



A Comparative Study Of Sports Aggression In Urban And Rural Tribal Athletes Of Jharkhand

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to compare sports aggression in urban and rural tribal athletes of Jharkhand. A sample of 50 urban tribal male athletes, 50 urban tribal female athletes, 50 rural tribal male athletes and 50 rural tribal female athletes respectively were selected. The urban tribal athletes were selected from Khelgaon, Ranchi Jharkhand. The rural tribal athletes were selected based on their place of residence in remote areas of Jharkhand. The average age of the tribal athletes was 16.72 years and the sample selection was conducted through random sampling. Sports aggression was measured through SAI constructed by Anand Kumar and Prem Shankar Shukla (1998). The results reveal that urban tribal male athletes were more aggressive than rural tribal male athletes as per a statistical significance level of .01. It was also found that sports aggression in urban tribal female athletes was significantly higher than in rural tribal female athletes ($p < .01$). It was concluded that urban tribal athletes exhibit more magnitude of aggression than rural tribal athletes and could be attributed to certain factors namely urban-rural living conditions, increased competition or varied social-environmental influences.

Keywords: Sports aggression, tribal, urban, rural, athletes, Jharkhand

INTRODUCTION

In sports, aggression is usually defined as physical or verbal conduct or behaviour to harm an opponent or to gain an advantage. Aggression has many forms including physical/verbal abuse or even intimidation. Sometimes unsportsmanlike behaviour is also seen in aggressive behaviour.

Aggression can be healthy and reflects a normal manifestation of competitive behaviour during play that motivates or inspires an athlete to obtain his/her maximum potential. However, aggression becomes harmful when players' conduct violates the rules of the sport and overflows into violent or abusive behaviour. Instances of violent behaviour that is harmful to sports performance can be found in the history of sports with examples of Zinedine Zidane's headbutt in 2006, Mike Tyson's ear-biting incident in 1997 or Luis Suarez's (2014) biting incident in soccer. All these behaviour by sportspersons had detrimental effects on team and

individual performances. Aggression in sports can be hostile or instrumental. Although both are forms of aggression their motive and objectives are entirely different. Silva (1983) also provided two forms of aggression i.e. hostile and instrumental respectively.

Hostile aggression refers to aggressive behaviour, actions or conduct motivated by anger or frustration to harm the opponent. Hostile aggression in sports can be verbal sledging or physical taunts or another unsportsmanlike attitude. Hostile aggression aims to physically dominate the opponent or psychologically destroy an opponent. Conversely, instrumental aggression is a type of aggressiveness/assertiveness that achieves some goals. In sports strategic fouls, time-wasting or physically blocking a player within rules are some forms of instrumental aggression in sports. In a way, instrumental aggression is aimed towards achieving certain results in sport without harming the opponent either physically or psychologically. In a game of soccer, when a player uses physical contact within permissible rules to snatch a ball from an opponent is a kind of instrumental aggression. Baron and Richardson (1994) defined aggression as any kind of act or behaviour directed toward the goal of harming or injuring while another person trying to avoid it. Although the general theory purports that aggression is a negative psychological construct and creates deterrence in sports performance; some others like Widmeyer and Birch (1984) believe that it can motivate a sportsperson to improve his performance but Bredemeier (1994) considered it as assertive behaviour. Aggression in sports is a complex phenomenon and is affected by various factors and it is essential to make the distinction between facilitative and non-facilitative forms of aggression. Some magnitude of aggression is essential for healthy competition because it involves the will to win, assertiveness and determination to succeed. Some physicality is also an integral part of some sport like soccer and rugby and a player need some level of physicality to excel at the highest level.

Several factors such as personality traits, cognitive appraisal, attribution of intent, level of competition, medal-winning match, testosterone level, role models, stress, pressure and culture norms etc. affect aggression in sports and one of the factors is urban-rural belongingness. Although tribal sportspersons from both urban and rural India have excelled in sports it is essential to know the difference in sports aggression in urban and rural tribal sportspersons. Jharkhand State of India is home to 32 scheduled tribes. Jharkhand is a tribal-dominated state and among states, it is ranked sixth in terms of scheduled tribe population in India. According to estimates, 91.7% of the tribes reside in rural areas and no surprise majority of the athletes come from the rural belt. However, some percentage of the scheduled tribe population can also be traced to urban areas. So far no study has been conducted in which sports aggression in tribal athletes of Jharkhand has been explored in the light of their urban-rural belongingness. Hence the present study was planned.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shabani et al. (2007) reported that unstable moods and emotions increase aggressive behaviour in sportsmen.

