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A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract:

The present study was aimed to comparatively assess fundamental movement skills of children and adolescent boys. For present study, 100 boys (Ave. age 10.14 years) and 100 adolescent boys (Ave. age 14.22 years) years were selected as sample. The sample was selected from different schools in and around Nagpur city. 50 meter run, Vertical jump, Catching, Overhand throw, Forehand strike and Kick for accuracy was chosen to assess fundamental movement skills of the selected subjects. Result reveals that fundamental movement skills as assessed by selected movement test of adolescent boys were found to be significantly superior as compared to pre-teen boys. It was concluded that fundamental movement skills improves from pre-teen stage to initial adolescence period in boys.

KEYWORDS:

Fundamental Movement, Children and Adolescents, physical activity.

INTRODUCTION:

Early development of fundamental movement skill is a significant step towards ensuring a lifelong, healthy and safe involvement in physical activity. Without competence in such skills as running, leaping, balancing, rolling, catching, and throwing, it is difficult to access the range of options available to establish an active lifestyle.

The general definition of fundamental motor skills is the ability to learn a sequence of movements to produce a smooth action in order to accomplish a task. Fundamental movement skills are the building blocks of movement, forming the basis of more advanced and specific specialised actions, and representing the foundation for future participation in physical activity and sport (Clark, 2002).

Due to importance of fundamental movement skills, researchers such as Alderman (1968), Morris et al. (1982), Okely, Booth, and Patterson (2001), Vassiliki Derri et al. (2007), Vasilios Tsimaras et al. (2011) studies movement patterns of children and adolescents but so far fundamental movement skills of pre teen and adolescent boys of India which has different socio-cultural-economic set-up, have not been studied, hence the present study was planned.

HYPOTHESIS:

Proficiency in Fundamental movement skills will be significantly different in pre-teen and adolescent boys.

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METHOD AND MATERIAL:

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

Sample :

The present study was aimed to comparatively assess fundamental movement skills of children and adolescent boys. For present study, 100 boys (Ave. age 10.14 years) and 100 adolescent boys (Ave. age 14.22 years) years were selected as sample. The sample was selected from different schools in and around Nagpur city. Random sampling method was used to select the data.

Tools:

To measure fundamental movements following test was used:-

a)50 meter run (sec.)
b) Vertical jump (in inches)
c)Catching (out of 6 attempt how many catches taken by the sample).
d) Overhand throw (maximum distance was recorded)
e)Forehand strike (out of six ball how many successful strike sample did)
f)Kick for accuracy (Out of six attempts how many successful kick was done).

Procedure :

Test items pertaining to fundamental movement skills i.e. Vertical jump, Catching, Overhand throw, Forehand strike and Kick for accuracy were performed by selected subjects under the supervision of researcher. After scoring data was tabulated in their respective groups. Independent sample 't' test was used to compare fundamental movement skills of children and adolescent subjects. The result is presented in table no. 1.

RESULT

Table 11 Comparison of Dimensions of Fundamental Movement Skills between Pre-teen and Adolescent Boys

Variables	Pre-t Bo (N=1	ys	В	lescent oys =100)	Mean Difference	ʻt'
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.		
50 metre run	9.70	2.01	8.42	0.66	1.27	5.98**
Vertical jump	19.44	5.52	25.17	6.33	5.73	6.81**
Catching	2.12	1.39	2.90	1.26	0.78	4.13**
Overhand throw	25.26	7.17	36.35	7.33	11.09	10.80**
Forehand strike	1.83	1.27	2.39	1.25	0.56	3.13**
Kick	1.20	1.01	1.74	1.16	0.54	3.50**

** Significant at .01 level

A perusal of entries reported in table 11 indicate that mean scores on 50 metre run in a group of adolescent boys (M=8.42) was found to be significantly lower as compared to selected group of pre-teen boys (M=9.70). The calculated t=5.98 which is statistically significant at .01 level adds support to this

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A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT SKILLS BETWEEN CHILDREN

finding.

It was also found that adolescent boys (M=25.17) excelled over pre-teen boys (M=19.44) in vertical jump dimension. The reported t=6.81 is statistically significant at .01 level.

When catching performance of pre-teen and adolescent boys were compared with each other, the calculated t=4.13 was found to be statistically significant at .01 level. It indicates that catching performance of adolescent boys (M=2.90) was significantly superior than the catching performance of pre-teen boys (M=2.12).

A perusal of entries reported in table 11 indicate that mean scores of overhand throw performance in a group of adolescent boys (M=36.35) was found to be significantly higher as compared to selected group of pre-teen boys (M=25.26). The calculated t=10.80 which is statistically significant at .01 level adds support to this finding.

When basic fundamental movement skill i.e. forehand strike skill of pre-teen and adolescent boys were compared with each other, the calculated t=3.13 was found to be statistically significant at .01 level. It indicates that forehand strike performance of adolescent boys (M=2.39) was significantly superior than the pre-teenaged boys (M=1.83).

The mean kicking scores of adolescent boys was also found to be significantly superior (M=1.74) as compared to pre-teen boys (M=1.20). The reported t=3.50 is statistically significant at .01 level.

DISCUSSION

In previous studies conducted by Thomas and French (1985), Haley (1985), Ghai et al. (2007) also found significant and positive relationship between age and fundamental movement skills. Hence, the results of the present study once again confirms that age is an important marker as far as development of fundamental movement skills of children and adolescents are concerned.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that age is a significant factor for development of fundamental movement skills in pre-teen and adolescent boys.

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