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Effect of urban-rural belongingness and cognitive ability on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate athletes

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Abstract

Sportsman spirit of intercollegiate athletes was assessed in this study on the basis of urban rural belongingness and cognitive ability. To conduct the study 25 urban male intercollegiate athletes (Ave. age 19.77 years) and 25 rural male intercollegiate athletes were selected as sample. The sample of this study belonged to Vidarbha region. Sportsman spirit of selected subjects was assessed with the help of questionnaire developed by Dubey (1988) while Mehrotra's (1984) Mixed Type Group Test of Intelligence (MGTI) was used for assessment of cognitive ability. The high and low level of intelligence was determined by $Mean \pm \frac{1}{2}S.D.$ Scores above this value indicate high level of intelligence while scores below this value means low level of intelligence. A 2x2 ANOVA technique was used to assess the impact of urban-rural belongingness and cognitive ability on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate athletes. Results reveal that intercollegiate athletes with low level of intelligence exhibited significantly better sportsman spirit as compared to intercollegiate athletes with high level of intelligence. The main effect of urban-rural belongingness on sportspersons spirit of intercollegiate male athletes was also found to be statistically significant. It reveals that rural male intercollegiate athletes possesses more magnitude of sportsman spirit as compared to urban male intercollegiate athletes. The two factor interaction effect of urban rural belongingness and cognitive ability in the form of intelligence on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate male athletes was not found to be statistically significant.

Keywords: Sportsman spirit, athletes, intelligence, urban-rural

Introduction

In a sporting career a sportsperson is bound to see ups and downs. When we take part in competitive sport sometimes results are in our favour and sometimes results are not in our favour. It is a behaviour which is accepting the success with modesty. It is said that sportsman spirit helps an individual to bounce back from negative results with more rigour and persistent effort. The term sportsman spirit has been viewed differently in modern sporting culture. The modern sport is about fierce competition and financial aspects related with win percentage. Sportsman spirit refers to disciplined, determined and open hearted characteristics. It is said that when a player accept positive and negative outcomes of a match with equal manner, he is said to possess good sportsman spirit. Sometimes sportsmanship is also used for sportsman spirit. Sportsman spirit also require an athlete to abide by the rules and regulation of the sport and shun away from using unfair means to gain advantage in a match. Good sportsman spirit is respect for the sport itself and all the aspects associated with that particular sport. In recent times the news regarding substance abuse questions the aspect of sportsman spirit in modern sport. The culture of materialist thought erodes sportsman spirit. In this scenario it is worthwhile to examine the impact of urban rural belongingness and cognitive ability on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate male athletes. It is often said that rural culture still more value oriented than urban culture. On the other hand cognitive ability may have a role to play in sportsman spirit because an intelligent person can weigh the outcome of an event differently as compared to less intelligent people. Despite all the controversies regarding sportsman spirit a very few studies namely by Meyer (2003) [7], Dodge and Robertson (2004) [3], Miltiadis *et al.* (2006) [8], Kavussanu (2007) [5], Clifford and Feezel (2010) [11], Thakur (2012) [10], Dada (2015) [2] investigated sportsman spirit in the light of certain socio-cultural and psycho-social aspects. Keeping the dearth of studies on sportsman spirit the present study was conducted to assess the

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impact of urban rural belongingness and cognitive ability on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate male athletes.

Objective

The objective of the present study is to assess main and interaction effect of urban rural workplace and cognitive ability on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate male athletes.

Hypothesis

It was hypothesized that urban rural belongingness and intelligence alone and in interaction with each other will significantly influence sportsman spirit of male intercollegiate athletes.

Methodology

Sample

To conduct the study 25 urban male intercollegiate athletes (Ave. age 19.77 years) and 25 rural male intercollegiate athletes were selected as sample. The sample of this study belonged to Vidarbha region. Purposive sampling was thought appropriate for the purpose of this study.

Tools

Sportsman spirit of the intercollegiate male athletes was assessed by Dubey's (1988) [4] Sportsman Spirit Questionnaire. The questionnaire consist of 40 questions with

three alternatives for each question. The reliability of this questionnaire is .89 while the validity is .78.

To measure intelligence of selected intercollegiate male athletes, Mehrotra's (1984) [6] Mixed Type Group Test of Intelligence (MGTI) was preferred. This questionnaire consist in 50 questions which measures general intelligence of the respondent. The validity of the questionnaire is .85.

Procedure

Mixed Type Group of Test (MGTI) prepared by Mehrotra (1984) [6] was administered to each selected intercollegiate male athletes and then after sufficient rest Dubey's Sportsman Spirit questionnaire was administered. The scoring for both psychological instruments was conducted as per author's manual. To bifurcate cases into high and low level of intelligence Mean ± ½S.D. technique was used. Subjects whose score were above this criteria was considered to be highly intelligent while subjects whose score lie below the criteria was considered to possess low level of intelligence. 2x2 ANOVA was used for data analysis with two levels of urban - rural male athletes and two levels of intelligence (High-low).

The obtained results are presented in table 1.

Results

Table 1: Effect of Urban-Rural Belongingness (A) x Intelligence (B) on Sportsman Spirit of Male Athletes

		Intelligence (B)		Marginal Mean
		High (b ₁)	Low (b ₂)	
Urban Rural Belongingness (A)	Urban (a ₁)	N=17 M=49.82 S.D. = 18.30	N=8 M=60.62 S.D.=7.85	55.22
	Rural (a ₂)	N=11 M=61.00 S.D.=12.95	N=14 M=65.07 S.D.=7.30	63.03
Marginal Mean		55.41	62.84	

Table 1: ANOVA Summary

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F
A	705.091	1	705.091	3.97*
B	639.018	1	639.018	3.60*
AB	130.845	1	130.845	0.73 (NS)
Within treatment (Error)	177.419	46	3.857	8161.274

* Significant at .05 level; NS Not Significant

Table 1 reveals the following facts

- F=3.97, an indicator of the main effect of urban-rural belongingness on on sportsman spirit of intercollegiate male athletes was found to be statistically significant at .05 level. It reveals that the rural male athletes (M=63.03) exhibited more magnitude of sportsman spirit than the urban male athletes (M=55.22).
- F=3.60, an indicator of the main effect of intelligence on male athletes sportsman spirit was statistically significant at .05 level. It reveals that the sportsman spirit of male athletes with low level of intelligence (M=62.84) was greater than the sportsman spirit of male athletes with high level of intelligence (M=55.41).
- The F=0.73, an indicator of interactional effect of urban-

rural belongingness and intelligence (high-low) turned out to be statistically insignificant.

In the present study, sportsman spirit of male intercollegiate athletes possessing higher intelligence level was way below par as compared to male intercollegiate athletes with low level of intelligence. This may be attributed to the fact that higher intelligence level seek perfection and try to achieve everything. In this quest highly intelligent player may tend to ignore the general rules in sports to win.

Results from the present study indicating that rural male intercollegiate athletes have more magnitude of sportsman spirit than the urban male intercollegiate athletes. This may be attributed to the fact that rural belongingness does not expose sportsperson to the cut throat commercialised competitive sporting world where winning is everything, hence he has more sportsman spirit than the urban male intercollegiate athletes.

Results and Conclusion

After analysis and interpretation, investigator came to following conclusions –

1. Rural male athletes possess more magnitude of sportsman spirit as compared to urban male athletes.
2. Male athletes with high level of intelligence showed lesser magnitude of sportsman spirit as compared to male athletes with low level of intelligence.
3. Urban-rural belongingness and intelligence taken

together unable to influence the sportsman spirit of male intercollegiate athletes.

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