A Comparative Study on Sports Achievement Motivation and Sensation Seeking among Indian Athletes

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Abstract

The aim of the present study was to compare the sports achievement motivation and sensation seeking of male and female athletes. The total hundred (50 male All India Intervarsity Players and 50 female All India Intervarsity Players) were selected for this study. The age of the subjects were ranged between 18 to 28 years. The data on sports achievement motivation of the subjects were gauged by using the questionnaire developed by Kamlesh (1990) and the data on sensation seeking were obtain by using the questionnaire developed by Neary and Zuckerman (1976). The t test was used to determine the differences between the mean score of the male and female athletes. Results revealed that there were an insignificant difference between male and female athletes on their sports achievement motivation and significant difference were found between male and female athletes on their sensation seeking at 0.05 level of significance with 98 degree of freedom.

Key Words: Sports Achievement Motivation, Sensation Seeking, Male Athletes, Female Athletes.

Introduction:

The history of athletic its roots in human prehistory. The first recorded organized athletics events at a sports festival are the Ancient Olympic Games. At the first Games in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece, only one event was contested: the stadion footrace and the first Olympic winner was Koroibos. In later years further running competitions have been added. Also in the Ancient Olympic pentathlon, four of the events are part of the track and field we have even today. The long jump, the javelin throw, the discus throw and the stadion foot race.

Athletics events were also present at the Panhellenic Games in Greece around this period, and they become known to Rome in 200 BC. In the Middle Ages new track and
field events began developing in parts of Northern Europe. The stone put and weight
throw competitions popular among Celtic societies were precursors to the modern shot
put and hammer throw events. Also the pole vault was popular in the Northern European
Lowlands in the 18th century.

Modern competitions in athletics, took place for the first time in the 19th century.
Usually they were organised by educational institutions, military organisations and sports
clubs as competitions between rival establishments. In these competitions the hurdling
were introduced for the first time.

Sports Performance is byproduct of biological, Psychological, sociological, and physical
makeup of an individual. In games and sports not only physiological factors but also
psychological factors play a significant role in determining the performance level of an
individual. However great importance is assigned to psychological parameters in
competitive sports (Schilling & Hayashi, 2001).

The significant of psychological factors for performance enhancement of the athletes has
been forcefully stressed by many experts (Ali 1996; Khan 2003; Nisar 2008 and Imran
2012). They advocated that individuals are affected not merely by their physical and
techno tactical ability but also by their psychological makeup.

Now a days sports achievement motivation has been discovered as a strong
psychological factor in the display of behaviour of a person. Achievement motivation
behaviour of an individual has been found to be rewarding in competitive sports. It is a
force that engages a sports person in task which are challenging and hard to attained. The
nature of sports and physical activities are generally achievement oriented. Personal
success in team and individual events can be evaluated against standards. One of the
reasons of variability in behaviour of an individual is sports achievement, situation is that
sports person perceive situation in different ways, because they have different needs for
sports excellence.

Sports scientist proved that sensation seeking is an interesting personality trait that has its
effect on several aspects of our lives. It affects what activities we prefer, what sports or
occupations we choose. Personality traits are underlying characteristics of an individual
that are relatively stable over time, and explain regularities in people's behaviors. When
thinking about people we know well, we will naturally have noticed how we differ, and
our everyday language is full of ways of describing and comparing people. People may
be outgoing or unsociable, shy or confident, friendly or rude, and so on. People
instinctively observe that persons react differently to the same situations, and these
differences are caused by natural variations in personality traits. Many studies involving
sensation seeking have been conducted across a variety of anti-social risk-taking behaviours, such as drug use and unsafe sexual practices, as well as more socially acceptable forms of risk-taking behaviours (Zerevski et al., 1998)

**Methodology:**

**Subjects**

A total of hundred (50 male and 50 female) All-India Intervarsity players were randomly selected for this study. The age of the selected subjects were ranged between 18 to 28 years.

**Instrument.**

Investigators used the sport achievement motivation Test (SAMT) developed by M. L. Kamlesh (1990) to obtain data on sport achievement motivation of the subjects.

**Procedure**

The data were collected from the various university players who participated in All India Inter-University Athletic. Investigators used the sport achievement motivation test developed by Kamlesh (1990). The tool consists of 20 incomplete statements which can be computed by choosing either of two proposed parts against each statement was used.

**Statistical Analysis**

The t test was used to determine the differences between the means of athletes’ scores. Further the level of significance was set at 0.05 level.

**Result**

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Cal. t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Athletes</td>
<td>26.96</td>
<td>6.65</td>
<td>0.448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Athletes</td>
<td>26.48</td>
<td>7.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance Tab t = 1.660*

When we go through table 3.1 it is documented that calculated ‘t’ was Lesser than tabulated ‘t’ which indicated that insignificant difference between male and female athletes on sports achievement motivation at 0.05 level of significance with 98 degree of freedom.
Figure 1

Showing graphical representation of mean difference between male and female athletes.

Table 2

Indicating mean difference between male and female All India Intervarsity Athletes on their sensation seeking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Cal. t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Athletes</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>7.18</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Athletes</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>6.96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance  
Tab t = 1.660

When we go through table 3.2 it is documented that calculated ‘t’ was more than tabulated ‘t’ which indicated that significant difference between male and female athletes on sensation seeking at 0.05 level of significance with 98 degree of freedom.
Discussion
The result of the study showed that there was an insignificant mean difference between male and female athletes. Male athletes were found to possess slightly more score as compare to female athletes. It is due to fact that both of the athletes want to achieve higher level of performance in the competition. The result may be corroborated with the findings Singh, Ahmad and Hussain (2010). They found the insignificant difference between male and female north zone badminton players in their sports achievement motivation.

The result of the study showed that there was a significant mean difference between male and female athletes in their sensation seeking. Male athletes were found to possess more sensation seeking trait as compared to the female athletes. The finding of the study corroborated with the study of Zuckerman and Neeb (1980), and Murtaza Imran and Zaitoon (2012) wherein they found that male showed the highest level of overall sensation seeking as compare to the female.

Conclusion
On the basis of obtained results it is concluded that an insignificant difference between male and female athletes on their sports achievement motivation and significant difference were found between male and female athletes on their sensation seeking.
References


