A Study of Values in Indian Male Athletes
探討印度男性運動員的價值觀

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Abstract

Values and attitudes are the guiding force of one's behavior. His preferences and priorities are based on his attitudinal leaning which originate from the values prevailing in his close environment. Sport by its nature is a social activity in which large number of people are involved and interact for the shared purpose. Human beings learn to be social beings, because an individual affiliates and reaffiliates with different sports groups, resulting in the change of value system. These observations prompted the author to investigate the values of Indian male athletes. The sample of the study comprised 809 male athletes drawn from 14 different sports disciplines, undergoing regular diploma course at SAI NS NIS Patiala & Gandhinagar. The age of the subjects ranged between 18-30 years and Modernization Scale by Singh et al (1987) standardized on Indian population was administered to collect the data. The results revealed that inter game differences existed in marriage, educational and global values.

摘 要

運動的價值及對運動態度有關的研究多受到社會因素和環境的影響，人類懂得從運動中領略到價值的重要。本文旨在調查印度男性運動員對運動價值的觀點，受訪的809名 18 至 30 歲的男性運動員中，發現他們在婚姻及教育的觀點上出現顯著分別。

Introduction

A society's value system is complex matrix of beliefs, creeds, idols and verities along with behavior arrived through experience and education over a period of time. It is the most distinctive feature of culture, because it becomes society's best means for survival. Systems of value, evolve out of people's traditions, religions and history. For any given society they form the transcendent varieties that give that society its quintessential character.

Barrow and Brown (1998) had remarked. Human beings are separated from their primates and reptilian ancestors not only because of their altruism, compassion and love off spring but by their rationality and capacity to value which leads to psychological commitment.

Values and attitudes are the guiding force for an athlete's behavior. What an athlete does is not merely psycho-physical, but there are various underlying social urges also, which help him mobilizing from one direction to another. It is the value system, which guides him to choose a particular sports activity as his life time athletic pursuit. His preferences and priorities are based on his attitudinal leaning which originate from the values prevailing in his close environment. Moreover, sports being a social phenomenon, demands lot of interaction, travelling and exposure to different places and cultures. One gets, ample opportunity to meet and mix with different people from varied backgrounds and life styles. Hence, there is every possibility that his thinking, habits and values may be influenced accordingly.

The role of sports in society was rightly glorified by Boyle (1963) when he stated that sports as a social institution permeates

and mirrors many levels of society, which influence status, human relations, clothing styles, concepts of heroism and values.

Likewise Snyder and Spreitzer (1989) had asserted 'sports by its nature is microcosm of the society itself.' The values of society are mirrored in its sporting rites, rituals, habits, language, goals and passions. Competitive, aggressive and individualistic societies structure their sports to emphasis the glories of winning and disgrace of loosing. Co-operative, serene and group centered societies play their games to enhance the communal, playful and joyful traits of their social life.

The dynamics of values in sports were studied by Webb (1969), who found the sports related value like sportsmanship getting transformed into win at all cost attitude. Frost (1971) concluded that sports participation had positive influence on values of life. Similarly, Gerber (1972) stated that the athletes do differ in their values from the non-athletes.

The studies of Fraleigh (1998), Sohi and Ikhoya (1990), Meek (1992) and Savage (1993) reflect the importance of values in the field of games and sports. It is surprising to note that the scientific interest in this area of research started quite lately in Indian context, in which only scattered attempts were made by Verma (1980), Singh (1981), Bhullar (1982) Singh et al (1994), Singh (1995). In nutshell, it can be said that the values having direct link with sports performance are a potential area for research and the present investigation is an effort in this direction.

Methodology

Objectives

The objectives of this study were: (a) to explore the values of Indian athletes, and (b) to compare the values prevailing among different categories of athletes. The following hypotheses were being tested:

1. Urban and rural athletes would differ in relation to their values.
2. High and low performance athletes would differ form each other.
3. Individual and team game athletes would differ from each other.
4. There would be inter-sport differences in values.

