The Community of Common Destiny of Sports and City in the New Era: Theory, Demonstration and Governance

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Abstract. People’s health and development depends on the community of common destiny of sports and city. The study takes the value attribute of sports and the function orientation of the city as the logical basis, follows the rationale of Marxist philosophy, and makes a systematic analysis on the basis of symbiosis theory and practical demonstration. The study holds that there are obstacles to building the community, such as the deterioration of symbiotic environment, the dissimilation of symbiotic unit and the ossification of symbiotic pattern. We should insist on the harmony between man and nature, the core socialist values, the principles of innovation and reciprocity, and break down the obstacles in order to promote the mutualism between sports and city.

Recent years, the development of sports and city has gradually walked into people’s horizons. For example: the host cities of Olympic Games, Asian Games and National Game have got people’s attention, especially along with the rising of city marathon, the attention to sports and city has increased. After 2008 Beijing Olympics, China has put forward a slogan of from a big country of sport to a powerful one, The Gov. [2014] Reference No. 46 has pointed out the unique function of sports in people’s livelihood, obtaining employment, economic growth, carrying forward national spirit and enhancing national cohesion and cultural competence, it also let people realize the position and role of sports in city development. Sports as a cultural phenomenon, its existence and development can’t leave the space-time interface. City develops with the help of sports and provides platform for sports to develop as well. However, how is the relationship between sports and city? How to balance the development of both sides are not the topics that only China has to care about but all the countries should do.

The Logic Base of Community of Common Destiny of Sports and City in the New Era

To clarify the relationship between sports and city, we need to answer the question of what is sport and city. Only know their connotation can we know their interlaced logic starting point.

The Production Conditions: The Value Property of Sports

In Chinese ancient time, sports showed in classical six arts, like ‘preserve health’, ‘encourage martial spirit’, ‘wrestling’, in ancient Greece, sports was also called ‘competition’, ‘training’, ‘athletics’. The concept of modern sports is divergent, but the concept defined by abroad cannot do without education, body movements and social cultural activities. From the angles of education and body movements, sports express its own function, it’s the internal value. From social cultural activities, sports express a kind of deuterogenic function, it’s the external value. With the development of modern society, the external value of sports is increasingly showing its unique role, and the trend is getting more obvious.

The Practical Platform: The Functional Localization of City

With the development of human society, city becomes the topic that people focused and researched. For example, K. J. Barton, British economist thought, city located in a net system that interweaved by the spatial economical markets. Lenin has pointed out that city was the center of economy and
politics, was the main motive power to promote spiritual life. Former Soviet demographer Kirchelo pointed out that city has collected many parts, and it seemed more specialization and professionalization. Encyclopedia Britannica pointed out that city was a place where population was concentrated, and the position of it was higher than countryside. Decision on Economic System Reform passed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 1984 has defined the nature and characteristics of Chinese city, city was the center of economy, politics, scientific techniques and cultural education, was the concentrated place of modern industry and working class, it played a dominant role in constructing socialist modernization.

The discussion above found a crossing point for researching the relationship between sports and city, namely, the economy, politics, education and cultural value in sports, and the economy, politics and scientific techniques in city exist a symbiotic relationship.

The Theoretical Basis: Marxist Philosophy

Since the concept of ‘human community of common destiny’ has been promoted, President Xi has explicated it many times in the diplomatic occasions. The idea of ‘human community of common destiny’ has provided important guide for explaining and resolving the current problems, contributed the Chinese wisdom and Chinese plan for promoting the global governance system and governance modernization.

Marx in Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts wrote in 1844 said that ‘socialized humanity’, ‘human is species being’, and community of common destiny was the basic living form for human being’s existence and development. The activities of human beings included sports and city two kinds, they generated interconnection in this whole social organism, with the human progress and development, this interconnection could only become closer and closer.

The Theoretical Basis of Community of Common Destiny of Sports and City in the New Era

The Connotation of Symbiotic Theory: Sports and City Become the Community of Common Destiny Is Feasible in Theory

During the process of pursuing the possibility of sports and city becoming a community and common destiny, we can’t help thinking about Anton de Bary, he brought up the word ‘symbiosis’. In 1987, kisho kurokawa published a book Symbiosis Philosophy. He emphasized symbiotic idea, and brought it into every aspect of social life. ‘Symbiotic theory’ not only admitted the relationship between living beings, emphasized the reciprocity, but provided the new thinking for dealing with the relationship between people and organizations. So the function of symbiotic theory becomes a methodology that can be used in biology and social science.

