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Level of superstition among male and female sportsperson

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Abstract

Through this study, the researcher is trying to assess the level of superstition among sportsperson of Delhi University and compare the difference of superstition between male and female athletes of Delhi University. For the proposed study 60 people (30 male and 30 female) of age 17years to 25years from Indira Gandhi institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, who had participated in intercollege level were selected using purposive and systematic sampling. For this manual of Superstition by L.N. Dubey (1988) was used by the researcher as the standardized tool for the study. To obtain Descriptive stats SPSS software is used. The result shows that 83.3% female sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious followed by male sportsperson with 73.3% on highly non-superstitious category, 23.3% male sportsperson was found to be non-superstitious, 16.6% female sportsperson were found to be non-superstitious and only 3.3% male players were found on moderate superstition No female sportsperson was found in on moderate category whereas no sportsperson was found on highly superstitious and superstitious category. T-test was computed for comparison of selected variables with two groups that is male and female sportsperson. The level of significance was set at 0.05. The result reveals that the dependent variable (superstition) was not significantly different between male and female sportsperson. The study concluded that Majority of female sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious, Male sportsperson was found to be less highly non-superstitious as compared to female sportsperson, No difference was found between male and female sportsperson on the variable superstition, When compared on the non-superstitious category male scored higher than that of female sportsperson, No sportsperson was found to fall on the superstitious and highly superstitious category, It may also be concluded that gender does not influence superstitions.

Keywords: Superstition, sportsperson, male, female, SPSS

Introduction

The role of superstitious rituals in sports is not new it goes as far back as the beginning of this century. Gardiner (1925) ^[10] had already observed the use of superstitious behavior in athletes. Malinowski (1927) ^[11] suggested that rituals occur primarily the condition of uncertainty or chance and occur throughout cultures in an athletic environment where one can sustain a career ending injury in one minute and rise to the heights of individual or team performance to the next uncertainty is the rule in such case. Ritualistic behaviors are hypothesized to be used to decrease an athlete's entirety and increase perceived chance of success (Womack, 1992) ^[12]. The term superstition means the tendency to direct one's behavior with an irrational and mysterious fear or to gain privilege from the supernatural power. Most people today indignantly denies that they are superstitious, but do their denials always ring true? Superstitions are very much alive in the modern day. It is surprising that the deep-seated, human hopes, fears and desires are the roots of many old beliefs. However as much as we believe on being progressive or scientific, host of practices are still common to bring good luck and avoid evil (Bleak 1998) ^[6].

Through the strong oral tradition of locker room, superstition tends to be passed down from one generation to another. Challenged by the fear of misfortune, injuries and losing athletes reach the pinnacle edge to suffice, their required potential in a competition.

Through the fear that an athlete might have been forced to hold back and never reach maximum skill needed to achieve, some athletes turn to the superstition. They do so, in order to relieve pressure and convince themselves that results are predetermined and thus take out the fear from unknown. Usually developed by accident superstition arises when an athlete or team performs good or bad and then tries to establish the cause and effect by reviewing the events of the day. In the proposed study, the researcher is trying to assess the level of superstition among sportsperson of Delhi University and compare the difference of superstition between male and female athletes of Delhi University. It is hypothesized that the superstition would be significantly different between Male and female athlete.

Methodology

For the proposed study 60 people (30 male and 30 female) of age 17years to 25years from Indira Gandhi institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, who had participated in intercollege level were selected using purposive and systematic sampling. Manual for Superstition by L.N. Dubey (1988) was used by the researcher as the

standardized tool for the study. The reliability of the tool was 0.82, and validity was 0.73.

Procedure

Researcher requested the sportsperson for their corporation in collection of the data. Required information was given to the subjects before administration of the test, the overall purpose of the study was explained to the subjects. The subjects were asked to read all the instruction given in the questionnaire and fill the required information in the space available before starting the questionnaire. An appropriate environment was provided to the subjects to allow them to concentrate over the questionnaire.

Statistical Techniques

Keeping in view the objectives of the study and the hypothesis mean, standard deviation and t test score were obtained using the SPSS software. For better understanding, graphical illustration of the findings was drawn using MS Excel.

Result

Table 1: Level of superstition among male sportsperson

Category	Highly Superstitious	Superstitious	Moderate	Non-Superstitious	Highly Non-Superstitious
Percentage	0%	0%	3.30%	23.30%	73.30%

