



SPORTS MORALITY AMONG VARIOUS SPORTS PERSON – A COMPARATIVE STUDY**Dr. Bhaskar Shukla**

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ABSTRACT

"Morality" is an individual's motivations, thoughts, and behaviors as they are guided towards others and how they are viewed by the wider community. "Our morals are a basic collection of rules and guidelines that help us make choices in our lives, big as well as small. These rules and guidelines are what distinguishes us from others and what makes us unique from everybody else is our actions which are the result of our morals. Today, sport has become a phenomenon inseparable from our social life. Sport has been an important part of society for a long time. This comprehensive and wide-ranging study illuminates our understanding of the broader social significance of sport by exploring the evolving link between sporting behavior and the prevailing ethic of the time. Morality in sports can vary depending on the nature of the game. The objective of the study was to compare the morality among different types of sports i.e. sportsmen belonging to individual, combative and team games. It was hypothesized that there would be no significant difference among the Sportsmen to team, individual and combative sports in relation to morality. The survey was offered to 60 sportsmen from variety of sports (20- Individual, 20- Team & 20- Combative Sports) with the age ranging from 16-27 selected through purposive sampling from different colleges of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi (UP) by the Sports Morality Test (SMT) developed by Dawn Slephae and David Layed Shield. Data were evaluated by applying Analysis of Variance and the level of significance of F-ratio was set at 0.05 levels. Data from acceptable returned SMT were entered into an SPSS data base 17 version and the analysis of the data revealed that the morality of team, individual and combative sportsmen do not differ significantly. These may be attributed to the fact that invariably of their sports group all the players' perceived ethical behavior to be within expectation and prescription of rules to more or less same level. Moreover, the sportsman spirit in players compels them to play the game without providing any injury to the others players.

**KEYWORDS :** Morality, Comparative Study, Sports Morality Test (SMT), Different Types of Sportsman.**INTRODUCTION**

Sports are one arena in which moral development can occur. Such development happens by way of both imitation and initiation. A child learns how to play soccer by imitating those who are good at the sport. Similarly, a child can learn how to be virtuous by imitating those who are morally good. Initiation is important as well. Our morals are a simple set of rules and guidelines that help us make decisions throughout our lives, both big and small. These rules and guidelines are what set us apart from others and our actions that are the result of our morals are what make us unique from everyone else. Throughout history it has been these moral actions, which have helped us judge others around us and judge ourselves.

Today sport has become inseparable phenomenon of our social life. It has made its own place at the apex of human civilization because of its trial, competitive event and even improving nature. By nature human beings are competitive and ambitious for the excellence in all athletic performances. Not only every man but every nation wants to show its supremacy by challenging the other nation. Thus these challenges stimulate, inspire and motivate all the nations to sweat and strive to run faster, jump higher, throw further in present competitive sports world. This can only be possible through scientific, systematic and planned sports training as well as planning them into appropriate games and sports by finding out their potentialities". Every game has got certain moral values and which have strictly to be followed by everyone including spectators. Spectators are also to come prepared keeping in mind the nature of game. These rules and codes are based on certain principles behind them but are being ignored increasingly day by day. Today the effectiveness of rule and regulation of games are being constantly supervised and analyzed by the highest authority in the core sports. There are numerous and consistent effort on the part of concern authority to change or modify the rules and regulations of games to make it more recreational, competitive and minimize scope of violence, manipulation, malpractice etc. So more and more stringent rules are coming into play to root out corruption, discourage doping and exploitation rules thought negative tactics Morality in sports may vary according to the nature of game. The codes of conduct, the liberty of hitting each are different in sports. Every sports do emphasizes fair play and ethical conduct during playing through its specific rules. So unlike other sports individual game like judo does specifically inculcates character and moral development through its own unique ways. Morality has become one of the major part in sports psychology which should be given due consideration in games because it deals not only with feeling of sympathy but also for the respect of official, sportsmanship and moreover for respect of rules and regulation. In the view of above the sole objective of the study was to compare the morality among different types of sports i.e. sportsmen belonging to individual, combative and team games and was hypothesized that there would not be any significant difference among the Sportsmen belonging to combative sports, individual spots and team games in relation to morality.

