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## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HOSTILE AGGRESSION IN SPORTSPERSON : WITH REFERENCE TO COMBATIVE AND NON-COMBATIVE SPORTS



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### ABSTRACT

In the present study, hostile aggression was compared among university sportspersons participating in combative and non-combative. To conduct the study, 200 sportspersons who participated in inter-university boxing, judo and wrestling events classified as combative sports (Ave. age 24.50 years) and 200 sportspersons who participated in interuniversity table tennis, volleyball, swimming and chess classified as non combative sports (Ave. age 20.54 yrs) were selected as sample. Purposive sampling was used to select sportspersons participating in combative and non-combative sports. Sultania's Aggression Inventory (2006) was used to assess hostile aggression of the selected sportspersons. Results indicate that hostile aggression in sportspersons who participated in combative and non combative sports events did not differ significantly with each other. It was concluded that nature of sports (combative, non-combative) do not influence hostile aggressive behaviour of varsity sportspersons.

**KEYWORDS:** Hostile aggression, combative sports, non combative sports

### INTRODUCTION

Competitive contact sport involves two sportspersons battling with each other in order to gain points or declared winner by overpowering the opponents under certain rules and circumstances. Boxing, wrestling and fencing are examples of modern combative sports in which physical damage is minimized with the help of certain set of rules and officiating. In contrast to this, sports like soccer, table

tennis, hockey, basketball etc. comes under non combative sport because a sportsperson participating in these sports cannot directly confront the opponent physically in order to gain advantage. Hence the basis difference in combative and non-combative sports lies in their nature.

In this relation, the psychological factors involved with participation in combative and non combative sports are studied by quite a researchers, namely, Abbasi (2012)<sup>1</sup>, Peter (2012)<sup>2</sup>, Kaur and Singh (2013)<sup>3</sup>, Khetmalis and Das (2013)<sup>4</sup>. It is also noticeable that hostile behaviour exhibited by sportspersons has not been studied so far in the light of their participation in combative / non combative sports.

It is also true that aggression is an integral part of sports. Aggressive behaviour is seen in sportspersons irrespective of nature of sports. It is because aggression is an essential part of human nature. According to Berkowitz (1989)<sup>5</sup>, aggression is a behavior directed toward the injury of some target. Another psychologist Dollard et al. (1939)<sup>6</sup> defined aggression as any sequence of behavior directed towards a person to commit intentional injury. The theories and principles governing aggression clearly suggests that it is an interpersonal behaviour accompanied by emotions towards an individual or group of people which violates norms set by society. In sports a certain level of aggression is considered facilitative in sports performance but when this aggression crosses the limit of certain rules it is considered hostile. Competitive sports are played under certain rule and a player has to abide by those rules. If players violates these rules in the form of physical violence or exhibit his/her displeasure in the form of verbal abuse, it is considered as hostile aggression. Due to the combative or non combative nature of sports whether sportspersons develop hostile aggressive tendencies is another issue which has not been dealt so far, hence the present study was planned.

#### **Hypothesis**

It was hypothesized that hostile aggression among varsity sportspersons would vary significantly on the basis of their participation in combative or non combative sport.

#### **METHOD:**

To test the abovementioned hypothesis, following methodological steps were taken.

#### **Sample :**

To conduct the study, 200 sportspersons who participated in interuniversity boxing, judo and wrestling events classified as combative sports (Ave. age 24.50 years) and 200 sportspersons who participated in interuniversity table tennis, volleyball, swimming and chess classified as non combative sports (Ave. age 20.54 yrs) were selected as sample. Purposive sampling was used to select sportspersons participating in combative and non-combative sports.

#### **Tools :**

To assess hostile aggression, eight dimensional aggression inventory prepared by Sultania (2006)<sup>7</sup> was preferred. It comprise of eight aspects of aggression i.e. assault, indirect aggression, irritability, negativism, resentment, suspicion, verbal aggression and guilt. The reliability of this inventory is 0.67 while the validity is 0.45. Higher scores on inventory indicate elevated level of hostile aggression.

**Procedure :**

All the selected subjects were asked to give their response on aggression inventory in a laboratory like condition and convenience of the subjects.

Scoring of responses given by the subjects was done according to author’s manual. After scoring, data were tabulated according to their respective groups. ‘t’ test was used to find out differences among these two groups. Results are presented in table 1.

**RESULTS**

**Table No. 1**  
**Comparison of Hostile Aggression in Sportspersons on the Basis of Nature of Sport (Combative - Non combative)**

Variable	Combative Sports Group (N=200)		Non Combative Sports Group (N=200)		t	Level of Significance
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.		
Hostile Aggression	34.79	7.56	34.36	7.59	0.56	p>.05

t(df=398) = 1.97 at .05 level

A perusal of table 1 reveal that hostile aggression between sportspersons involved in combative sport events (M=34.79) and non-combative sport events (M=34.36) did not differ significantly with each other. The calculated t=0.56 gives statistical weightage to this finding because it did not met the criteria for significance at .05 level.

**DISCUSSION**

The result of the present study indicates that participation in combative sports do not increase chances of developing hostile behaviour. The results are not surprising because sports whether it is combative or non combative in nature are played under certain rules. These rules are framed for each sport discipline. Hence a player has to obey these rules. The other explanation of the results of the present study may be the level of participation of selected sportspersons participating in varsity combative and non-combative sports.

**CONCLUSION:**

On the basis of results it may be concluded that participation in specific kind of sport which are combative/non combative in nature is not a differentiating factor as far as hostile aggression in sportspersons is concerned.

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