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## The effects of judo training on children in the light of their parents' opinions

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Mgr Katarzyna Sterkowicz-Przybycień jest asystentką w Zakładzie Teorii i Metodyki Gimnastyki AWF w Krakowie. Trener jūjitsu i gimnastyki sportowej. Od kilkunastu lat uprawia hapkido (2 dan). Zainteresowania naukowe autorki dotyczą tendencji rozwoju wyniku sportowego oraz budowy somatycznej i sprawności motorycznej sportowców. Przygotowuje rozprawę doktorską na temat „Zróżnicowanie budowy somatycznej czołowych zawodników uprawiających sporty walki”.

Dr Grzegorz Lech jest adiunktem w Zakładzie Teorii i Metodyki Sportów Walki AWF w Krakowie. Z jūdō związany od 1982 r. Wielokrotny medalista mistrzostw Polski seniorów (w tym także złoty), w latach 1990–1996 członek kadry narodowej i olimpijskiej, od marca do grudnia 2000 r. – kierownik wyszkolenia w Polskim Związku Judo. Trener jūdō. Zainteresowania badawcze autora związane są głównie z wyszkoleniem technicznno-taktycznym zawodników jūdō oraz czynnikami go modyfikującymi.

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## The effects of judo training on children in the light of their parents' opinions / Wpływ treningu judo na dzieci w świetle opinii rodziców

Key words: judo<sup>1</sup>, swimming, physical activity, personality

The purpose of this study was to compare the effects of sports training on the personality of school children who practised judo ( $n = 40$ ) and swimming ( $n = 30$ ) as viewed by their parents. The conducted survey contained 15 questions concerning the children's social relations with their peers or members of their families, the manner they spent their free time, changes in attitude towards their physical education lessons and workouts, everyday behaviour, sense of responsibility, school performance, and personality traits. The conclusion of the paper states that involvement in sports is a significant factor that influences not only children's physical fitness but also their emotional, social and ethical, volitional and emotional spheres.

### Introduction

Participation in sports-related activities promotes an all-round development of all the spheres of the child's personality. The educational values that sport teaches influence formation of attitudes in children and teenagers [Żukowska 1992, pp. 39–64]. Many authors who have dealt with the issues related to the effects of sport on children's personality and its role during education process [Żukowska 1980, pp. 3–5; Dąbrowski 1980, pp. 20–22; Kościelak and Maroszek 1996; Dąbrowski and Nowocień 1998, pp. 27–32; Bąk 2003, pp. 81–85], stress that favourable pedagogical conditions are necessary, and these can be ensured by the coach.

Judo – which in its foundations has as its task to form in its pupils: diligence, co-operation skills, self-discipline, pro-social attitudes, and abiding by ethical principles – was the subject of many papers [Pustelnik 1984, pp. 67–70; Pustelnik and Jaskólski 1987, pp. 65–69; Dąbrowski et al 1996, pp. 42–46].

The purpose of this study was to compare the effects of sports training, as seen by parents, on the personality of school children who practise judo and swimming.

### Material and Methods

The survey was carried out in Myślenice. It included 40 pairs of parents, whose children trained at the Judo Section of SOKÓŁ Gymnastic Association as well as the parents of swimmers ( $n = 30$ ) who belonged to the AQUARIUS Swimming Association.

The judoists' average age was 10.7, while their training experience 1.6. However, the data for the swimmers were 11.8 and 2.4 respectively.

The information concerning the impact of sports training on those children was gathered by means of the questionnaire proposed by Sterkowicz and Madejski [1999]. Answers to the questions were given on a nominal scale (Yes, I do not know, No). The number of affirmative responses (yes) was taken into account and when analysing the results of the questionnaire data, the following scale was adopted to evaluate their effect:

<sup>1</sup> Authors use English transcription of Japanese words.

above 80% – very great impact;

60–80% – great impact;

40–60% – average impact;

20–40% – rather slight effect;

up to 20% – insignificant effect [after Sterkowicz and Madejski 1999].

Furthermore, Chi-squared test for independence between row and column factors [Stanisz 1998] was used to compare the frequency distribution of their responses. The similarity of group profiles (judo, swimming) was evaluated by means of the rps – DuMas index [according to Brzeziński 1980].