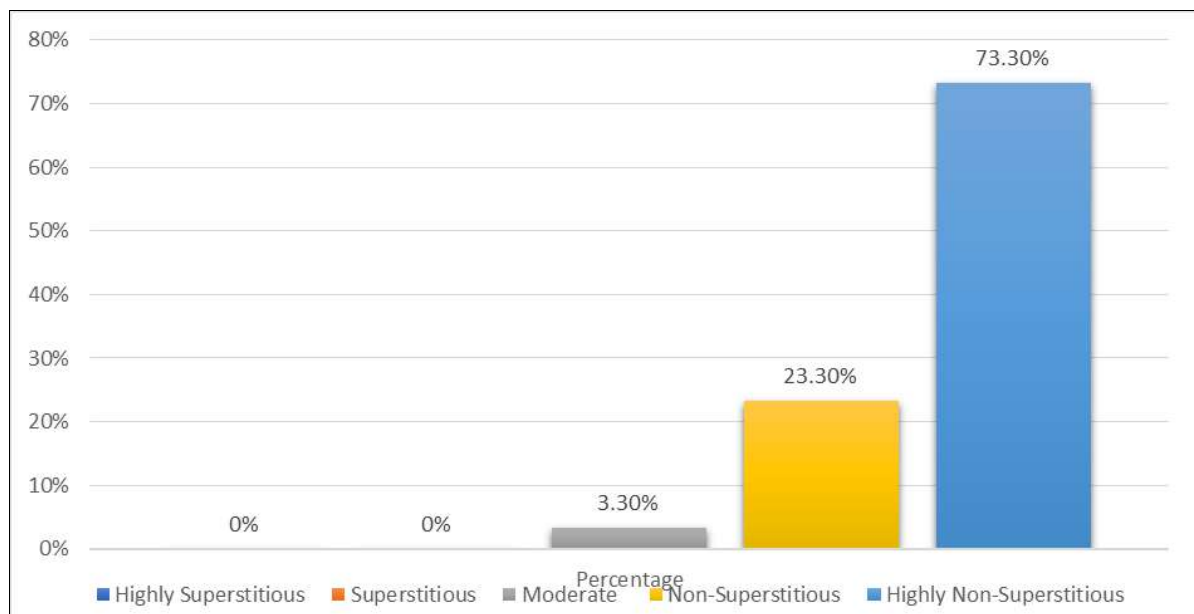


Fig 1: Level of superstition among male sportsperson

Table 1 and Figure 1 reveals that 73.3% male sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious. On the other hand, only 23.3% sportsperson was found to be non-

superstitious, only 3.3% male players were found on moderate superstition and no sportsperson were found in highly superstitious and superstitious category.

Table 2: Level of superstition among female sportsperson

Categories	Highly Superstitious	Superstitious	Moderate	Non-Superstitious	Highly Non-Superstitious
Percentage	0%	0%	0%	16.60%	83.30%

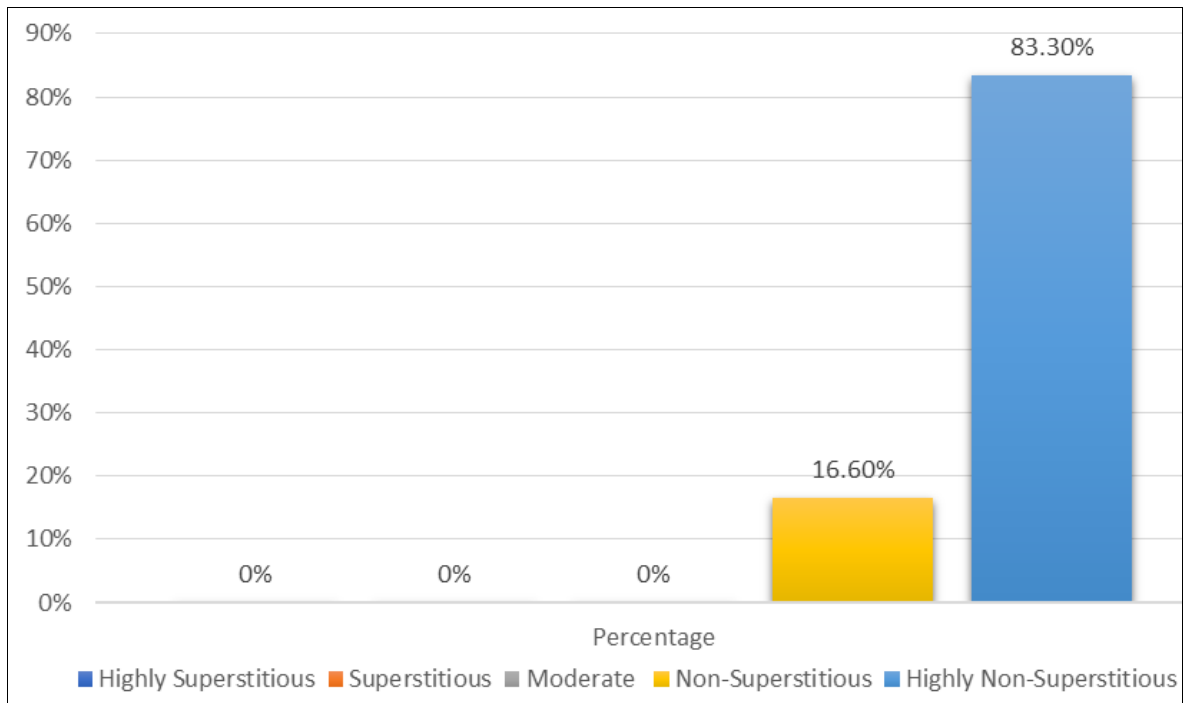


Fig 2: Level of superstition among female sportsperson

Table 2 and figure 2 reveals that 83.3% female sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious. On the other hand, only 16.6% female sportsperson were found to be

non-superstitious, no female sportsperson was found on moderate, highly superstitious and superstitious category.