The Component of Symbiotic Theory: Sports and City Become the Community of Common Destiny Is Appropriate in Component

Based on the Symbiosis Theory raised by De Berry and other researchers, the development of sports and city has three elements, symbiotic unit, symbiotic pattern and symbiotic environment. Symbiotic unit is a basic unit that homobium produces and exchanges energy. Sports and city are two different things, both of them have its own symbiotic unit, so they can produce and exchange energy in their own field. There was overlapping, mutual aid in the past, but this phenomenon is more obvious today. That’s because, with the development of modern city and modern sports, they have made the complicated connection through the media of government and market, and through this spatial interface, sports and city become a homobium. City and sports in the city fused together becoming a big symbiotic unit, whereas each of them is a symbiotic unit that has own characteristics when they separated.

Sport is a symbiotic unit, city is too, the developing form of these two units acting and affecting mutually is the symbiotic pattern. Symbiotic pattern reflects the functional form and intensity, indicates that there are exchanges of material energy and communication of information between sports and city. At present, the parasitic relationship, partial benefit symbiotic relationship between
Sports and city have become a reciprocal symbiotic relationship, and with the function of sports value increasing, this reciprocal symbiotic relationship will become stronger.

Symbiotic environment is an exogenous condition that symbiotic pattern exists and develops, it includes all the factors except sports and city, the factors are: national politics, economic policy, developing level of social economic culture and local law, rules, clauses, etc., all these constitute the symbiotic environment of sports and city.

The Practical Demonstration of Community of Common Destiny of Sports and City in the New Era

The Practical Description of Sports to City Development

Sports Promote City Development. It exists and gets remarkable achievements. In the 1950s, Sheffield, England, was a steel city, but in the late 1990s, the UK government awarded Sheffield ‘national sport industry city’, the reason was this depressed discarded industry city transformed into a sports city. Today, Sheffield hosts Snooker World Championship annually. Sheffield also hosted IAAF Grand Prix, World Rugby League, etc. Pittsburgh, USA, is a typical sports city, it owns American football, ice hockey, baseball three famous professional teams, all these made Pittsburgh becoming the global headquarters of eight Top 500 American Enterprises like United States Steel Corporation, PPG Industries. In China, Daqing this forerunner of petroleum industry is facing the profound task of changing. Putting Daqing and Snooker World Championship together, the sports industry of Daqing will keep the increasing trend, and play the outstanding role in the structure of steady growth.

Sports Promote City Development: Using the function of business card to increase city popularity. Sport is not only a booster of city development, but also the important business card. For example, currently, Shenzhen has diverse sports halls over 14000, among them there are 58 big stadiums, every year there will be over 3000 fitness activities, nearly 70 upscale sport competitions, the population who participated in sport activities frequently is over 4.8 million people, s series of sport activities let more people fall in love with Shenzhen, and make this city ‘the city of sport’. Marathon in Xiamen has brought the economic growth, built a platform of blending interaction and good atmosphere for mainland and Taiwan. Because of this, Xiamen was awarded ‘marathon city’ by Chinese Athletics Association, and this is the first time Chinese Athletics Association gives this kind of award to a city, it affirms the influence that marathon brought to Xiamen.

The Practical Portrait of City to Sports Development

City Assists Sports Development: To build a performing platform for sports development. City nearly covered all the process of modernization and industrialization all over the world, the inseparable connection between modern sports and city also made by this. Seen from the sports developing history, no matter what sports it is, such as competitive sports, professional sports, and mass sports, the more the city develops, the more the sport develops. For example, New York, USA, owns the famous Madison Square Garden Stadium and Yankee Stadium. Madison Square Garden Stadium is the home field of NBA New York Knicks and NHL New York Rangers. Beijing hosted 1990 Asian Games, 2008 Olympic Games, National Game 5 times, China Open, International Marathon, World Diving Series Beijing Station, and will host 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

City Assists Sports Development: To provide a solid guarantee for sports development. Well-developed city construction can not only host major sports competitions, set up a bridge for sports performance, but also provide a solid guarantee for sports development. For example, all the communities in Beijing have 263 basketball courts, 114 gate ball courts, 57 tennis courts, 2470 chess courts, 1227 tables of table tennis, 24 badminton courts, etc. 16 districts in Shanhai have 14644 fitness places, 425 civic courts, 536 fitness path, 12309 fitness sites, 103016 fitness apparatuses, 1218 farmer fitness projects, 156 community fitness houses. We only take these two cities to show the fact that during the process of sports development, city provides a solid guarantee. Recent years, with the development of city economic modernization, every city is increasing the
financial input in sport fitness, especially when sports for all has become the national strategy, sports development in city begins to get more and more attentions.