Subjects

The subjects for the study were drawn from among the regular diploma course trainees of Sports Authority of India,

Netaji Subas National Institute of Sports, Patiala and Gandhi Nagar. The purposive method of sampling was used in which only those subjects who fulfilled the following criteria were included in the study:

1. Subjects falling between the age range of 18-30.
2. Those subjects, who were actively engaged in competitive sports.
3. The subjects who secured first, second or third position in inter university and national level competitions or had represented country in international competitions were considered as high level performers. Those subjects who had just participated in the state, university, inter-university and national level competitions were considered as low level performers.
4. To be considered for urban / rural categories they had to be residing in the urban / rural areas as per government notification.

A total 809 male athletes belonging to 14 sports disciplines of Basketball, Boxing, Football, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Swimming, Track-field, Volleyball, Weight lifting and Wrestling were assessed for the collection of data.

The entire simple was further sub-divided to fulfil the objectives of study as below: Rural (433) vs Urban athletes (375); High level performers (304) vs Low level performers (505); and Individual event (422) vs Team game athletes (387)

Instrument

The Modernization Scale developed by Singh, Tripathi and Lal (1987) was used for assessing the values of subjects. This 32-item scale covers the areas of socio-religious, marriage, position of women, educational and global values. In all areas, low scores indicate less modernization, whereas high scores signify more modernization in the respective value patterns.

Results

Table 1 revealed that on marriage and educational values, rural and urban athletes showed significant differences as their 't' values of 3.29 and 2.29 for marriage and educational variables were found to be significant respectively. Rural and urban athletes also showed significant differences on global values (t = 2.77). The reason to this may be sought in the process of urbanization where the martial and educational matters are gaining new dimensions with the improved life styles and educational reforms. The study

of Singh and Gupta (1983) has also pointed towards the differences and some values being maintained by rural and urban athletes. Thus the hypothesis that rural and urban athletes would differ in their values has been accepted for marriage, educational and global values only.

Table 1. Significance of Mean Differences in Scores of Various Variables of Values between Male Rural and Urban Groups.

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	SE	t
Socio-religious	R	31.7	7.21	0.35	
					1.62
	U	32.52	7.19	0.37	
Marriage	R	33.5	6.07	0.29	
					3.29**
Position of Women	U	34.89	5.95	0.31	
	R	36.19	6.63	0.32	
					0.29
	U	36.33	6.59	0.34	
Educational	R	32.26	6.63	0.32	
					2.29*
	U	33.29	6.17	0.32	
Global Values	R	133.54	18.39	0.88	
					2.77**
	U	137.09	17.92	0.92	

R = Rural (n=433)   *Significant at .05 level
U = Urban (n=376)   **Significant at .01 level

Table 2. Significance of Mean Differences in Scores of Various Variables of Values between Male High and Low Performance Groups.

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	SE	t
Socio-religious	H	31.51	6.89	0.39	
					1.75
	L	32.43	7.38	0.33	
Marriage	H	34.25	6.05	0.35	
					0.60
	L	33.98	6.06	0.27	
Position of Women	H	36.32	6.93	0.39	
					0.34
	L	36.16	6.41	0.28	
Educational	H	31.96	6.56	0.37	
					2.68**
	L	33.21	6.32	0.28	
Global Values	H	133.89	18.37	1.05	
					1.57
	L	135.97	18.15	0.81	

H = High (n=304)
L = Low (n=505)
** Significant at .01 level

In Table 2 values of high and low performers are compared in which both categories did not show any significant differences an global values and its various variables except educational values, where in low level performers expressed more concern for modernization in educational settings. It may be reflection of their longings to improve upon the existing educational system. They have a desire to come up as they might have been experiencing less opportunity as being availed by their high level performance counterparts. The findings of Neil et al (1981) and Stevenson (1985) are also in agreement with the present investigation. Hence the hypothesis that high and low level performers would differ in their values is accepted in educational area only and rejected in socio-religious, marriage, position of women and global values.