## Results

Figure 1 shows the results of the survey carried out among the parents of young judoists. While using the adopted scale, it was observed that judo training had a very great impact on their sense of duty (question 8), joy connected with acquisition of new skills (question 9), which was related to their more frequent conversations about work-outs (question 10), and a greater emotional commitment in their remarks concerning judo training than physical education lessons (question 14).

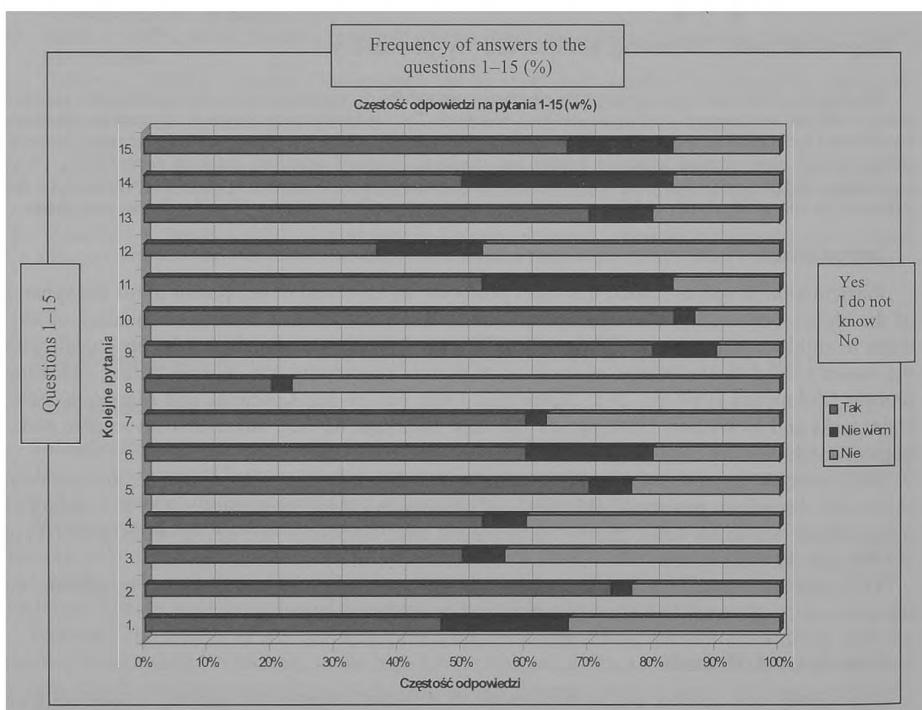


Figure 1. Effects of judo training on children's personality and their way of life in the opinion of their parents ( $n = 40$ )  
Ryc. 1. Wpływ uprawiania judo na osobowość i sposób życia dzieci w opiniї rodziców ( $n = 40$ )

It was observed that judo practised by children had a great influence on their independence (question 2), self-discipline (question 5), willingness to help the weak (question 6), impatience connected with waiting for the day of training (question 11), change in their attitudes to physical education lessons (question 12), better marks for physical education (question 13), positive personality changes (question 15).

The respondents stated that judo training had an average influence on better school results (question 1) and their wish to impose their opinions (question 7).

