Supplementary Issue: Winter Conferences of Sports Science. Costa Blanca Sports Science Events, 22-23 March 2021. Alicante, Spain.

# Dynamics of the morphofunctional state of students with the expansion of fitness means in physical education classes

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## ABSTRACT

Purpose: to study the dynamics of the morphofunctional state of students during expanding fitness means in physical education classes. Materials and methods: students at the University of Economics (n = 820, age 18.0  $\pm$  0.76 years) took part in the study. The experiment was lasting for 36 months. With students of group N1 (n = 386), traditional classes were conducted in accordance with the current physical education program. Development of physical education in group N2 (n = 434) was carried out by increasing the means of fitness and daily monitoring of physical activity with modern devices. Functional diagnostics was carried out on the hardware-diagnostic complex «*Esteck System Complex*». «*Omega-M*» hardware and software complex was used for studying biological rhythms. The evaluation of working capacity of the cardiovascular system was determined using the Ruffier test. Results: in group N2, authentic differences were determined in the adequacy of the regulation processes, the integral indicator of the sports shape, the level of physical activity (the number of steps per day). In group N1, authentic differences were determined only in the level of physical activity. At the same time, there was no significant improvement in the morphofunctional state in the groups. Conclusions: thanks to the expansion of fitness means, the provision of an individual-typological medical record and the stimulation of physical activity, it was managed to achieve a positive dynamic of the morphofunctional state of students of group N2.

Keywords: Physical activity; Fitness; Physical exercises; Functional diagnostics.

#### Cite this article as:

Shutova, T., Vysotskaya, T., Pihaev, R., & Polshikova, J. (2021). Dynamics of the morphofunctional state of students with the expansion of fitness means in physical education classes. *Journal of Human Sport and Exercise, 16*(3proc), S1006-S1015. https://doi.org/10.14198/jhse.2021.16.Proc3.17

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Abstract submitted to: Winter Conferences of Sports Science. <u>Costa Blanca Sports Science Events</u>, 22-23 March 2021. Alicante, Spain.

JOURNAL OF HUMAN SPORT & EXERCISE ISSN 1988-5202.

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doi:10.14198/jhse.2021.16.Proc3.17

## INTRODUCTION

An objective evaluation and interpretation of the criteria for the functional state of the organism of students are a prerequisite for a scientific approach to learning. Such an evaluation helps in the organization of the studying process in physical education (José Enrique et al., 2021; Katewongsa et al., 2021). It provides objective information for health management and planning of physical activity of students. Scientific research in the field of the functional state of the organism can be as means of prophylaxis, foresight, and prevention of deterioration in health (Joensuu et al., 2021; Zakariya et al., 2021; Junger et al., 2020). Hardware diagnostic techniques are an integral part of planning physical education lessons. They integrate objective information, testify to the effectiveness of the means of physical education and sports used (Shi, 2021; Andryushchenko et al., 2018; Osipov et al., 2018).

Due to a decrease in the state of health and physical fitness of students, the evaluation and control of the morphofunctional state in physical education lessons are becoming increasingly important (Fühner et al., 2021; Shutova et al., 2020; Shutova et al., 2018). Only 37.3% of the surveyed students of economic specialties have a high level of recovery of the cardiovascular system after standard physical activity (for example, 30 squats). Average level - 34% of students, satisfactory - 28.7%. The analysis of medical certificates showed that vegetative-vascular dystonia is observed in 12.5-15% of the surveyed students. Diseases of the gastrointestinal tract are observed in 10.4 - 15.0%. Posture disorders were found in 15.6 - 31% (Shutova et al., 2019; Antonova et al., 2019).

In a study by Pogodina et al. (2014) it was noted that 46% of college-age girls have a predominantly low functional level of health, and 45% have a level below average. Among boys, 15% have a low level of functional state, and 63% have a lower than average level. Average functional level of health: 9% for girls and 22% for boys. In turn, the trained students showed a predominance of a higher than average functional level: 97% for girls and 94% for boys. When testing the level of physical readiness of untrained students, the prevalence of a low level of aerobic endurance in the Cooper test was revealed.

Fitness-based technologies, as noted by Professor Saikina (2012), are relevant today in physical education classes. As well as ways to increase the level of physical fitness, focused on the personality-centred, complex nature of the impact on the organism of students (Hou et al., 2021; Kurmaeva, 2013; Shutova & Andryushchenko, 2017; Shirokova, 2020; Shirokova et al., 2019).