METHODOLOGY

Sixty sportsmen (20- Individual, 20- Team & 20- Combative) of different colleges of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi (UP) were selected as the subjects for the study. The average age of the subjects was 20 years ranging from 16 to 27 years. These subjects were divided into three groups i.e. team sports, individual sports & combative sports and team games depending on their activity.

Table-1
Selection of Study Participants

INDIVIDUAL			COMBATIVE		TEAM		
Badminton	Track & Field	Swimming	Wrestling	Judo	Football	Handball	Hockey
09	06	05	10	10	09	06	05

For this study a questionnaire was selected based on the line of methodology and criteria suggested by Dawn Slephae and David Layed Shield. This was chosen because there was no other systematic and legitimate measure of Sports morality. Scoring of Sports Morality Test (SMT)

The sports morality test was consisted of total 28 items divided in two-part. The Part "A" consisted of 20 items with four points of answers.

Positive statements no. 1,2,45,6,7,89,10,11,13,15,18,19,and 20 were Scored as:-

Not at all true	1
Partly true	2
Moderately true	3

Exactly true	4
<u>Negative statements</u> no. 3,13,14,16 and 17 were scored reversibly.	
Not at all true	4
Partly true	3
Moderately true	2
Exactly true	1

The part “B” consisted of 8 items, which are, keyed “Yes” and “No”. For each answer, which was marked “Yes”, two points were awarded and for “No” 0 (zero) was given. So the maximum score maybe 96 and minimum score maybe be 20. Scores obtained by each subject on each statement was added up which represented one’s total score on morality.

Data for this investigation were collected, starting with seeking permission from the authorities concerned (Principles and Coaches) to involve student athletes in their Stadium, clubs and schools in the study. To ensure maximum cooperation from the subjects, the research scholar had a meeting with the selected players where the subjects were oriented and explained regarding the purpose and procedure of the questionnaire. After the competition (District, State & Regional Levels) each athlete was administered the Sports Morality Test (SMT). They were asked to record the answers for all questions after making sure that the subjects clearly understood the procedure to fill in the questionnaire.

RESULTS

Data from acceptable returned questionnaires were entered into an SPSS database. Analysis of Variance was used to compare the Sports morality among the Sportsmen belonging to Individual, Combative and Team players, the level of significance of F-ratio was set at 0.05 levels.

Table -2
Mean, Standard Deviation of Morality among Different Sports

GROUP	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Individual	70.15	4.18
Combative	69.3	3.14
Team	69.45	4.03

Table -3

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE OF MORALITY BELONGING TO TEAMS, INDIVIDUAL AND COMBATIVE GAMES

Source of variation	d.f	SS	MSS	f-ratio
Between the group	2	8.24	4.12	0.283
Within group	57	829.7	14.55	

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Tab F (.05), N-2=3.17

It is evident from the Table 3 that since the computed value of F (0.283) among individual, combative and team player in relation to morality was less than the tabulated value (3.17). Therefore null hypothesis among the individual and combative and team players was accepted at 0.05 level.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of the data revealed that the morality of individual, combative and team players do not differ significantly. These may be attributed to the fact that invariably of their sports group all the players perceived ethical behavior to be within expectation and prescription of rules to more or less same level. Moreover, the sportsman spirit in players compels them to play the game without providing any injury to the

others players. The study result is greatly helpful in suggesting the degree of morality in combative, individual and team games sportsmen and it will give both coaches and players a profound insight into their own interactive process. Results can also provide coaches, staff, and counselors provide the staff and coaches with accurate guidance that will inculcate the players' moral values by advising them not to be blindfolded by violence and anxiety. The study will help Sportsmen to maintain their cool before, after and during the play and not to harm the opponent unnecessarily

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