Table 3: Level of superstition among male and female sportsperson

Category	Male	Female
Highly Superstitious	0%	0%
Superstitious	0%	0%
Moderate	3.30%	0%
Non-Superstitious	23.30%	16.60%
Highly Non-Superstitious	73.30%	83.30%

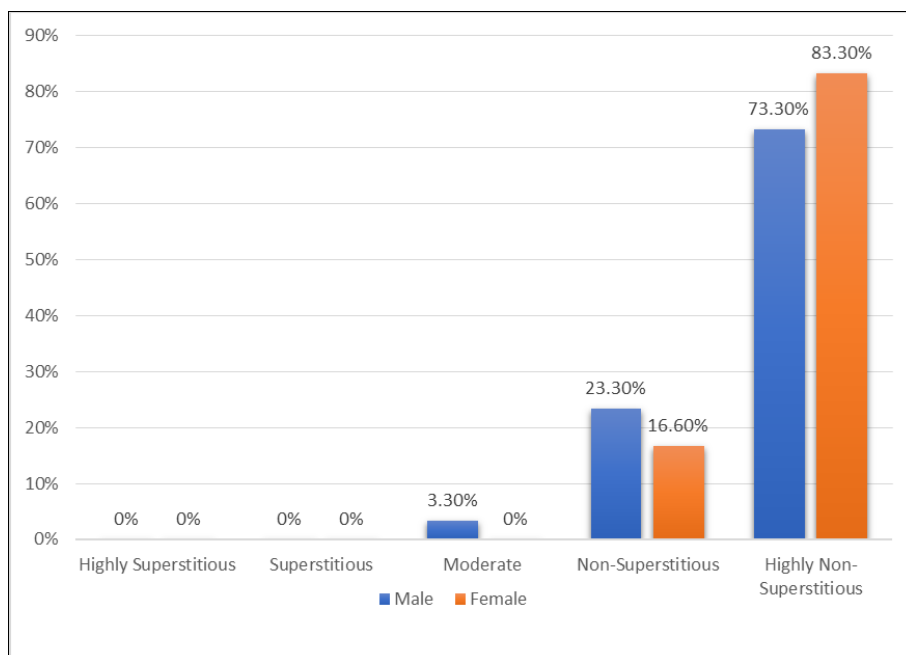


Fig 3: Level of superstition among male and female sportsperson

Table 3 and figure 3 reveals that 83.3% female sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious followed by male sportsperson with 73.3% on highly non-superstitious

category, 23.3% male sportsperson was found to be non-superstitious, 16.6% female sportsperson were found to be non-superstitious and only 3.3% male players were found on

moderate superstition. No female sportsperson was found in on moderate category whereas no sportsperson was found on highly superstitious and superstitious category.

Table 4: Independent sample t. test

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Df	t-value
Superstition	M	30	57.77	±11.785	58	1.68
	F	30	62.70	±10.835		

Table 4 depicts the value of descriptive statistics and independent sample test, which shows that the mean and standard deviation value of male and female sportsperson were found to be 57.77 ± 11.78 and 62.70 ± 10.83 respectively. The independent sample test shows that there is no significant difference between male and female sportsperson on the variable superstition as the t-value was found to be 1.68, which is statistically insignificant at 0.05 level.

Discussion of the Findings

The result shows that 83.3% female sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious followed by male sportsperson with 73.3% on highly non-superstitious category, 23.3% male sportsperson was found to be non-superstitious, 16.6% female sportsperson were found to be non-superstitious and only 3.3% male players were found on moderate superstition. No female sportsperson was found in on moderate category whereas no sportsperson was found on highly superstitious and superstitious category. T-test was computed for comparison of selected variables with two groups that is male and female sportsperson. The level of significance was set at 0.05. The result reveals that the dependent variable (superstition) was not significantly different between male and female sportsperson. The calculated value of t-test in respect to superstition with gender was 1.98 against the tabulated value of 2.00 which clearly shows that gender does not influence superstition, so the hypothesis of the study is not accepted.

The difference which was depicted on the descriptive table shows that mean value of female (62.70) was more as compared to the value of male (57.77) but this difference was not significant at 0.05 level. The reason behind that may be the small size of the group or the difference in age group. The level of experience and achievement may have indirectly influenced the data. Other reasons can be nature of sports, nature of educational position and psychological variables. Another reason could be the questionnaire which was not standardized for the Indian population and had general format of questions which was not related to sports. These factors may have indirectly influenced the result of the study.

Conclusion

On the basis of the result following conclusions can be made

1. Majority of female sportsperson were found to be highly non-superstitious.
2. Male sportsperson was found to be less highly non-superstitious as compared to female sportsperson.
3. No difference was found between male and female sportsperson on the variable superstition.
4. When compared on the non-superstitious category male scored higher than that of female sportsperson.

5. No sportsperson was found to fall on the superstitious and highly superstitious category.
6. It may be concluded that gender does not influence superstitions.

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