STUDY OF PERSONALITY OF FOOTBALL PLAYERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the study was to analyses the personality differences among football players at different levels of participation. For the purpose of the study 216 football players were selected as subjects who had won first four positions in Panjabi University Inter-college tournament, All India Inter University and National level football championships. The criteria measure adopted for the present study for selected psychological variables was ----Personality was assessed with NEO Personality Inventory developed by Paul T Costa, Jr and Robert R Mccrea, was used to assess the personality of football players at different levels of participation. The data was analysed by using Descriptive Statistics and TWO WAY analysis of variance methods to assess and compare selected psychological variable of first four positions at three different levels of performance. The data collected during the Punjabi university Inter college tournament, All India Inter University and National level tournament and psychological questionnaire were administered on the subjects for psychological characteristics. On the basis of the finding of the study it was revealed that insignificant differences were found between mean among the three groups at three different levels of competition in relation to personality.

Key Words: Personality, Players and Football.

INTRODUCTION:

To an ordinary person the word personality conveys the meaning of one's physical appearance, his habits, his ways of dressing up, his manners and other similar characteristics., The human personality is a marvellously intricate structure, delicately woven of motives, emotions, habits and thoughts into a pattern that balances the pulls and pushes of the world outside. Personality is a total sum of a person's 'being' and includes physical, mental, social, emotional, and intellectual aspects. One's personality reflects his perception, imagination, attitude, instincts, habits, values, interests, and sentiments about himself and his self-worth. Intelligence, achievement motivation, modes of adjustment... all these and much more constitute human personality.

In recent years, there has been an increasing amount of attention to the inter-relationships of personality variables and psychological factors with a player's performance. Most of this work

has been concerned with delineating personality traits of players, differentiating among individuals by sports and level of success etc. Studies of measurement of personality traits of players are vital, if we are to secure the information needed by sports psychologists and coaches, who are charged with responsibility for selection, counselling and also the training of the players for competition.

Personality assessment has always been an area of interest to psychologists. In recent years, the study of measurement of the personality traits of players has become a popular topic of sports psychology research. One of the goals of this research has been to ascertain the role of players' personality in successful competition. So, the player's personality has become important in the success of any sport. Psychologists have developed ways to measure personality that can help us to understand personality traits of the players. Many psychologists distinguish between an individual's typical style of behaving (traits) and the situation's effect on behavior (states). This distinction between psychological traits and behavioural states has been critical in the development of personality research in sports.

During 1960s and 1970s more than 1000 studies were done on sports personalities; reported in various quarters of globe but unfortunately with far from consistent results and conclusions. Some reviewers of sports personality research such as Martens (1975) came to the conclusion that general trait measures are worthless for

The purpose of predicting relevant sport behaviour. A contrasting viewpoint has been defended by Morgan (1980) who argues that existing research favourable to the hypothesis that traits are useful was excluded from those pessimistic reviews, and he presents optimistic evidence that "elite players display unique personality characteristics.

Personality reveals the psychological make-up of an individual through his behaviour. In fact, it is the quality of a person's behaviour. Personality is a dynamic and continuous process of learning in which the individual acquires the typical modes of responses. The word personality is used to consider all the factors, inherited or acquired, which make up an individual. It is a total sum of what one is (his psychological makeup), one's typical response patterns (to adjust in the

environment or how one responds to the world around him), and behaviour patterns (how one behaves differently in different situations)

PROCEDURE:

The aim of the study is to analyze the personality differences among football players at different levels of participation. For the purpose of the study, 191 football players were selected as subjects (male) who had won first four positions in Punjabi University Inter-College Tournament, All India Intervarsity and National level football championship.

A research tool plays a major role in any research as it is the accurate conclusion about the problem or the study undertaken, which ultimately, helps in providing suitable remedial measures to the problem concerned. The following tools have been used to collect data. NEO Personality Inventory by Paul T Costa, jr and Robert R. Mccrea has been used to assess the personality of football players at different levels of participation. NEO Personality Inventory was constructed by Paul T. Costa, Jr and Robert R.McCre . The test consisted of 60 items in the form of questionnaire which was to be answered keeping in view the situation. Each point was rated on 5 point scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

METHOD OF SCORING:

The material required for scoring include a NEO inventories manual, one form-s reusable test booklet and one feedback sheet per respondent. It is a self-report, quick, reliable and accurate measure of 5 domains. The manual reports that administration of the full version should take between 30 and 40 minutes. Costa and McCrae report that the assessment should not be evaluated if there are more than 40 items missing. They also state that despite the fact that the assessment is 'balanced' to control for the effects of acquiescence and nay-saying, that if more than 150 responses or less than 50 responses 'agree' or 'strongly agree', the results should be interpreted with caution. The domain scores are reported in T scores and are recorded visually as compared to the appropriate norm group, much like other measures of personality.

STATISTICAL DESIGN:

The statistical analysis of the data was performed on computer. At the first stage mean and standard deviation were calculated for all the variables and at the second stage ANNOVA was applied to find out the difference between Intercollege, Interuniversity and national level players for their personality.

RELIABILITY OF THE TEST:

The' Test Retest' method was used to verify the reliability of the three tests selected for the study. It was found that the reliability co-efficient of correlation was above 0.5. Hence it was concluded that the three tests were reliable and suitable for the present study considering the players.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND RESULTS OF THE STUDY:

The data pertaining to psychological characteristics i.e. personality of 191 subjects at different levels of competition of male players were gathered for the purpose of the study. The data pertaining to the variables in the study were statistically examined by using one way analysis of variance (ANNOVA). The level of significance was fixed at 0.05 level.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

The data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics and one way analysis of variance method to find out differences between Intercollege, Intervarsity and national level players in the personality. Findings are presented below in tabular form:-

Table I

Descriptive statistics of Intercollege, Nationals and Intervarsity level competitions in relation to Personality.