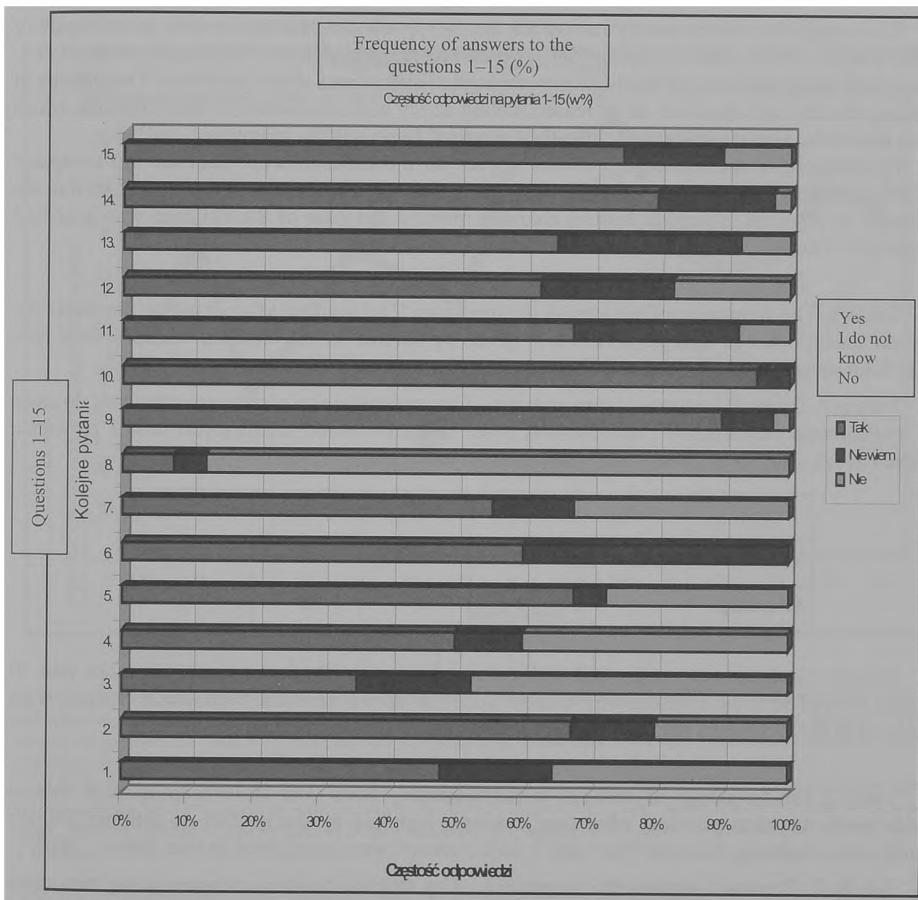


Figure 2. Effects of swimming training on children's personality and their way of life as viewed by their parents ( $n = 30$ )  
Ryc.2. Wpływ uprawiania pływania na osobowość i sposób życia dzieci w opinii rodziców ( $n = 30$ )

The parents noticed that judo training had a slight effect on the change of children's attitude to their immediate environment (question 3).

The parents of the young swimmers (figure 2) observed a very great impact on their children related to their satisfaction from the new skills they acquired (question 9) and that their children started conversations about workouts with other family members (question 10).

A great impact of participation in swimming workouts was noticed in answers to the questions concerning: children's independence (question 2), increase in self-discipline (question 5.), willingness to help the weak in solving their problems (question 6), imposing their opinions (question 7), their sense of duty and skills when they organised their spare time (question 8), better marks for physical education (question 13), and changes in personality such as: kindness, sensitivity, and courage (question 15).

From the answers given by the respondents it follows that average effects of swimming training could be noticed in their better school results (question 1), change in relation to their immediate environment (question 3), physical activities during spare time from school duties and work-outs (question 4), impatience connected with waiting for the day of training (question 11), emotional commitment in their remarks concerning work-outs and physical education (question 14).

Swimming workouts exerted rather a negligent influence on the change in their attitude to physical education lessons (question 12).

The comparison of the survey results for the two sports demonstrated a very great impact of judo practice (95%) and swimming (83%) on an increased intensity of interaction of those children with other members of their families through conversations about workouts. The parents of young athletes also observed an increased feeling of joy and satisfaction in their children, which was due to the new sports-related skills they acquired (judo – 90%, swimming – 80%).

Furthermore, a specific nature of this impact on the children who practised the compared sports was demonstrated. The analysis of the empirical data contained in table 1 shows that the attitude to physical education lessons changed more in the case of the children who practised judo (63%) than in those who trained swimming (37%).

Table 1. The frequency of answers to the question: "Did your child's attitude to physical education lessons change in a positive way?" given by parents' of the children who practised judo and swimming. Answers "No" and "I do not know" were analysed as one group – "No"

Tabela 1. Częstości odpowiedzi na pytanie: „Czy zmienił się na pozytywny stosunek do zajęć z wychowania fizycznego?”, udzielonuch przez rodziców dzieci trenujących judo i pływanie. Odpowiedzi „Nie” oraz „Nie wiem” połączono w jedną grupę – „Nie”

Sport	Yes (n)	% Yes	No (n)	% No	Total (n)
Judo	25	63	15	27	40
Swimming	11	37	19	63	30

Greater emotions were connected with training than with physical education lessons (tab. 2) in the case of 80% the children who trained judo. The above-mentioned emotional changes were noticed in the swimmers but only in half (50% children) of the surveyed group.

