

Analytical study of the reality of the application of administrative automation in sports clubs

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ABSTRACT

The primary objective of this study was to identify the obstacles and problems encountered in the work of sports clubs according to the reality of the application of administrative automation. The present study was conducted in the sports club headquarters of Baghdad within the timeframe of October 2021 to December 2021. In the present study, a descriptive approach was used by the researchers in an analytical style according to the nature of the problem to be studied. The research community of the current study was composed of 100 sports clubs in the governorate of Baghdad. A total of 80 questionnaires were filled by the sample participants, who represented a percentage of 80% of the research community. After processing the results statistically using the SPSS software, the researchers concluded that sports clubs encounter a lot of difficulties regarding delay in implementing automation procedures in their administrative work, due to lack of financial allocations and lack of awareness among club workers regarding automation techniques.

KEYWORDS

Administration; Sports clubs; Sport management

1. INTRODUCTION

The world is witnessing a rapid change in the political, sports and economic domains of life. All the sports related educational organizations including sports clubs are rapidly working to improve their administrative status and to reach the highest ranks (Jaafar & Abbas, 2021). Administrative automation has become an essential and important element from the smallest to the largest

educational organizations to meet the standards of a competent and efficient organization (Al-Salmi, 2008).

In various researches, it has been stated that the media of information technology in the form of information networks, computers, electronic publishing, electronic courses and conferences, multimedia and CD-ROMs, is an effective medium for better business management (Muayyad Abdullah, 2021). Nowadays, besides managing knowledge and information, organizations act as a major resource for decision-makers, which works on diagnosis, analysis, follow-up and evaluation and leads to the crystallization of many administrative concepts, including administrative automation. The success of the organization's activities depends to a large extent on the availability of tools and devices used to automate administrative work (Tawfiq, 2010)

Hence, the researchers identified that automation has become a key element in the work progress of administration of an organization. The findings of the study may help the sports club in developing their work culture in a better way by bringing important changes and paying attention to the electronic development by using administrative automation in routine daily work and the traditional state of work of clubs that depend on paper and administrative routine.

Researchers have identified that most of the sports clubs encounter a lot of problems in automating their administrative work in line with the new global requirements and keeping pace with the global development movement, simplifying routine work procedures and switching from traditional methods to electronic methods. The present study was conducted to find out the role and contribution of administrative automation in improving the work of sports clubs and to identify the obstacles and problems encountered in the process of implementation of administrative automation in sports clubs. The primary objective of the study was to identify the obstacles and problems encountered in the work of sports clubs according to the reality of the application of administrative automation.

2. METHODS

2.1. Design and participants

The present study was conducted in the sports club headquarters of Baghdad within the timeframe of October 2021 to December 2021. In the present study, a descriptive approach was used by the researcher in an analytical style according to the nature of the problem to be studied. The research community of the current study was composed of 100 sports clubs in the governorate of Baghdad. A total of 80 questionnaires were filled by the sample participants, who represented a percentage of 80% of the research community (Table 1).

Table 1. Sports clubs of the sample

No.	Club name	Governorate	No.	Club name	Governorate
1	Al-Kadhimiya Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	51	Alsyaaha Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
2	Al-Zawraa Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	52	Al Shomookh Sports Club for the Disabled	Baghdad/Rusafa
3	Wissam Al Majd Sports Club for the Disabled	Baghdad / Karkh	53	Sulaikh Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
4	Al-Thawra Sports Club for the Disabled	Baghdad / Karkh	54	Alhadood Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
5	Karkh Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	55	Goal chess club	Baghdad/Rusafa
6	Al Salam Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	56	Etisalat Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
7	Al-Adl Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	57	Al Najda Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
8	Masafi Al Wasat Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	58	Al-Ittlaf Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
9	Al kytoot sports club	Baghdad / Karkh	59	Blady sports club	Baghdad/Rusafa
10	Shabab al moshahda Watch Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	60	Jisr Diyala Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
11	Al Nasr and Al Salam Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	61	Al Diwan Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
12	Mahmoudia Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	62	Health and Environment Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
13	Tarmiyah Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	63	Alaskan Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
14	Taji Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	64	Electrical Industries Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
15	Abu Ghraib Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	65	Aljancya Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa

16	Workers Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	66	Al-Maslah Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
17	Shabab Almustaqbal Youth Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	67	Al-Rusafa Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
18	Railway Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	68	Al Ain Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
19	Alshoala sports club	Baghdad / Karkh	69	Al-Atheer Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
20	Al Bayaa Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	70	Al Muroor Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
21	Mohandessin Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	71	Civil Defense Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
22	Dora Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	72	Alhashed alshaaby crowd club	Baghdad/Rusafa
23	Freedom Sports Club	Baghdad / Karkh	73	Seleucia Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
24	Heritage Club of Zurkhana	Baghdad / Karkh	74	Al Nakheel Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
25	International Automobile Club	Baghdad / Karkh	75	Zafaraniya club	Baghdad/Rusafa
26	Tamim Club	Baghdad / Karkh	76	Aldhfar club	Baghdad/Rusafa
27	altatweeer club	Baghdad / Karkh	77	Almajd club	Baghdad/Rusafa
28	Golden Band Club	Baghdad / Karkh	78	Iraq Automobile Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
29	Teachers club	Baghdad / Karkh	79	Zajil Iraq Al-Rafidain Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
30	Pioneers Club	Baghdad / Karkh	80	Haifa Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
31	Amriya Club	Baghdad / Karkh	81	Al shaab Club	Baghdad/Rusafa

32	Euphrates Al-Shabab Club	Baghdad / Karkh	82	Establishments and Personalities Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
33	Rapid Intervention Club	Baghdad / Karkh	83	Al Hilal Golden Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
34	Military industries	Baghdad / Karkh	84	Specialized electronic games club	Baghdad/Rusafa
35	Arab Ramh Club	Baghdad / Karkh	85	Al Wehdat Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
36	Ish girl club	Baghdad / Karkh	86	Albldyat Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
37	Air Defense	Baghdad / Karkh	87	Martyrs and Wounded Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
38	Alshourta Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	88	Al-Amin Martyrs Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
39	Alathmya Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	89	Alwaam Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
40	Army Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	90	Al Madaen Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
41	Electricity Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	91	Water Resources Club	Baghdad/Rusafa
42	Air Force Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	92	Culture Club	Baghdad / Sadr City
43	Al Shabab Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	93	Alwlaa sports club	Baghdad / Sadr City
44	Baghdad Municipality Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	94	Martyrs and Wounded Club Al-Amin Martyrs Club	Baghdad / Sadr City
45	Al-Athory Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	95	Sports Action Youth Club	Baghdad / Sadr City
46	Al-Sinaa Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	96	Al-Husnain Sports Club	Baghdad / Sadr City
47	Oil Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	97	Charter Sports Club	Baghdad / Sadr City
48	Armenian sports club	Baghdad/Rusafa	98	Abnaa Al-Madina Sports Club	Baghdad / Sadr City

49	altalba Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	99	Al-Hussein Sports Club	Baghdad / Sadr City
50	Al Arabi Sports Club	Baghdad/Rusafa	100	Justice Sports Club	Baghdad / Sadr City

2.2. Instruments and procedures

In the present study a questionnaire was used (Automation Techniques), which consisted of 10 items. This questionnaire was developed by Al-Bakhti (2018). An exploratory experiment was conducted by the researchers in November 2021. A total of 10 clubs were chosen by the researcher for the experiment. The exploratory experiment was conducted to verify the clarity and accuracy of the instructions regarding the questionnaire, to ensure that the questionnaire phrases were free from any error, to ensure the efficiency and duties of the assistant work team and to identify the obstacles that may occur during the application of the main experiment. The primary experiment was conducted in November and December 2021 on 80 clubs. Questionnaire forms were distributed to the sample participants. They were asked to answer one alternative by placing a sign (✓) in front of the alternative selected by them. Followed by this, the filled questionnaires were collected.

2.3. Statistical analyses

In the present study, the statistical analyses were carried out using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. The researchers calculated frequencies and percentages for all the variables.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 illustrated that 77.5% of the sample members confirmed that automation contributes in increasing effectiveness of administrative work through its application. However, 22.5% of the sample members did not support this theory. 75% of the sample members agreed to a point that most of the clubs have electronic devices to organize and manage the club's work, which helps to make the administrative decisions faster and at the lowest costs. 25 % of the sample members did not agree to this point and stated that the club does not have electronic devices because some clubs have less financial allocations and revenue generation, which leads to the club's inability to own the electronic equipment to organize the work in the club.

Table 2. Frequencies and percentages of the items of the Automation Techniques Questionnaire

No.	Items	Yes		No	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Does automation contribute to increasing the effectiveness of administrative work?	62	77.5	18	22.5
2	Does the club provide electronic devices to organize and manage the club?	60	75	20	25
3	Does the club take into account the quality and quantity of office work to assess the level of work in the club?	25	31.2	55	68.7
4	Does administrative automation contribute to reduce time and effort at work?	70	87.5	10	11.1
5	The club provides advanced automation techniques to reduce work effort	22	27.5	58	72.5
6	Does automation facilitate the procedures for dealing with information, its sources and documentation in a short time?	67	83.7	13	16.2
7	Does administrative automation develop the working mechanism and keep pace with developments?	63	78.7	17	21.2
8	Does automation make it easy to store, update and retrieve?	60	75	20	25
9	Does administrative automation improve performance and reduce administrative work costs?	55	68.7	25	31.2
10	Does administrative automation reduce the percentage of errors in administrative work?	54	67.5	26	32.5

Automation requires the introduction of computers in the work environment to change the system of business performance, raise the quality and speed of work in a constructive way (Aladdin, 2013). Similar findings were also justified by Laudon (2004) in a study in which authors stated that the use of the computer leads to an acceleration of the performance of existing tasks because of its regular automation.