The primary goal of fitness is to improve health, increase vitality, increase general and special working capacity, development of physical qualities, forming posture and correction of build defects, prophylaxis of pathological conditions, development aesthetic skills, acquirement of vital energy, vivacity, positive mood, counteract stress (Edholm et al., 2021; Melero-Cañas et al., 2021).

Purpose: to study the dynamics of the morphofunctional state of students during expanding fitness means in physical education lessons.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

## Participants

Students at the university of economics took part in the study (n = 820, age 18.0  $\pm$  0.76 years). Students were divided into groups: control (N1, n = 386) and experimental (N2, n = 434).

### Organization of research

The experiment took place from 2017 to 2019 on the basis of the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (Russia, Moscow). Traditional classes were conducted with students of group N1 in accordance with the current physical education program. Classes included general physical training, athletic gymnastics, swimming, athletics, martial arts. Improvement of physical education in group N2 was carried out by increasing the means of fitness: aqua fitness, athletic gymnastics, aerobics, Pilates, elements of CrossFit. Also, students of group N2 were recommended daily monitoring of motor activity with modern devices (Finkelstein et al., 2016; Gowin et al., 2015; Jakicic et al., 2016).

Functional diagnostics was conducted using the Stock System Complex (Multiscan PRO) hardware diagnostic complex (Klochkov et al., 2016). The hardware complex allows monitoring the following indicators: heart rate variability (norm 70-100 points); hemodynamics and blood pressure (norm 70-100 points); general integral evaluation of the functional state. Also study the fat and muscle components of the body, biological age, stress index, cardiac output. Analyse the rigidity index of large vessels, the level of blood oxygen saturation. The results were displayed in 3D functional visualization: the state of the vertebral column, excessive presence of the fatty component of the body, integral evaluation of the cardiovascular system (Shutova, 2017).

«*Omega-M*» hardware and software complex is used to study biological rhythms. Complex analysis includes four modes: variation analysis of heart rhythms -evaluation of vegetative regulation indicators. Variation analysis includes a rhythmogram, a spectrogram. For diagnostics, the wave structure of the ECG signal is used; mapping of biorhythms of the brain - evaluation of the psychophysical state. The final mark in the «*green zone*» is characterized by excellent physical condition, the indicator of physical-fitness- 5 points. Satisfactory physical condition relates to the «*yellow zone*», and physical-fitness - 3 points. The «*red zone*» is characterized as poor physical condition, exhaustion, overexertion, and physical-fitness is rated at 1 point (Stepanov, 2009). The advantages of diagnostics include the fact that it is possible to simultaneously test 5-8 students.

Smart watches ONETRAK, mobile application Health, fitness bracelets and other devices were used to estimate the level of physical activity of students (number of steps per day, energy consumption, heart rate, calories burned during the day, sleep characteristics).

Evaluation of the efficiency of the cardiovascular system was determined using the Ruffier test (conv. Units). Ruffier index is less than 3 conv. units - good working capacity of the heart muscle during physical exertion, 3 - 6 conv. units - average, 7 - 9 conv. units - satisfactory, 10 - 14 conv. units - bad (average heart failure), 15 conv. units and higher - severe heart failure.

The level of regulation of the cardiovascular system was determined by the formula: where HR is the heart rate (beats / min.), SBP is the systolic blood pressure (mm Hg). The indicators for evaluating the data are as follows: up to 74 conv. units - high level of regulation; 75-80 conv. units - above the average level of regulation of the cardiovascular system; 81-90 conv. units -average; 91-100 conv. units - below the average; 101 conv. units and higher - a low value of the regulation of the cardiovascular system.

## Statistical analysis

Statistical processing of the data was carried out on generally accepted methods of variation statistics with the calculation of average arithmetic, average standard deviation and verification of the results of the study on the reliability of differences at a five percent level of significance. The Student's t-criteria was used to

evaluate the significance of the differences. Mathematical processing was carried out using the MS Excel 2016.

#### RESULTS

The results of the morphofunctional state in boys are higher than in girls (Table 1). The standard deviation of the results is higher at the beginning of the experiment and slightly decreases towards the end. In group N2, in almost all the studied indicators, achieving positive dynamics of results was managed. At the same time, there was no significant improvement in the morphofunctional state in all groups. In group N2, significant differences were determined in the adequacy of the regulation processes, the integral indicator of the sports form, the level of physical activity (the number of steps per day). In group N1, significant differences were determined only in the level of physical activity. The research has showed that lessons alone are not enough to improve morphofunctional state of students. At the same time, 20% of girls and 62% of boys go in for sports on their own, which is probably why the results of boys are higher than those of girls. A low level of vital capacity of the lungs in girls was also revealed. So, in N2 the dynamics are from 2215 to 2570 ml, in N1 from 2180 to 2209 ml. In N2, increase of the vital capacity indices of the lungs was managed, however, the differences in the results are not significant. The results of young men are at the lower limit of the norm of the vital capacity of the lungs and do not significantly improve during the three years of the experiment (Table 1).

