

A STUDY OF SPORTS ORIENTATION AMONG INTER-UNIVERSITY LEVEL MALE CRICKET PLAYERS

Dr. Ashish Kumar Nigam*

ABSTRACT

The purpose of study was to assess the sport orientation among inter-university level male cricket players at different levels of their confidence. For this purpose, three hundred and fifty inter-university level male cricket players of different university teams were selected as the subject of the study and age ranged between 17 to 25 years. The Sports Self-confidence Questionnaire (Trait sports-confidence inventory) prepared by Vealey and Task and Ego Orientation in sports Questionnaire (TEOSQ) prepared by Duda and Nicholls was used for the purpose of measuring task and ego orientation at different levels of their self-confidence. To determine the significance of difference among the scores on sports orientation of cricket players at different levels of self-confidence, analysis of variance was computed.. The results of the study revealed that that the inter-university level male cricket players with different levels of self-confidence differed significantly in their task-orientation . The Players higher in self confidence gave more importance to task-orientation.

*Dr. Ashish Kumar Nigam, Assistant Professor Department of Physical Education, Guru Ghasidas Central University Bilaspur (CG), India.

INTRODUCTION

Psychometric research on task and ego orientation has provided interesting insight into the nature of a task and ego orientation in the athletic environment. First, it has been demonstrated empirically that regardless of whether a task or ego orientation predominance, a highly task or ego oriented individuals can be considered competitive. Although intrigued with competition, task versus ego oriented persons would probably vary in why they approach competitive situations as well as in term of the objective of the competitive experience. Despite the fact that they are both interested in "winning", it is the relative importance of the competitive outcomes in relationship to the competitive process and the psychological devastation associated with "losing" that seem to discriminate between the two goal orientation. Second people who tend to emphasis task versus ego involved goals are equally goal-directed. What distinguishes these group are the perceptions and criteria underlying subjective goal attainment. Lastly, whether high in task or ego orientation, such individuals are interested in playing well in 'sports contests, It is commonly assumed by the practitioner (and same sports researchers) that task-oriented people simply want to have fun and have deep interest in the sports contest (outcome or other wise). Likewise, it is often assumed that ego-oriented individuals do not care about playing as well as they can and only are concerned about who wins or loses. It is the perceptual basis for concluding whether one played well or not that differs among strongly task and ego-oriented athletic participants. Athletes high in task orientation were less likely to feel that sports showed result in high social status. Conversely, ego-orientation was positively associated with the belief that enhancing socialization is an important function of sports. Ego oriented athletes also tend to believe that sports should make people feel important and be more competitive. Ego-orientation negatively related to the view that fostering good citizenship was significant purpose of athletic participation (Singer et.al.,1993).

Task-oriented male and female high school athletes feel that the purpose of

sports was to enhance self-esteem, teach people to try their best, co-operate and be good citizen. Ego-oriented athletes feel that the purpose of sports was to enhance self-esteem and social status; but for low ego oriented high school student, the purpose of physical education were to promote mastery and co-operation, develop an active life-style, promote competitiveness, enhance self-esteem, teach health and fitness, develop motor skill, learn rules and provide fun. The college students participating in physical education activity classes, a task-orientation was related to the view that the purpose of sports was to promote social responsibility and life time health, and ego-orientation to achieving status through sports. In assessing goal perspectives and sportsmanship attitude and the perceived legitimacy of aggression..

Duda, Olson and Templing (1991) concluded that male and female high school basketball player's with a low task and high ego-orientation endorsed cheating behaviours and non-sportsmen like play. Also a high ego orientation was positively related to perceiving acts of aggressions as more legitimate. In competitive level and goal orientation, they reported that ego-oriented athletes had motives emphasizing competition and status, whereas task-oriented athletes emphasized skill development, fitness affiliation, team membership and competition (Carpenter & Yates, 1997).