For the third statement, 68.7% of the sample members agreed to appoint that most of the clubs do not take into account the quality and quantity of office work and 31.2% sample members responded in a positive direction. 87.5% of the sample members agreed that administrative automation helped in saving time and effort of the workers. Automating work leads to reduced mobility and ease of access to information, in addition to the delivery of information at any time and any place, but 11.1% of the sample members had their answers opposite to this. A study confirmed that automation leads to an increase in speed and accuracy in answering (Zorob, 2009).

For the fifth statement, regarding availability of advanced technologies to reduce manual effort in the work culture, 72.5% of the sample members did not support this statement, while 27.5% of the sample members agreed to this point. For the sixth statement, 83.7% sample members confirmed that automation facilitates procedures dealing with information and its sources and documenting it in a short time, as well as introducing transparency systems in the work, while 16.2% of the sample members did not have their answers in support to this statement. For the seventh statement, 78.7% sample members believed that automation works to develop the work mechanism and keep pace with administrative developments, while 21.2% of the respondents answered that automation does not work on developing the work mechanism and keeping pace with administrative developments. For the eighth statement, 75% of the sample members answered that the automation works on the ease of storage, updating and retrieval, and it reduces the use of paper and thus the paper archive is replaced by an electronic archive system linked to an easily accessible database, with less effort, less time, and less paper consumption. However, 25% of the respondents answered that automation does not facilitate storage, updating and retrieval.

For the ninth statement, 68.7% sample members stated that automation improves performance and reduces labor and economic costs, as the costs spent by automation on business are not high because it only costs the price of storage media or the network, while 31.2% of the clubs did not support this statement. For the tenth statement, 67.5% sample clubs agreed that automation reduces administrative errors at work, as documents are documented and saved electronically for all transactions, which reduces the percentage of errors in administrative work, and 32.5% of the respondents did not support this statement.

Based on the cumulative information retrieved from the responses of the sample clubs, the research team believed that that the general weakness in the application of administrative automation in sports clubs is mainly caused by problems in the financial capabilities of the sports clubs, and the lack of awareness of working individuals regarding the work environment, which in turn is reflected in a weakness in the application of automation.

In addition to this, Aladdin (2013) stated that the application of administrative automation is a vital requirement for the successful development of an organization. However, it may be associated with some negative aftereffects, such as human communication and the individual's ability to direct persuasion, the decline in the role and importance of the manager in the administrative structure, or the occurrence of duplication between automated and manual work. However, Aladdin (2013) stated that among these criteria is that automation is applied within the estimated budget and within the specified time and that it achieves the main objectives that were set for it, and that it does not have tangible negative repercussions on other aspects of the work.

Based on the results of the current study, the researchers believed that sports clubs that tend to shift towards administrative automation should take into account these positive and negative aspects from the planning stage of the transformation and prepare for them with appropriate solutions to reduce its negative effects. Automation is a necessary requirement for the work of the administrative body of sports clubs due to its multiple benefits, which include completion of the administrative work in much quicker time, data processing, quick decision making, etc. Information technology has become the cornerstone of the work in many departments. There is a strong need to learn from the global experiences of various institutions/organizations that have achieved success in the field of applying administrative automation. Learning should include accompanying challenges and obtaining material and moral support from the government agencies concerned with this, as well as building motivation and awareness among workers and members of the administrative bodies of sports clubs of the importance and benefit of change and its positive impact on the nature of their work. Moreover, it is very important their participation in the process of change and the development of appropriate solutions to future challenges.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The researchers concluded that sports clubs encounter a lot of difficulties regarding delay in implementing automation procedures in their administrative work, due to lack of financial allocations and lack of awareness among club workers regarding automation techniques. The researchers recommend the use of administrative automation in the work of all sports clubs. With this purpose, it would be necessary working to remove the obstacles that limit the use of administrative automation, by providing the means and techniques of automation and training the employees on them, and providing the necessary financial allocations to allocate the necessary equipment and devices at work.

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All authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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