The Existing Obstacles and Governance Paths to Construct the Community of Common Destiny of Sports and City in the New Era

The Obstacles

The Deterioration of Symbiotic Environment. Environmental pollution brings potential harm to sport participants. The imbalance between human being and nature causes a series of problems, like harsh noise, heavy traffic, etc. These problems have already threatened human being’s existence and development. Sport participants in city, especially outdoor participants, have more ‘chance’ to contact ‘closely’ with city environment, these people inhale more polluted air, intake more polluted food and water, get sick more easily. As the symbiotic basis of sports and city, environment once gets polluted, it will become the obstacles of sports and city development.

The Dissimilation of Symbiotic Unit. The deviation between commercial city, profit driven sports and humanistic value. Commercialized city leads to the dissimilation of sports, the result is sports deviate from humanistic value. The professionalized and commercialized development of sports, a large amount of economic input, the huge economic return, frenzied media and strong political concern make sports the center on which hundreds of millions of people laying eye, but sports is getting far away gradually from its nature, it severely deviates its internal value. Because commercial sports can bring huge profit, some sports that people loved are neglected, so the mass sports fall behind.

The Ossification of Symbiotic Pattern: The insufficient innovation of interactive relationship results in the imbalance of sports and city. The innovative symbiotic pattern is the key. However, deviation from humanistic value results in the insufficient innovation of interactive relationship of sports and city. City makes every effort to apply for the big games only taking responsible for getting profit, and never thinking of the long-term development of sports and city. All of these increase the burden of city, cause the waste of resources, even do harm to the ecological environment. Those badly-needed, people interested, simple and easy sport competitions can’t bring a considerable profit, so the scale and numbers can’t meet the need. Because the motive power is insufficient, the investment used to explore the types of mass sports is low, the innovative degree is insufficient. The insufficient innovation of interactive relationship between sports and city leads to the big difference in the development of competitive sports, professional sports and mass sports.

Governance Paths

Insisting on Harmonious Symbiosis between Man and Nature, Creating the Good Symbiotic Environment for Sports and City. President Xi has pointed out in the Report of the Nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, ‘must set up and practice the idea that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets’, ‘treat the ecological environment like life’, ‘insist on harmonious symbiosis between man and nature’. Ecological environment is the symbiotic environment of city and sports, sports bring people health, but it can never go away with environment. Through some effective measures, the healthy living way in city can be shaped, and it will create the favorable symbiotic environment for promoting the development of city and sports.

Insisting on Core Socialist Values, Correcting the Value Deviation of Symbiotic Unit between Sports and City. ‘Sports is nonproductive, its nature is game’, hence, only when sports return to its original value, can it play the role effectively. The core socialist values is an advanced value system, it produces the advanced cultural effect and provides the scientific theoretical tool for the sports value in the city returning to its origin.

Insisting on the Principles of Innovation and Reciprocity, Forming the Dynamic Balance of Symbiotic Pattern of Sports and City. Based on the Marx philosophy, the nature of human being is the sum of all the social relations, and then the construction of city should express this ‘sum of social relations’. Sports as an important cultural element, has deeply participated in the modern city.
construction, hence, sports isn’t the entertaining tool of minority but the important participation mode of the majority when they need body and heart building. The development of interactive relationship between city and sports should emphasize the principles of open innovation and reciprocity, break down the old thinking that sport is the big games and commercial competitions, cultivate the sport interests of citizens, positively explore more sport events that people can easily participate and be happy to participate, in this way more citizens will participate in sports.

All in all, the construction of community of common destiny of sports and city in the new era is not an overnight thing, we should keep a persistent attitude, grasping the macroscopic planning and paying attention to the microcosmic details. Only when we improve the symbiotic environment, symbiotic unit and symbiotic pattern of sports and city development, can the city and sports truly achieve the thoroughly understanding and cohesion, finally go steadily and far away.

References