Table 3. Significance of Mean Difference in Scores of Various Variables of Values between Individual and Team Game Male Athletes.

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	SE	t
Socio-religious	I	32.01	7.16	0.35	
					0.30
	T	32.16	7.27	0.37	
Marriage	I	34.31	5.95	0.29	
					0.80
	T	33.97	6.17	0.31	
Position of Women	I	36.61	6.46	0.31	
					0.56
	T	35.88	6.75	0.64	
Educational	I	32.49	6.65	0.32	
					1.15
	T	33.01	6.18	0.31	
Global Values	I	135.41	17.65	0.86	
					0.36
	T	134.95	18.90	0.96	

I = Individual (n=422)
T = Team (n=387)

It can be observed from Table 3 that male athletes belonging to individual and team games did not differ significantly on global values and its variables. The findings that one may consider individual and team games as separate sport groups by their format, rules and regulations and constitution, but psychologically they remain same as far as their values are concerned. Singh (1995) found team game players to be more modern on educational values. However, similarities were reported on socio-religious, marriage, position of women and global values. Thus they hypothesizes that individual and team game athletes would differ is rejected.

Table 4. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on Scores of Value Variables for Male Groups of All Games.

Variable	Source	DF	SS	MS	F
Socio-religious	B	13	1110.35	85.41	1.66
	W	795	40881.93	51.42	
Marriage	B	13	1022.54	78.66	2.19*
	W	795	28590.36	35.96	
Position of Women	B	13	784.33	60.33	1.39
	W	795	34499.64	43.39	
Educational	B	13	2639.39	203.07	5.24**
	W	795	30822.59	38.77	
Global Values	B	13	8963.65	689.51	2.11*
	W	795	260121.65	327.19	

*Significant at .05 level
**Significant at .01 level

Table 4 indicated significant differences among various sports groups on marriage, educational and global values as their 'F' ratios (2.19, 5.24 and 2.11 respectively) were found to be significant. On the other variables such as socio-religious and position of women, the 'F' ratios of 1.66 and 1.39 were found non-significant indicating thereby no differences on these particular values.

On findings 'F' ratios significant in case of marriage, educational and global values the post hoc 't' test was applied to find out the significant differences among these groups. The post hoc test results in the form of 't' matrices have been presented in the Table 6 to 8. The Means and SD's of these groups are given in Table 5.

Discussions

Inter-Game Differences in Values

Marriage Values

The 't' matrix presented in Table 4 depicted the intergame differences in the scores of marriage values prevailing among different sports disciplines. The handball was found to be possessing highest level of traditionalism and differed from most of the other groups. Contrarily, swimming group revealed the highest

level of modernization on his variable. The hockey, Judo and Kabaddi players did not differ significantly with any of the sports groups taken for investigation.

Educational Values

The inter group differences shown in Table 7 indicated that the basketball group differed significantly from football, handball, judo, kabaddi, kho-kho, track & field and wrestling by maintaining the highest level of modernism on educational values. On the other hand judo has showed significant differences with, basketball, boxing, football, gymnastics, hockey, swimming, track and field, volleyball and weight lifting by showing the lowest level of modernism in educational values among these groups.

Global Values

Inter game differences on the variable of global values presented in 't' matrix (Table 8) revealed that Gymnastics group possessed the highest level of modernism and differed from most of the groups taken for investigation, whereas wrestlers were found to be must traditional in their out look an global values. Kho-Kho players were found to be similar in their global values to all the groups explored in the study.

The findings on inter game difference in values revealed that on the socio-religious and position of women, no differences were found. On the other hand, various sports groups differed significantly in the values of marriage and education. Additionally there were differences even on the global values among different groups of athletes. This picture might be due to the expression of the influence of various game situations with in which the athlete functions. However, the cause effect relationship can only be established, by investigating the problem further. Studies to this effect have been conducted by Lakie (1962) Richarson (1962) and Verma (1980).