Quadri and Dhonde (2012) in their study reported that aggressive behaviour was considerably and significantly high in kabaddi sportsmen from low SES.

Agashe and Shambharkar (2014) reported that the magnitude of hostile behaviour in tribal players was significantly elevated than in non-tribal players.

Mohammad and Hasan (2015) reported that All-India female hockey participants were much more aggressive than inter-university/collegiate-level players.

Singh and Dubey (2015) found that sportswomen coming from urban regions are more likely to show hostility as compared to sportswomen coming from rural backgrounds.

Satyanarayana (2017) reported that urban athletes were more aggressive than semi-urban and rural athletes

Gyanendra Bhai and Chaurasiya (2021) reported that hot-headedness or hostility shown by female hockey players was higher in third-position team members while least in gold medal-winning teams.

Balugade (2021) reported no meaningful disparity in aggression between the two groups of sportswomen from urban and rural colleges.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the study was to compare sports aggression in urban and rural tribal athletes of Jharkhand.

METHODOLOGY

Sample: -

A sample of 50 urban tribal male athletes, 50 urban tribal female athletes, 50 rural tribal male athletes and 50 rural tribal female athletes respectively were selected for this study. The urban tribal athletes were selected from Khelgaon, Ranchi Jharkhand. The rural tribal athletes were selected based on their place of residence in remote areas of Jharkhand. The average age of the tribal athletes was 16.72 years and the sample selection was conducted through random sampling.

Tools:

Sports Aggression Inventory:

Sports aggression was measured through SAI constructed by Anand Kumar and Prem Shankar Shukla (1998). The inventory has 25 items with responses to be given either as Yes or No. 01 mark given to correct answer. The range of scores for this inventory is 0 to 25 and the higher the score, the higher the sports aggression is the interpretation. This inventory is highly reliable and valid.

Procedure:

- 50 urban tribal male athletes, 50 urban tribal female athletes, 50 rural tribal male athletes and
- 50 rural tribal female athletes were selected from Jharkhand taking consideration for the objectives of the study.
- Sports aggression inventory was administered to selected athletes through online and offline modes.
- The scoring was completed as suggested in the manual provided with the inventory.
- The data is entered in an Excel sheet and coding is given to each study group.
- An independent sample 't' test was preferred to analyze the said data.

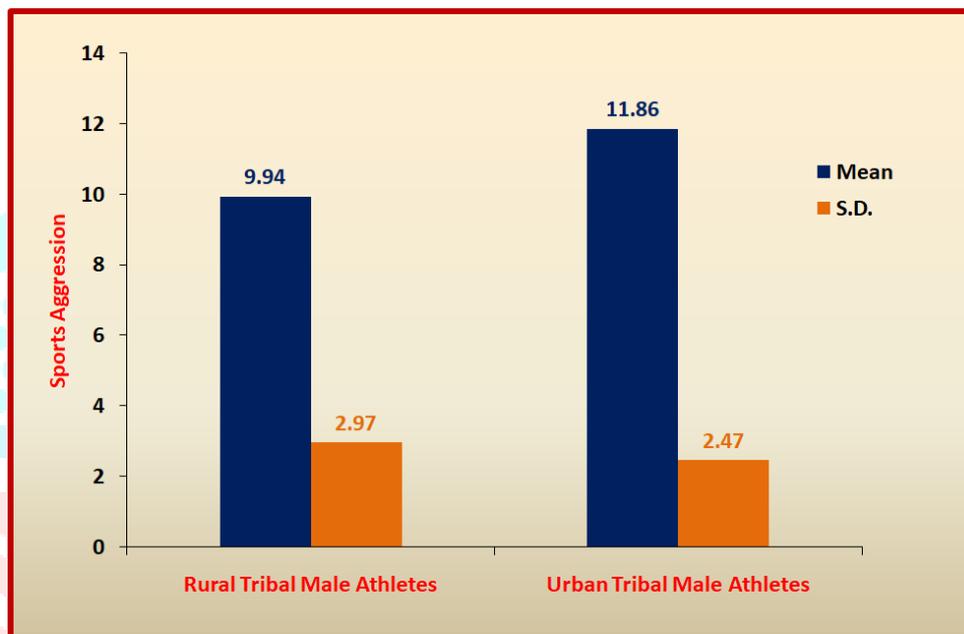
RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

An independent-sample t-test was performed to compare the sports aggression of rural and urban tribal male athletes. The same is reported in table 1.