Competition level	Mean	Standard deviation
Intercollege	123.71	8.322
Nationals	122.49	9.105
Intervarsity	122.30	12.525

Table I revealed mean and standard deviation at three different levels of competitions i.e intercollege, nationals and intervarsity. Mean scores at Intercollege, Nationals and Intervarsity levels have been found 123.71, 122.49 and 122.30 respectively. The standard deviation scores at Intercollege, nationals and intervarsity levels have been found 8.322, 9.105 and 12.525 respectively.

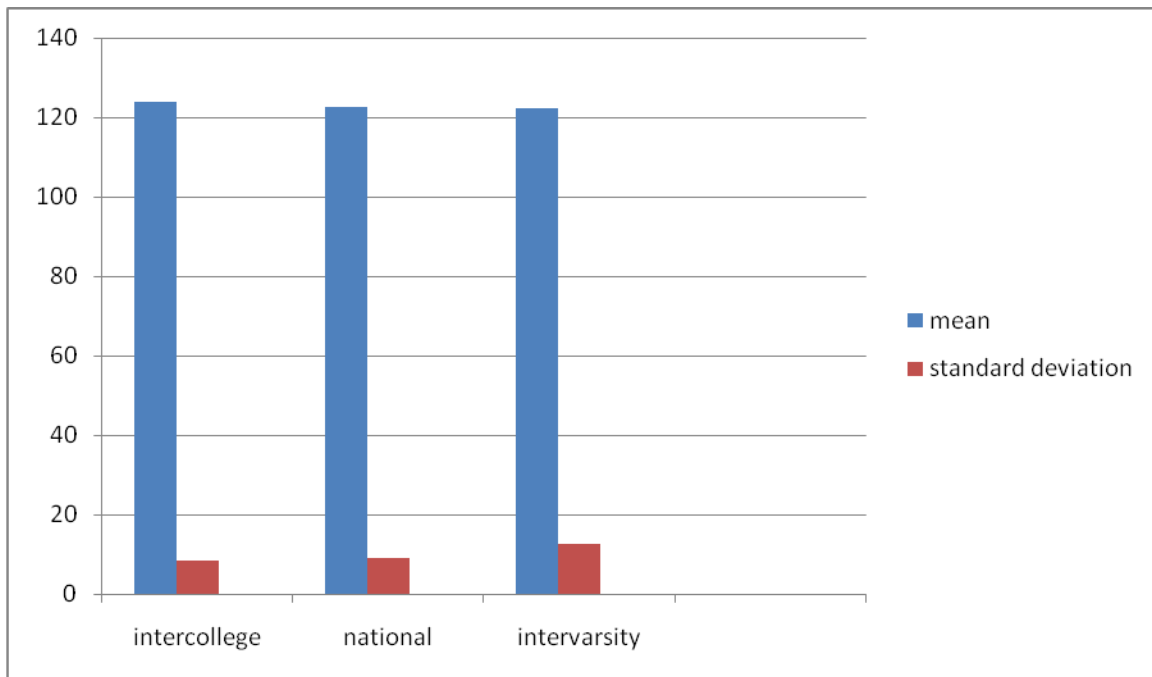Figure I:- Comparison of Personality at different levels of competition.

Table II

Analysis of variance for the comparison at three different levels

in relation to Personality.

Source of variance	Type III sum of squares	df	Mean square	f	Sig.
Between groups	71.160	2	35.580	.336	.715

*significant at 0.05 level.

f- value required to be significant at 189 df =2.99

Table II revealed that insignificant difference existed among the three groups at three different levels of competition in relation to personality at 0.05 level since f-value of .336 was found lower than the required value 2.99 at 189df.

Since, insignificant difference was found between the means of Intercollege, Nationals and Intervarsity level players in relation to personality, LSD post hoc test was applied for based means.

Table III

LSD post hoc test for the comparison of paired means of three different levels in relation to personality.

Competition level	Std. error	Mean difference	Sig.
Intercollege - Nationals	1.873	1.21	.810
Intercollege - Intervarsity	1.827	1.41	.744
National-Intervarsity	1.787	.19	.994

*Significant at 0.05 levels

Table III revealed that insignificant difference existed between the mean scores of Intercollege and Nationals, Intercollege and Intervarsity and National and Intervarsity level.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS:

In the present study, insignificant difference existed among the three groups at three different levels of competition in relation to personality.

Gurdev Singh and Nishan Singh Deol (2009) conducted the study: "A study of personality characteristics of cyclists at various level of performance." The interuniversity cycling riders

were found to be significant better than the inter college cycling riders. The comparison of inter-college and inter district cycling riders were not found to be significant, the inter-university cycling riders were found to be significant better than the inter district cycling riders.

The study also revealed that significant difference was found at the different levels of competition in relation to achievement motivation.

Sharma (2006) conducted a study to compare the psychological and kinanthropometric variables of handball female players of different levels of competition. She found that motivation level of national and intervarsity level players has been found more than those of state and intercollege female handball players.

In this study, insignificant difference has been found at three different levels of competitions between three groups in relation to state anxiety.

Chaudhary and singh (2004) conducted a study on the topic "psychological responses of Indian judokas as function of age and weight categories" results revealed that insignificant difference was found among weight categories and age groups in case of anxiety.

CONCLUSIONS :

On the basis of the findings following conclusions are drawn.

    1. Insignificant differences were found between mean among the three groups at three different levels of competition.

    2. Insignificant difference existed between the mean scores of Intercollege and National, Intercollege and Intervarsity and National and Intervarsity level.

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