Table 2. The frequency of answers to the question: "Does your child become more excited with work-outs than physical education lessons?" supplied by the parents of children training judo and swimming. Answers "No" and "I do not know" were considered as one group – "No"

Tabela 2. Częstości odpowiedzi na pytanie: „Czy dziecko bardziej emocjonuje się treningiem niż lekcją wychowania fizycznego?”, udzielonych przez rodziców dzieci trenujących judo i pływanie. Odpowiedzi „Nie” oraz „Nie wiem” połączono w jedną grupę – „Nie”

Sport	Yes (N)	% Yes	No (N)	% No	Total (N)
Judo	32	80	8	20	40
Swimming	15	50	15	50	30

The statistical analysis demonstrated a significant relationship between the sports the children practised and the changes in their way of life and the personality of those competitors in terms of modification of their attitudes to physical education lessons (chi-squared values are juxtaposed in table 1 = 4.58;  $p < 0.05$ ), and also the emotions connected with their participation in work-outs (chi-squared in table 2 = 6.99;  $p < 0.01$ ).

The analysis of the profiles of the impact related to the training of the compared sports (figure 3) revealed a high degree of similarity ( $r_{ps} = 0.57$ ). A decrease in the similarity of profiles was caused by a frequent occurrence of answers to question 7 (Do you try to impose your opinions?) and 14 (Are you more excited by physical education lesson or sports training?) in comparison with the answer to question 15 (Has your child's personality visibly changed in terms of, e.g. kindness, sensitivity, courage?).

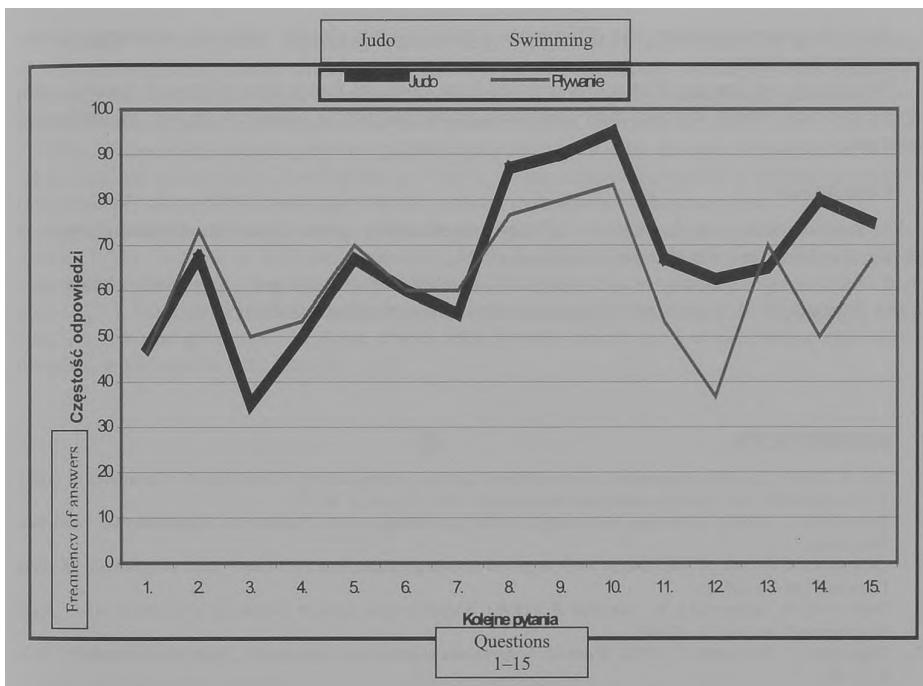


Figure 3. Profiles of the influence of judo training ( $n = 40$ ) and swimming ( $n = 30$ ) on the children's personality and their way of life in the opinion of their parents (in%). Only positive changes were taken into account ("Yes" answers to questions 1–7 and 9–15, whereas "No" to question 8, which read: "Is it more important to watch TV and/or participate in parties than to participate in work-outs?"

Ryc. 3. Profile wpływu uprawiania judo ( $n = 40$ ) i pływania ( $n = 30$ ) na osobowość i sposób życia dzieci w opinii ich rodziców (%). Uwzględniono jedynie pozytywne zmiany (odpowiedzi „Tak” na pytania od 1–7 oraz 9–15, natomiast „Nie” na pytanie 8, które brzmiało „Czy ważniejsze jest oglądanie TV, udział w zabawie, od uczestniczenia w treningu?”