Nicholls distinction between ego involved and task involved perceived ability has yet to be operationalized. Research on expectancy, like self-efficacy, has developed countless scales for the myriad of situations in which expectancy is of interest. Based upon this past research, it seems that a valid, parsimonious operationalization of self-confidence which would allow more consistent prediction of behaviours across different sports situations.

Self-confidence can be viewed as the most critical psychological characteristic influencing sports performance fascination with their construct is fueled by the dramatic influences that of self-confidence has on performance, as well as the often stable and unpredictable nature of self-confidence over a period of time (Vealey, 1986).

Research in self-confidence in sports psychology has been conducted with

various theoretical framework and has largely focused on mediating effect of confidence on cognition affect and behaviour in sports and motor performance contexts (Bandura,1997).

The purpose of study was to assess the task and ego-orientation of inter-university level cricket players at different levels of their confidence. It was also hypothesized that inter-university level cricket players will not differ in their goal orientation based upon their level of self confidence.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Subjects:

A purposive sample of three hundred and fifty inter-university level male cricket players of different university teams were selected as the subject of the study. The age of the subject ranged between 17 to 25 years.

Instrumentation:

Sports Self-confidence Questionnaire (Trait sports-confidence inventory) prepared by Vealey² was employed to collect data on sports-confidence level among the players. The trait sports self-confidence inventory consisted of 13 statements. The subjects were asked to think how confident they feel when they compete. In the same way they have to compare these own self-confidence, with that of the most self-confidence of players that they know. Then they have to mark their self-confidents-level on a nine point scale. The total response score was added separately to obtain the subject's score.

A reliable and valid tool i. e. Task and Ego Orientation in sports Questionnaire (TEOSQ) prepared by Duda and Nicholls was used for the purpose of measuring task and ego orientation. The questionnaire had consisted of thirteen items in which seven belong to Task orientation and six belong Ego Orientation. The player answered each items using 05-point Likert-type scale ranging strongly disagree to strongly agree. The 07 items of task orientation subscale assess the extent with which an individual defines success in terms of learning, while the 06 items of ego-orientation subscale assess the extent with which success is viewed in terms of the out performing others.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To determine the significance of difference among the scores on sports orientation of cricket players at different levels of self- confidence, analysis of variance was computed. In case of significance ANOVA, Scheffe's Test of Post-hoc Comparisons was applied to assess the significance of difference between ordered pair means and data pertaining to this have been presented in Table 1 & 2 to and has been depicted in fig.1 & 2 .



Fig. 1: Comparison of Task Orientation of Inter-university Level Male Cricket Players at their Different Levels of their Self-confidence