Conclusions

1. Urban athletes are having more modern outlook towards marriage, education & global values than rural athletes.
2. Both rural & urban athletes share similarities in their socio-religious & position of women values.
3. Low level performers are more modern in educational out look than their high performance counter parts.
4. There are no differences existing between high & low level performers on socio-religious, marriage, position of women & global values.
5. Both individual & team game athletes are possessing similar outlook on all the variables of values.

6. Inter sport differences are existing on marriage, education & global values among various groups.

(a) Handball group is maintaining traditional values towards marriage, whereas swimming group has more modern outlook on this particular variable.

(b) Basket-balers are more modern towards educational values, whereas Kabaddi players are having traditional out look in this respect.

(c) Gymnasts are globally more modern among all sports discipline, on the contrary wrestlers are the most traditional group.

Implications

Coaches & trainers should always keep in mind that values influence the behavior of athletes heavily in their dealings in training & competition – separate treatment should be given to the athletes as per their value system.

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Table 5. Gamewise Means and SDs of Male Athletes on Values.

Sr. No	Game	N	SRV		MRV		PWV		EDV		GLV	
			Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
1.	Basketball	74	32.54	7.84	35.09	6.17	35.79	7.43	34.92	6.36	138.54	21.24
2.	Boxing	31	33.11	7.03	35.08	5.43	35.11	5.64	33.80	6.38	137.27	15.54
3.	Football	93	31.68	6.73	34.73	6.24	36.29	6.70	32.51	6.00	135.02	16.56
4.	Gymnastics	45	33.66	7.16	35.93	5.34	37.62	6.88	34.84	5.53	141.97	15.16
5.	Handball	46	32.08	7.81	32.04	6.75	35.36	6.98	31.71	6.31	131.21	19.77
6.	Hockey	67	30.71	7.18	34.11	6.17	35.58	5.83	34.02	6.15	134.29	20.28
7.	Judo	43	30.13	6.44	34.25	5.57	36.88	7.37	29.23	6.68	130.32	18.55
8.	Kabaddi	27	34.07	7.67	33.60	5.98	36.40	7.46	28.88	4.92	133.00	18.41
9.	Kho-kho	27	35.33	5.88	32.96	6.06	34.74	6.51	31.25	5.92	134.66	17.19
10.	Swimming	55	33.01	7.55	36.34	6.57	37.00	5.50	33.87	5.74	140.20	19.00
11.	Track & Field	97	31.61	7.18	33.38	6.33	37.83	6.45	32.64	7.20	134.82	19.46
12.	Volley Ball	53	32.00	7.18	33.18	5.56	36.43	6.71	34.24	5.96	135.75	18.56
13.	Weight Lifting	53	32.28	7.67	33.47	5.50	34.35	7.00	33.09	5.50	133.20	15.49
14.	Wrestling	68	30.64	6.63	32.92	5.67	36.77	5.98	29.73	6.61	129.22	15.55

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TABLES & FIGURES:

BBL = Basketball	BOX = Boxing	FBL = Football	GYM = Gymnastics	HBL = Handball
HKY = Hockey	JUD = Judo	KBD = Kabaddi	KHK = Kho-kho	SWM = Swimming
TAF = Track & Field	VBL = Volley Ball	WTL = Weight Lifting	WRL = Wrestling	MRV = Marriage values
PWV = Position of Women values		EDV = Education values		GLV = Global values

Table 6. Inter Games Differences in Values.

