



ASSESSMENT OF SUPERSTITION AMONG NATIONAL FEMALE PLAYERS

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ABSTRACT

The present study assessed superstition among national female players. This study was conducted on 200 national level female players (Ave. age 24.08 years). The chosen female players were participants of national level team and individual sport events. Purposive sampling method was used for selection of sample. To assess superstition among national female players, Superstition Scale prepared by Dubey and Dixit was used. The classification of subjects into superstitious and non-superstitious categories, were based on technique suggested in author's manual. Results reveal that majority of the national female players (82%) were superstitious while 18% were non-superstitious. It was concluded that highly uncertain outcome of the result leads national female players to superstitious rituals.

KEYWORDS: Superstition, national, female players.

INTRODUCTION :

Superstition is part of our culture since long. Superstition exists in almost all communities. It has been assumed that superstitious behaviour is mainly an act of an individual to reduce anxiety arising from uncertain circumstances (Frazer, 1922). The definition of superstition given by Womack (1992) states that it is a unyielding, repetitive behavioural act done by an individual assuming that act will have positive influence on outcome in his favour but in reality these superstitious rituals have no bearing on outcome of an event. According to Brevers et al. (2011) superstition brings illusion of control in which person feels that by doing such rituals he/she would be successful in that particular life event or competition. Schippers and Van Lange (2006) defined superstition as tension regulating mechanism. According to them superstition gives individual confidence that by doing such rituals they will definitely taste success.

Researchers such as Gross (1961), Walton (1955), Burger and Lynn (2005) have documented that superstition is more common in certain occupations and trades which also includes sports. In sports, psychologists feel that superstition comes due to uncertain outcome of an event. One of the main characteristics of sports is chances of winning/losing. This is more so at highest level because the difference in abilities of each sportsperson is negligible (Guttman, 1978). It has been documented that many athletes are superstitious so that they can control the circumstances to their own advantage (Becker, 1975). The superstitious behaviour in sportsperson have been analysed by Ciborowski, 1997, Brevers et al., 2011, Dömötör, 2016 from wide variety of angles such as type of sports, type of superstition, difficulty of task, personality etc. In India superstitious behaviour is very common but this fact has not been scientifically in a population national female players. Since superstition has been known to exist in sports since its evolution, the researcher decided to assess superstition among national female players.

HYPOTHESIS

It was hypothesized that majority of national female players will be superstitious.

METHODOLOGY :-

The following methodological steps were taken in order to conduct the present study.

Sample :-

To conduct the study, 200 national level female players (Ave. age 24.08 years) were selected as sample. The chosen female players were participants of national level team and individual sport events. The criterion for selection of subjects was participation in national level tournament organised for team and individual sports. The sample was selected purposively.

Tools:**Superstition Scale:**

To assess superstition among national female players, Superstition scale prepared by Dubey and Dixit (2011) was adopted. It consists of 40 statements. Three alternative are given for each statement. This standardized scale is reliable and valid as indicated by Spearman Brown coefficient of .82 and correlation coefficient with Radical conservative attitude scale. Score equaling or above 84 on this scale are indicative of presence of superstition while scores below 84 are indicative of non-superstitious behaviour.

Procedure:

First of all, 200 national female players were selected purposively. After obtaining written consent regarding voluntary participation in the present study, Superstition scale prepared by Dubey and Dixit (2011) was administered. While administering the scale subjects convenience was taken into consideration. The scoring was conducted as per author's manual. Afterward subject were divided into two categories categories i.e. superstitious and non-superstitious respectively as suggested by the author of this scale. To compare distribution of national female players into two categories of superstition, χ^2 test is used. Results depicted in table 1.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1
Distribution of National Female Players
on the Basis of Scores on Superstitious Scale

Categories of Superstition	Frequency	Percentage (%)	χ^2
Superstitious (More or equal to 84)	164	82%	$\chi^2 = 81.92$ ($p < .05$)
No Superstition (Less than 84)	36	18%	
Total	200	100.0	

χ^2 (df=1) = 3.84 at .05

Results presented in table 1 reveal that out of 200 selected national female players, 164 (82%) classified in the category of superstitious. The rest i.e. 36 national female players (18%) classified as non superstitious. The calculated $\chi^2 = 81.92$ also indicate significantly at .01 level of statistical significance that majority of national female players were superstitious.

Results indicate that prevalence of superstition in national female players was higher. It may be due to uncertainty of outcome of sports events. Other reason may be attributed to illusion regarding control of

circumstances and events. Lobmeyer and Wasserman (1986) opined that superstition in sports relieve intense tension in sportsperson regarding failure as they believe that by doing some superstitious rituals they will win the competition. Hence superstition in national female players is related to their performance outcome and cannot be generalised in other life events.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of results and associated discussion authors conclude that national female players are highly superstitious due to their performance related uncertainty and tension.

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