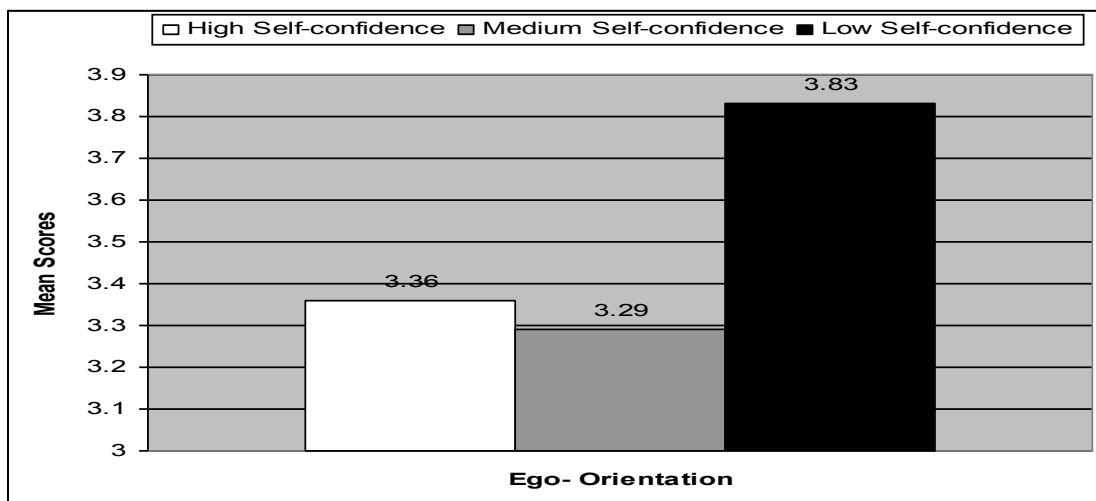


Fig. 2: Comparison of Ego Orientation of Inter-university Level Male Cricket Players at their Different Levels of their Self-confidence

TABLE 1
ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE FOR TASK AND EGO ORIENTATION OF INTER-UNIVERSITY LEVEL MALE CRICKET PLAYERS AT THEIR DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SELF CONFIDENCE

Sports Orientation	Source of Variance	df	Sum of Square	Mean Squares	F-ratio
Task-orientation	Between Groups	2	7.64	3.82	16.13*
	Within Groups	347	82.18	0.24	
Task-orientation	Between Groups	2	2.09	1.05	2.38
	Within Groups	347	152.21	0.44	

*Significant at .05 level,
F.05 (2,347) = 3.02

It is quite obvious from table 1, that there were significant difference in level of task orientation of cricket players on the basis of their level of self-confidence, as the F-ratio of 16.13 was much higher than the required F.05 (2,347) = 3.02, where as no significant difference was obtained on ego-orientation among cricket players of different levels of their self- confidence.

As the F-ratio in case of task-orientation was found significant, Scheffe's Test of Post-hoc Comparisons was used to find the significance of difference between the ordered paired means of groups of different level of self-confidence and data have been presented in table 2.

TABLE 2
SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORDERED PAIRED MEANS OF INTER-UNIVERSITY LEVEL MALE CRICKET PLAYERS ON TASK ORIENTATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONFIDENCE

High (SF)	Means Medium (SF)	Low (SF)	Paired Mean difference	Confidence Interval (C.I.)
4.26	-	3.86	0.40*	0.09
4.26	4.12	-	0.14*	
-	4.12	3.86	0.26*	

*Significant at .05 level

It is evident from table 2, that there were significant difference on task orientation between high self-confidence and low self-confidence, between high self-confidence and moderate self-confidence and between moderate self-confidence and

low self-confidence group. With high self-confidence having higher score on task-orientation followed by moderate and low self-confidence groups. As the obtained mean difference of 0.40, 0.14 and 0.26 were higher than the 0.09

DISCUSSION

Sports confidence is a strong psychological attribute, to any sports denotes a firm trust in oneself, i.e. one has confidence in his own abilities and able to put to use them well in time. Self confident person is cheerful, active and always ready to act and react whenever he gets opportunity. He is prompt to hard working, free from anxiety; not afraid of audience and always achieves high. They are socially matured, emotionally balanced and intellectually sound. Self confident person is extrovert, highly ambitious and likes social activities which provides of leadership qualities. The inter-university level male cricket players were moderate in their self-confidence.

It was observed that highly confident cricket players were highly task involved entails that perception of high ability and subjective success are based on the experience of learning," personal involvement and task mastery, it means that increase in self-confidence is associated with success in competence based upon task mastery and personal improvement. It is assumed that it will lead to positive and adopting achievement behaviour. Further highly task-oriented player will believe that cricket should enhance co-operative skills and desire for personal mastery. It is negatively to the view that sports should improve social status.

Thus the hypothesis that there will be no difference in goal orientation among inter-university level male cricket players on the basis of self-confidence was rejected.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The inter-university level male cricket players with different levels of self-confidence differed significantly in their task-orientation. The Players higher in self confidence gave more importance to task-orientation.

2. The inter-university level male cricket players did not differed significantly in their ego-orientation-orientation with different levels of self-confidence.

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