## Discussion

On the basis of our own research results it was found that in the majority of cases the parents' were positive in their opinions on the effect of judo on their children. The junior athletes from the Judo National Team, who were subjected to a similar survey [Dąbrowski et al. 1996, pp. 42–46], used to notice a favourable influence of this sport and the values that it brought to their social relations. Those surveyed subjects would stress a possibility to engage in motor activities, which had an effect on their non-aggressive attitude in life (84%), tenacity when pursuing goals, abiding by the principles of fair play (80%), and modesty in spite of the successes they achieved (48%). While surveying senior athletes, Żukowski [1974, pp. 5–10] found that they were characterised by a high self-esteem, strong personality (strong superego), emotional maturity, perseverance, and composure. Therefore, it is possible say to that as judo contestants grow older they notice further positive effects on personality formation.

This questionnaire concerning the impact of sports practice on children was also conducted among those who practised Hapkido martial art [Sterkowicz and Madejski 1999]. As many as 82% of the children who participated in Hapkido lessons undertook physical exercises in their own spare time, while our research indicated that there were far fewer of such children (50%). These distinct differences are probably connected with their more frequent participation in judo and swimming competitions.

One of the aspects of the present survey was to compare how qualities of character changed depending on the practised sport. The comparative group was composed of representatives of another individual sport: swimming.

According to the authors, the differences noticed do not clearly show any advantage of one sport over the other.

To sum up, we can say that sports practice is an essential factor that influences not only children's physical fitness, but also their emotional, social and moral, volitional as well as intellectual spheres.

### Conclusions

1. Judo workouts, in the majority of cases, exert a very great impact on positive changes in children's character traits that are socially desirable.

2. Swimming workouts, to a considerably smaller degree than judo, positively change attitudes to physical education lessons and they also arouse weaker emotions in people.

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### Słowa kluczowe: judo, pływanie, aktywność ruchowa, osobowość

### STRESZCZENIE

**Wstęp.** Uczestnictwo w zajęciach sportowych sprzyja wszechstronnemu rozwojowi dziecka we wszystkich sferach osobowości. Wartości wychowawcze jakie niesie sport mają wpływ na kształcenie się postaw dzieci i młodzieży. Celem pracy było porównanie wpływu treningu sportowego na osobowość dzieci w wieku szkolnym uprawiających judo ( $n = 40$ ) i pływanie ( $n = 30$ ), w opinii ich rodziców.

**Materiał i metody.** Przeprowadzona anketa zawierała 15 pytań, które dotyczyły relacji społecznych dziecka w kontaktach z rówieśnikami i w rodzinie, spędzania wolnego czasu, zmian w nastawieniu do lekcji wf i treningu, codziennego zachowania, obowiązkowości, wyników w nauce, cech osobowości. Badania przeprowadzono w Myślenicach. Objęto nimi 40 par rodziców, których dzieci ćwiczyły w Sekcji Judo Towarzystwa Gimnastycznego SOKÓŁ, oraz rodziców pływaków ( $n = 30$ ) zrzeszonych w Stowarzyszeniu Pływackim AQUARIUS. Do porównania rozkładów liczebności odpowiedzi wykorzystano test niezależności cech Chi<sup>2</sup>. Podobieństwo profilów grupowych (judo, pływanie) oceniono za pomocą wskaźnika rps – Dumasa.

**Wyniki.** Wyniki badań wykazały bardzo duży wpływ uprawiania judo (95%) i pływania (83%) na zwiększenie natężenia interakcji dzieci z innymi członkami rodziny poprzez rozmowy o treningach. Rodzice młodych sportowców zaobserwowali również zwiększenie uczucia radości i zadowolenia dziecka w związku z pozywianiem nowych umiejętności (judo – 90%, pływanie – 80%). W dwóch pytaniach jedynie rozkład częstości odpowiedzi istotnie statystycznie zależał od dyscypliny sportu (test Chi-kwadrat;  $p < 0,05$ ). Dzieci uprawiające judo w większym stopniu (80%) niż pływacy (50%) emocjonowały się swoimi treningami niż lekcjami wf.

Nastawienie do zajęć wf bardziej zmieniło się wśród dzieci ćwiczących judo (63%) niż pływanie (37%). Ponadto w dyskusji wykazano, że ćwiczenia fizyczne w czasie wolnym rzadziej były wykonywane przez młodych judoków (50%) niż tych, którzy uprawiają sztukę walki hapkido (82%). W konkluzji stwierdzono, że uprawianie sportu jest istotnym czynnikiem wpływającym nie tylko na sprawność fizyczną dzieci, lecz również na ich sferę emocjonalną, społeczno-moralną, wolicjonalną oraz intelektualną.