



**STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELLING ANALYSIS OF THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
STYLE OF COACHES, SPORT COMMITMENT, AND ATHLETES'  
SATISFACTION AMONG IRANIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL  
PLAYERS**

**By**

**HAMIDREZA SAYBANI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**April 2013**

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## **DEDICATION**

I would like to dedicate my thesis to:

My dear and beloved wife, Fereshteh

My dear sons, Sepehr and Farhad

My dear father,

and last but not least

My dear mother who passed away few years ago

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment  
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**Chairman: Prof. Aminuddin Bin Yusof, PhD**

**Faculty: Educational Studies**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between transformational leadership style of Iranian high schools' coaches and sport commitment and athletes' satisfaction of Iranian high schools' football players as well as the mediating role of athletes' satisfaction, and propose a coaching model.

Descriptive statistics and correlations as well as inferential statistics were applied in this study. Structural equation modeling (SEM) and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to analyze the data, and to develop the model. This study was conducted in the Alborz province of Iran. The population of this study consists of 558 football players (15-20 years old). A total of 280 high schools' football players were selected from 31 high schools football teams using the simple random sampling procedure. Instruments used in this study were Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ)

(Avolio & Bass, 1995), Sport Commitment Model Scale (SCMS) (Scanlan et al., 1993), and Athlete Satisfaction Questionnaire (ASQ) (Riemer & Chelladurai, 1998). The results of the study indicated that there is a positive and significant relationship between transformational leadership style of coaches and sport commitment and athletic satisfaction of football players. The study showed that athlete satisfaction mediates the relationship between transformational leadership style and sport commitment. Mediation model illustrated that transformational leadership style would explain variance of sport commitment better than direct model. Therefore, it can be concluded that the transformational leadership style of coaches can increase sport commitment of football players through increasing athletes' satisfaction. In addition, the researcher found that there was no significant difference between age, football playing experience, and sport commitment of football players. Even though the results showed that a significant difference in athlete satisfaction between football players of different ages, the findings revealed that there was no significant difference in terms of athlete satisfaction between football players of different football playing experience. Based on the results, it was concluded that the transformational leadership model is suitable for Iranian high schools' football coaches and it can improve the sport commitment of the football players by increasing their athletic satisfaction.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**ANALISIS MODEL STRUKTUR PERSAMAAN HUBUNGAN DI ANTARA  
GAYA KEPIMPINAN TRANSFORMASI JURULatih, KOMITMEN  
SUKAN DAN KEPUASAN ATLET PEMAIN BOLASEPAK SEKOLAH  
MENENGAH DI IRAN**

Oleh

**HAMIDREZA SAYBANI**

**April 2013**

**Pengerusi: Prof. Aminuddin Bin Yusof, PhD**

**Fakulti: Pengajian Pendidikan**

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji hubungan di antara gaya kepimpinan transformasi jurulatih di sekolah menengah di Iran, komitmen sukan dan kepuasan atlet pemain bola sepak sekolah menengah di Iran, serta peranan kepuasan atlet sebagai pengantara dan cadangan model kejurulatihan baru menggunakan Moedl. Statistik deskriptif dan korelasi serta statistik inferensial telah digunakan dalam kajian ini. Model persamaan struktur (SEM) dan analisis varians (ANOVA) telah digunakan untuk menganalisis data, dan untuk membangunkan model. Kajian ini telah dijalankan di wilayah Alborz di Iran. Populasi kajian ini ialah 558 pemain bola sepak (15-20 tahun). Sejumlah 270 pemain bola sepak sekolah menengah telah dipilih daripada 31 pasukan bola sepak sekolah menengah menggunakan prosedur persampelan rawak mudah. Instrumen kajian adalah *Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire* (Avolio & Bass, 1995), *Sport Commitment Model Scale* (Scanlan, et al., 1993), dan *Athlete*

*Satisfaction Questionnaire* (Riemer & Chelladurai 1998).Keputusan kajian menunjukkan hubungan yang positif dan signifikan di antara gaya kepimpinan transformasi jurulatih, komitmen sukan dan kepuasan atlet pemain bola sepak. Kajian ini kepuasan atlet menjadi pengantara di antara hubungan gaya kepimpinan transformasi dan komitmen sukan. Model pengantara menggambarkan gaya kepimpinan transformasi dapat menerangkan perbezaan komitmen sukan dengan lebih baik berbanding dengan model langsung. Oleh itu, dapatan kajian menyatakan bahawa gaya kepimpinan transformasi jurulatih dengan kepuasan pemain bola sepak yang semakin meningkat dapat meningkatkan komitmen sukan pemain bola sepak. Semua indeks pengukuran dan model pengantara diterima.Oleh itu, model ini adalah sesuai dengan data kajian yang sedang dijalankan. Dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa jurulatih transformasi dengan kepuasan pemain bola sepak yang semakin meningkat akan meningkatkan komitmen sukan pemain bola sepak. Di samping itu,penyelidikmendapati bahawatidak terdapat perbezaanyang signifikan di antaraumur,pengalaman bermainbola sepak, dan komitmen sukanpemainbola sepak.Walaupunkeputusan menunjukkan terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam kepuasanatletantarapemain bola sepakyang berbeza umur namun dapatan kajian menunjukkan tiada perbezaan yang signifikan dari segi kepuasanatletantarapemain bola sepakbola sepakyang berbezapengalamanbermain. Berdasarkan keputusan disimpulkan bahawa model kepimpinan transformasi adalah sesuai untuk digunakan oleh jurulatih bola sepak di sekolah menengah di Iran dan ia boleh meningkatkan komitmen sukan pemain bola sepak dengan meningkatkan kepuasan atlet mereka.