was "*Who was he/she who opted for dance classes?*", the answer being a). The child and b). The parent. To this question 65% answered that it was the child's decision, and 35% the parent's. Most likely, in the case of the 35% who claimed that the parent was the one who made the decision, the children are too small and don't know what the activity in question is about, or if they like dancing or not.



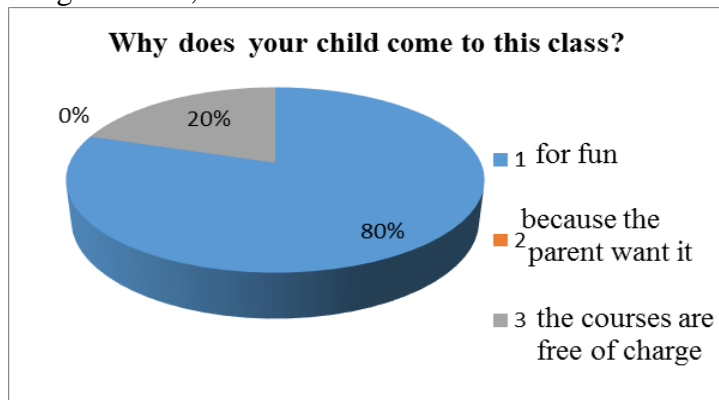
**Chart1. Graphic representation of the answers received for the first question**

The second question was "*For how long he is attending the dance classes?*", and as answers the parents had to choose between a). 1 semester, b). 1 year, c). 2 years, d). For longer than 2 years. The answers received to this question were varied, 45% stating that they attend the Dancesport class for longer than 2 years, 30% attend for 2 years, 15% are dancing just for one semester, and 10% for 1 year. Taking into account that the subject divides children by age and level of knowledge in the field, i.e. beginners/advanced/performance, the answers were somewhat the expected ones, because in this survey we tried to obtain the opinion of the parents from different children groups. Responses to this question show that the present study seeks to obtain the opinion of parents whose children are in various stages of attendance at this type of physical activity.



**Chart 2. Graphic representation of the answers received for the second question**

For the next question: "Why does your child come to this class?", the answer were a). For fun, b). Because the parents want it, c). The courses are free of charge. The largest share at the present question was held by the a choice, 80% claiming that they come for fun. The rest of 20% was held by choice c, the parents who opted for this answer also circling choice a. None of them asserted that the wish to attend the dance classes belongs to them, and not their child.



**Chart 3. Graphic representation of the answers received for the third question**

The fourth question: "What are your expectations as a result of your child attending this type of activity?", had as answer a). To acquire an aesthetic body posture, b). To learn to dance, c). To consume their energy, d). To occupy their spare time. As a result of summarizing the answers given by the parents, we found that 55% opted for the first option, 35% for the second option, 8% have opted for option c and 2% for the last answer option. The parents who circled one of the last two options, chose as answer one of the options a or b as well. Analyzing the

share of the given answers, as well as the fact that some parents opted for two answer options, we can conclude that their expectations are related both to the development of a beautiful posture of their child and the attempt to consume the energy of a child in a constructive way, in this case by learning some dance steps.

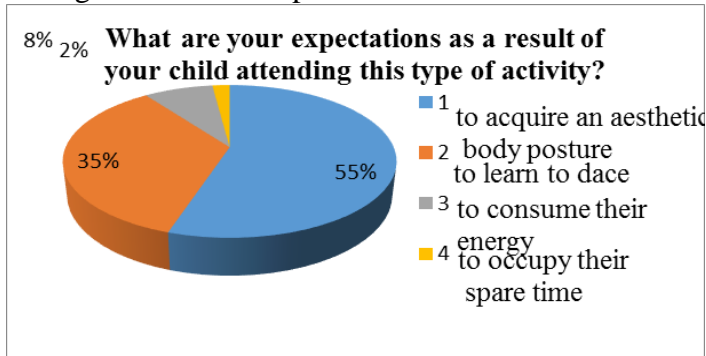


Chart 4. Graphic representation of the answers received for the fourth question

For the last question of the survey " *If the operating mode of the informal education would change and the courses would be paid, would you still bring your child to dance class?*" , the answer options were a). Yes, b). No, c). I don't know. The purpose of this question was to find out if the high frequency rate to this class is influenced by the financial aspect. The answers to this question were the following: 75% stated that they would still bring their child to dance class, 20% responded that they do not know, and 5% stated that they would give up the classes. What can be concluded from these received answered, is that the parents would be willing to make any sacrifice, be it financial, in order to be able to offer their child a good education.

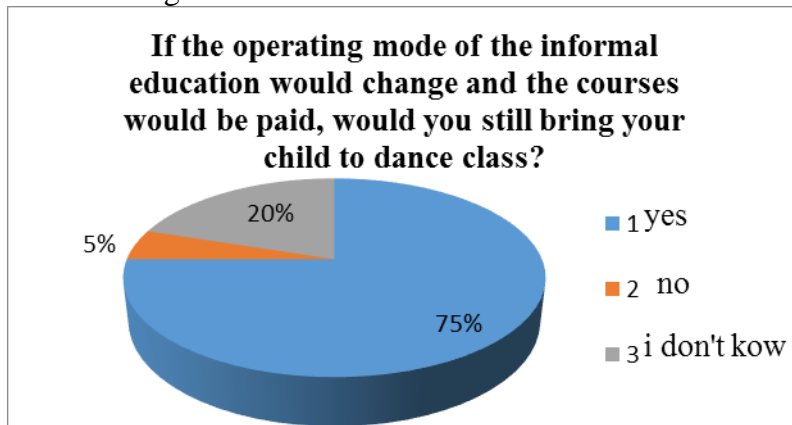


Chart 5. Graphic representation of the answered received for the last question

### **Conclusions:**

After conducting this study we reached the following conclusions on the main factors that lead young students to attend Dancesport within informal education:

For the most part, the decision to come to the dance classes belongs to the child, the parent taking into account their wishes and shape their daily schedule so as to be able to bring them to this leisure activity;

- The vast majority of those who frequently come to the dance classes during a school year do this activity for at least 2 years;
- Children come for fun to this leisure activity;
- The main expectations of the parents regarding dance classes are to offer the children a constructive way to consume their energy. It is also beneficial to their health and physical appearance, the dance classes being a mean of forming an aesthetic body posture and a chance to learn an action that they will frequently meet throughout life.

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**STUDIUL PRIVIND FACTORII CARE DETERMINA  
FRECVENTA LA ACTIVITATILE DIN INVATAMANTUL  
NONFORMAL: DANS SPORTIV**

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**Cuvinte cheie: factori determinanți, frecvență la ore, învățământ nonformal, dans sportiv;**

**Rezumat:**

Studiul de față vizează disciplina Dans Sportiv din cadrul Palatului Copiilor din mun. Suceava. Curiozitatea a fost de a afla care este frecvența tinerilor elevi la acest tip de activitate fizică non-formală, care sunt motivele pentru care au ales-o și mai ales, ce-i determină să frecventeze constant această disciplină.

În acest sens, am dat spre completare unui număr de 50 de părinți câte un chestionar sociologic cu o serie de întrebări legate de activitatea în cauză. Întrebările din chestionar au fost atât cu răspuns închis, cât și cu răspuns la alegere. Pentru a afla motivele pentru care copiii lor vin la acest cerc, am considerat că în urma completării chestionarului de către părinți vom putea determina principalii factori care îi fac să frecventeze această activitate din învățământul nonformal.