Indicators	•	$2017 (X \pm \sigma)$		<b>2019</b> (X ± σ)	
Indicators	Groups	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Body mass index (conv. units)	N2	20.4 ± 2.0	22.6 ± 2.4	19.5 ± 3.4	21.1 ± 4.1
	N1	21.3 ± 2.8	20.2 ± 3.1	20.8 ± 2.9	$20.6 \pm 4.4$
Fat mass (%)	N2	22.5 ± 2.8	20.7 ± 5.3	23.1 ± 3.8	19.8 ± 4.3
	N1	20.2 ± 4.1	18.3 ± 2.7	22.1 ± 3.5	21.8 ± 3.6
Stiffness index of large vessels (m / s)	N2	6.1 ± 0.3	6.3 ± 0.5	6.2 ± 0.2	$6.3 \pm 0.4$
	N1	6.3 ± 0.2	$6.2 \pm 0.3$	6.4 ± 0.3	6.1 ± 0.6
Reflectance index	N2	31.8 ± 3.9	30.3 ± 2.8	33.5 ± 4.2	30.9 ± 3.1
(%), indicator of small and medium muscle arteries	N1	32.6 ± 4.3	30.8 ± 3.8	31.5 ± 3.7	32.3 ± 4.2
Peripheral vascular resistance (Pa*s / m3)	N2	1406 ± 162	1231.6 ± 198	1356 ± 174	1340 ± 201
	N1	1389 ± 182	1278 ± 203	1290 ± 156	1249 ± 192.1
Cardiac output (I /	N2	5.0 ± 0.6	5.6 ± 0.8	5.3 ± 0.8	5.8 ± 0.5
min)	N1	5.6 ± 0.6	5.3 ± 0.9	5.4 ± 0.6	5.5 ± 0.6
	N2	82.5 ± 15.3	81.6 ± 19.1	83.1 ± 10.0	77.1 ± 9.2
Heart rate (bpm)	N1	80.7 ± 17.1	80.7 ± 16.4	81.3 ± 18.2	81.6 ± 12.6
Blood pressure (mm Hg)	N2	76/129	82/124	79,1/124,5	82/125
	N1	80/131	79/125	81,3/128	80,1/124
Autonomous vascular tone (R-R intervals) (conv. units)	N2	45.6 ± 4.3	47.2 ± 4.9	43.1 ± 3.9	45.2 ± 5.1
	N1	46.7 ± 3.8	45.7 ± 4.4	44.2 ± 4.1	47.6 ± 3.4
	N2	1.2 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.2	1.09 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.3

Table 1. Dynamics of the morphofunctional state of students.

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Frequency indicator of ANS activity (conv.	N1	1.3 ± 0.3	$0.9 \pm 0.4$	1.2 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.4
units), 0.8-1.7 - norm Oxygen saturation	N2	96.7 ± 0.9	96.2 ± 1.6	96.9 ± 1.4	97.2 ± 0.8
level (%), 96-99% - normal	N1	96.0 ± 0.7	97.3 ± 1.0	96.1 ± 0.8	97.0 ± 0.4
Integral assessment of the functional state (score)	N2	86.5 ± 7.8	90.1 ± 6.9	92.3 ± 5.4	93.8 ± 4.1
	N1	87.0 ± 7.0	89.5 ± 10.1	89.2 ± 5.0	89.1 ± 6.2
	N2	39.7 ± 3.1	45.5 ± 12.8	42.9 ± 4.3	51.7 ± 6.4
Muscle mass (%)	N1	40.2 ± 6.5	46.2 ± 9.5	41.1 ± 4.7	48.3 ± 7.3
Lung vital capacity (ml)	N2	2215 ± 240.8	3905 ± 510	2570 ± 358	4110 ± 380
	N1	2180 ± 268	3800 ± 403	2209 ± 300	3907 ± 440
Ruffier index (conv.	N2	12.4 ± 2.7	12.6 ± 3.6	11.3 ± 3.1	10.2 ± 1.9
units)	N1	12.6 ± 3.4	11.8 ± 4.5	11.0 ± 2.9	10.8 ± 2.9
Number of steps per	N2	5250		8062*	
day (number)	N1	6030		7303*	
Biological age (years)	N2	22.5	19.1	21.9	20.0
	N1	22.1	19.0	73 21.9 22.8	19.6
Adequacy of	N2	44.2 ± 5.1	42.7 ± 6.6	38.6 ± 5.6*	30.6 ± 3.6*
regulation processes (conv. Units), the norm is 15-50 conv. units	N1	44.8 ± 6.1	40.8 ± 5.9	40.7 ± 4.7	38.1 ± 3.9
Athletic form (%),	N2	33	62	48*	73*
maximum 100%	N1	32.9	65	40.0*	71.0
The level of	N2	101.1 ± 13.2	94.6 ± 10.0	92.3 ± 11.8	90.0 ± 7.3
regulation of the cardiovascular system	N1	98.4 ± 14.1	95.1 ± 11.4	94.5 ± 13.0	93.7 ± 8.2

