

Theme : Analysis of an Argument

Taken from :

https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/argument/pool

Text :

Throughout the country last year, as more and more children below the age of nine participated in youth-league sports, over 40,000 of these young players suffered injuries. When interviewed for a recent study, youth-league soccer players in several major cities also reported psychological pressure exerted by coaches and parents to win games. Furthermore, education experts say that long practice sessions for these sports take away time that could be used for academic activities. Since the disadvantages outweigh any advantages, we in Parkville should discontinue organized athletic competition for children under nine.

Answer

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Authors of this article are tried to solve this particular problem on easiest possible way. They did not get into the depth of the problem and they did not see any other problems that could arise from this decision. In this article author mentions number of children injured but they don't mention organization of the competition (tight schedule, number of miles that each team needs to travel, number and intensity of training etc.). Maybe they might think about reorganization of the competition which would reduce these problems if they exist.

This solution is bad for health of children because that will reduce their engage in physical activities and slow down their growth. Also without physical activity children would spend more time at home, they would become unsocial, and that would kill their competitive spirit and self-confidence.

Author also quotes pressure from parents and coaches. Tiny pressure is good for children because that teach them to be responsible, but too much pressure in this case come from parents desire for money and glory that sports provide. This problem is connected to parents and not to competition. The best solution would be to change mind of parents and coaches and teach them that in that age victory is not important but friendship, playing and happiness of children is. Coaches need to be good pedagogues and talk with children about their issues and help them in every possible way. Also in article is mentioned that sports takes time and they say that academic studies are much more important, but that is not quite right. In that age more important is to teach children good behavior and toleration and that is what sports do. Also sport drains children from street.

From all of the above we can conclude that research was not done

thoroughly enough and that this problem can be solved on much better way than denied children things in which they enjoyed.