Table 1**Comparison of Sports Aggression between Rural and Urban Tribal Male Athletes**

Groups	Sports Aggression			Mean Difference	't'
	Mean	Std. Error Mean	S.D.		
Rural Tribal Male Athletes (N=50)	9.94	0.42	2.97	1.92	3.50 p<.01
Urban Tribal Male Athletes (N=50)	11.86	0.34	2.47		

t(df=98) = 2.63 at p<.01

Figure 1**Sports Aggression in Rural and Urban Tribal Male Athletes**

Results in table 1 indicated a significant difference in sports aggression exhibited by rural tribal male athletes (M = 9.94, SE of M = 0.42, S.D. = 2.97) and urban tribal male athletes (M = 9.94, SE of M = 0.42, S.D. = 2.97).

The $t=3.50$ indicates that urban tribal male athletes are more aggressive than rural tribal male athletes as per the statistical significance level of .01.

An independent-sample t-test was performed to compare sports aggression in rural and urban tribal female athletes. The same is reported in table 2.

Table 2

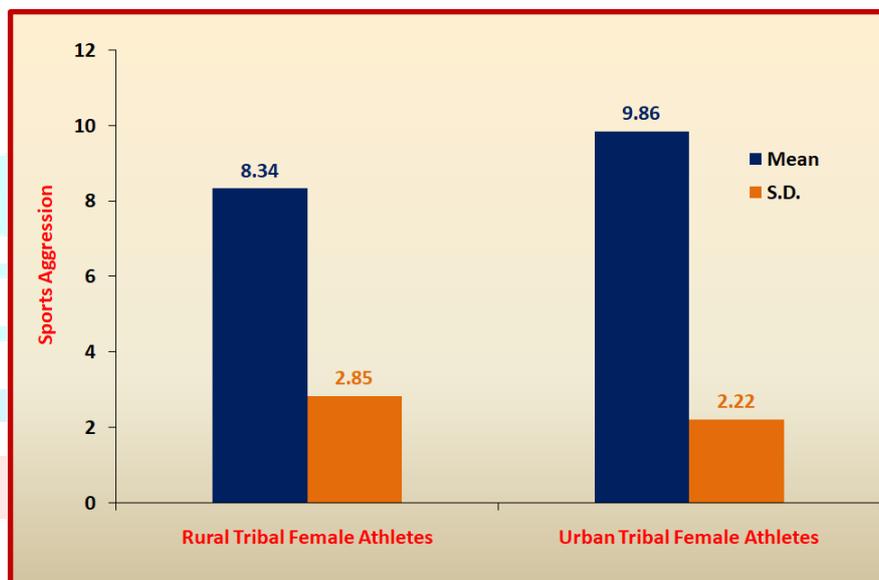
Comparison of Sports Aggression between Rural and Urban Tribal Female Athletes

Groups	Sports Aggression			Mean Difference	't'
	Mean	Std. Error Mean	S.D.		
Rural Tribal Female Athletes (N=50)	8.34	0.40	2.85	1.52	2.97 p<.01
Urban Tribal Female Athletes (N=50)	9.86	0.31	2.22		

t(df=98) = 2.63 at p<.01

Figure 2

Sports Aggression in Rural and Urban Tribal Female Athletes



Results in table 2 indicated a significant difference in sports aggression in rural tribal female athletes (M = 8.34, SE of M = 0.40, S.D. = 2.85) and urban tribal female athletes (M = 9.86, SE of M = 0.31, S.D. = 2.22). The t=2.97 indicates that sports aggression in urban tribal female athletes is significantly higher than in rural tribal female athletes (p<.01).

The study implies that urban tribal male athletes are more aggressive than rural tribal male athletes. This could be attributed to certain factors namely urban-rural living conditions, increased competition or varied social-environmental influences. For female athletes, the result is the same and may arise due to urban lifestyle and separate societal expectations for females in rural communities. Singh and Dubey (2015) and Satyanarayana (2017) reported findings on similar lines.

CONCLUSION:

Urban tribal male athletes from Jharkhand display significantly higher levels of aggression in sports than rural tribal male athletes from Jharkhand. Urban tribal female athletes from Jharkhand display significantly higher levels of aggression in sports than rural tribal male athletes from Jharkhand.

Based on the findings it can be concluded that aggression in tribal athletes of Jharkhand does differ based on their urban-rural place of living. The study propagates further research to analyse the factors that contribute to the difference in the level of aggression in urban and rural tribal athletes of Jharkhand.

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