Note:  $\overline{X}$  - arithmetic mean,  $\sigma$  - standard deviation, \* - reliability of results differences.

The indicators of sports form according to the «Omega-M» method among girls changed in the group N2 from 33% to 48%, in the group N1 from 32.9% to 40% (with the maximum value of the sports form - 100%). In the group of young men, athletic form at the beginning of the study in N2 was 62%, at the end of the experiment 73%. In group N1 - 65% at the beginning and 70% at the end of the study.

The reflection index in the experimental groups is practically the same, both at the beginning and at the end of the study. In the study, the girls showed a slight increase in peripheral vascular resistance both in N2 (1406 Pa s/m3) and in N1 (1389 Pa s/m3). Autonomous tone (RR-intervals of sinus origin (norm 41-50 conventional units)) of vessels is normal in the examined students. Cardiac output in the groups is within the normal range (4.3-6.1 l/min), the results practically did not change and do not have significant differences in N2 and N1. The frequency indicator of the activity of the involuntary nervous system in the experimental groups practically does not differ, no significant differences in the results were revealed.

Ruffier index (cardiac muscle working capacity during exercise) in group N2 among young men changed from 12.6 to 10.2 conv. units, the differences are not significant. In N1, boys have from 11.8 to 10.8 conv. units. Intergroup and intragroup differences are not significant. At the same time, the exercises according to the experimental program based on fitness made it possible in N2 to achieve a better result in terms of the cardiac muscle working capacity during physical activity, as compared with the group N1. In group N2, girls have Ruffier index from 12.4 to 11.3 conv. units, in N1 from 12.6 to 11.0 conv. units Differences in results are not significant.

At the beginning of the study, girls in group N2 had a low level of regulation - 101.1 conv. units, in N1 the result is slightly higher and amounts to 98.4 conv. units (level below average). At the end of the experiment, girls N2 exceed girls N1, while the differences are insignificant. The girls did not have a high level of regulation of the cardiovascular system. The boys also showed a level below the average at the beginning of the study. Indicators at the end of the study are slightly higher in N2 than in N1.

Indicators	March 2017	October 2019	
Height (cm)	188	188.5	
Body weight (kg)	80	87	
Fat mass (%), «Estek System Complex»	19.1	22.4	
Integral assessment of the functional state (score) max 100 scores «Estek System Complex»	93.4	89.1	
Lung vital capacity (ml)	3460	3800	
Heart rate (bpm)	75.4	76.0	
Blood pressure (mm Hg)	115/78	121/82	
Bust (cm)	95	97	
Shoulder circumference (cm)	29	30	
Thigh girth (cm)	53	60	
Favourable zones of activity of biological rhythms « <i>Omega-</i> <i>M</i> »	6.00, 10.00, 12.00., 16.00, 18-20.00. chronotype - arrhythmic		
Number of steps per day (number) watch ONETRAK, mobile application « <i>Health</i> »	12134	9503	
Distance covered on a treadmill (km), excluding time	2.4	4.5	
Biological age (years), «Omega-M»	18.3	23.7	
Adequacy of regulation processes (conv. units), « <i>Omega-</i> <i>M</i> » (norm 15-50 conv. units)	40.7	37.0	
Athletic form (%), maximum 100%, «Omega»	66	58	
The level of regulation of the cardiovascular system (conv. units); 81-90 - medium; 91-100 - below average; 101 and higher - low regulation value	96.4	94.8	