	BBL	BOX	FBL	GYM	HBL	HKY	JUD	KBD	KHK	SWM	TAF	VBL	WTL	SRL
BBL	-	0.01	0.37	0.75	2.53*	0.93	0.73	1.08	1.54	1.10	1.77	1.78	1.52	2.17*
BOX	-	-	0.35	0.80	2.57*	0.93	0.75	1.14	1.62	1.13	1.73	1.83	1.56	2.19*
FBL	-	-	-	1.10	2.33*	0.61	0.42	0.84	1.30	1.49	1.48	1.49	1.22	1.88
GYM	-	-	-	-	3.04**	1.60	1.44	1.72	2.17*	0.33	2.34*	2.47*	2.23*	2.82*
HBL	-	-	-	-	-	1.69	1.67	0.98	0.58	3.23**	1.15	0.92	1.15	0.75
HKY	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.11	0.37	0.82	1.92	0.74	0.85	0.59	1.16
JUD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.47	0.91	1.66	0.78	0.93	0.69	1.21
KBD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.38	1.83	0.15	0.29	0.09	0.50
KHK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.24*	0.30	0.16	0.37	0.02
SWM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.73**	2.68**	2.45*	3.09**
TAF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.18	0.08	0.47
VBL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.26	0.25
WTL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.53
WRL														

*Significant at .05 level   **Significant at .01 level

Table 7. Inter Game Differences in Educational Values.

	BBL	BOX	FBL	GYM	HBL	HKY	JUD	KBD	KHK	SWM	TAF	VBL	WTL	SRL
BBL	-	1.01	2.51*	0.06	2.68**	0.84	4.57**	4.45**	2.60*	0.96	2.14*	0.60	1.68	4.75**
BOX	-	-	1.27	0.87	1.68	0.20	3.52**	3.55**	1.76	0.06	1.02	0.38	0.63	3.54**
FBL	-	-	-	2.19*	0.72	1.56	2.86**	2.86**	0.95	1.35	0.14	1.68	0.58	2.78**
GYM	-	-	-	-	2.51*	0.71	4.29**	4.60**	2.59*	0.85	1.80	0.51	1.56	4.28**
HBL	-	-	-	-	-	1.94	1.80	1.99	0.30	1.79	0.75	2.04*	1.15	1.59
HKY	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.85**	3.86**	1.99*	0.14	1.27	0.19	0.86	3.90**
JUD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.23	1.28	3.69**	2.64*	3.88**	3.10**	0.38
KBD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.59	3.86**	2.54*	4.01**	3.34**	0.60
KHK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.91	0.91	2.12*	1.37	1.04
SWM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.07	0.33	0.71	3.65**
TAF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.37	0.39	2.64**
VBL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.03	3.88**
WTL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.97**
WRL														

*Significant at .05 level　　　　　　**Significant at .01 level

Table 8. Inter Game Differences in Global Values.

	BBL	BOX	FBL	GYM	HBL	HKY	JUD	KBD	KHK	SWM	TAF	VBL	WTL	SRL
BBL	-	0.39	1.20	0.94	1.88	1.20	2.10*	1.19	0.85	0.45	1.18	0.76	1.55	2.96**
BOX	-	-	0.84	1.55	1.77	0.92	2.06	1.11	0.69	0.91	0.82	0.47	1.39	2.93**
FBL	-	-	-	2.37*	1.19	0.24	1.18	0.54	0.009	0.74	0.07	0.24	0.65	2.25*
GYM	-	-	-	-	2.90*	216*	3.23**	2.24**	1.88	0.50	2.17*	1.79	2.81**	4.30**
HBL	-	-	-	-	-	0.80	0.21	0.38	0.75	2.32*	1.02	1.17	0.56	0.60
HKY	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.03	0.28	0.08	1.64	0.16	0.40	0.32	1.63
JUD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.58	0.97	2.57*	1.27	1.42	0.82	0.33
KBD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.34	1.62	0.43	0.62	0.05	1.01
KHK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.27	0.03	0.25	0.38	1.49
SWM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.64	1.22	2.09*	3.52**
TAF	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.28	0.52	1.97
VBL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.76	2.10*
WTL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.40
WRL														

*Significant at .05 level　　　　　　**Significant at .01 level