A personal card of the morphofunctional state, which was compiled for each student N2, was of fundamental importance in improving knowledge about one's health. The card characterized the dynamics of individual indicators. This is of key importance in the informational components of the educational process in physical education. As an example, a health card of one of the students (young men) is shown (Table 2). At the same time, it should be noted a significant increase in the body weight of the subject, the deterioration of his sports form, and, as a consequence, an increase in biological age, in comparison with the passport. The subject

also had an increase in fat mass from 19.1% to 22.4%, sports form according to the «*Omega-M*» method worsened from 66% to 58%. Of course, this student was consulted on the negative dynamics of results, it was recommended to reduce body weight, examples of mobile nutrition applications, online diet calculators were given. On the one hand, the young man's distance increased from 2.4 km to 4.5 km on a treadmill. On the other hand, physical activity decreased from 12,134 steps per day to 9,500 steps due to the lack of regular sports activities.

Thanks to the expansion of fitness means, the provision of an individual-typological card of health and the stimulation of physical activity, the study managed to achieve positive dynamics of the morphofunctional state of students N2.

## DISCUSSION

The study by Shirokova (2020) presents the features of the application of the *«soft»* fitness methodology in regulating the quality of life of students of humanitarian specialties. The author has developed a method of *«soft»* fitness, which presupposes the use of mainly low-impact exercises of low and medium intensity. The technique also includes functional training, Pilates, stretching combined with relaxation exercises. In addition, individual homework assignments and recommendations for self-compilation and use of exercise complexes in the daily regimen were created. As a result of the experiment, the functional state of the respondents' cardiorespiratory system was normalized: the heart rate at rest decreased by 5.0%, the blood circulation economization coefficient decreased by 6.4%, Kerdo's vegetation index by 53.3% (a significant shift towards normotonia was noted). The results of functional tests with breath holding have significantly improved.

In the study by Goginava (2014), a methodology for physical education classes was proposed, including means of aerobic and anaerobic orientation, in the framework of the experiment, once a week, a swimming lesson and athletic gymnastics were conducted. At the end of the study, the author proved the developed methodology for heart rate at rest, Ruffier test, Skibinskaya index, assessment of somatic health according to Apanasenko's method, optimization of blood pressure and vegetative parameters, economization of myocardial activity.

The study by Stoycheva (2014) states the effectiveness of cardio training for female students in the form of aerobics and aerobics with a ball in the amount of 35-40% of the total volume of training hours, as well as functional training (Ftraining, Best fit) for boys and girls in the amount of 55-60% of the total amount of study hours. In addition, the Tabata complex is popular, which allows to reduce the body fat content 9 times more than a traditional physical education program.

Innovative fitness technologies in the aquatic environment in the context of physical education are presented in the works of Nizhnik (2012) and Shutova & Sharafieva (2019). This is how the possibility of using aqua aerobics as means of teaching swimming (at the initial stage) of girls in the framework of physical education is being studied, since: it develops the ability to control her body in the conditions of the aquatic environment, forms the *«feeling of water»*; increases physical fitness; forms water-support skills; improves the ability to perform exercises in horizontal and vertical body positions.

## CONCLUSIONS

The results of the morphofunctional state of boys are higher than of girls. The results of the respondents at the beginning of each academic year are higher in comparison with the data at the end of the academic year.

The standard deviation of the results is high at the beginning of the experiment, and slightly decreases towards the end. In group N2, practically in all the studied indicators, it was possible to achieve positive dynamics of results, within the framework of fitness classes and an increase in physical activity. At the same time, there was no significant improvement in the morphofunctional state in the groups. Significant differences were determined in N2 in the adequacy of the regulation processes, the integral indicator of the sports form, the level of physical activity (the number of steps per day). In N1, significant differences were determined in the level of physical activity and sports form only of girls. The research showed that lessons alone are not enough to improve the morphofunctional state of students.

In general, the morphofunctional state of students is within the normal range. For example, according to the index of stiffness of large vessels, body mass index, autonomic vascular tone, the level of blood oxygen saturation, the adequacy of regulation processes. At the same time, low values of the vital capacity of the lungs, low efficiency of the heart muscle during physical activity and the level of regulation of the cardiovascular system cause concern. The indicator of athletic form has not high values, especially at the beginning of the study in the group of girls. Peripheral vascular resistance, as an indicator of hemodynamics, exceeds the normal values, especially among girls, which may further contribute to the occurrence of hypertension. At the end of the experiment, in N1 and N2, it was not managed to reach the physiological norm of steps per day. Therefore, it is necessary to individually control the morphofunctional state, to select adequate means of physical education, based on fitness, and to find approaches to increasing the physical activity of students.

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