

COMPARISON OF LEADERSHIP PREFERENCES BETWEEN SENIOR NATIONAL LEVEL MALE AND FEMALE VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present investigation was to compare the leadership behaviour between national level male and female volleyball players. The statistical analysis of data on five dimensions of preferred leadership behaviour i.e. training and instruction (TI), democratic behaviour (DB), autocratic behaviour (AB), social support (SS), and positive feedback (PF); collected on three hundred National level male and female volleyball players belong to different cultural background of India and represented their respective state teams in 50th Senior National volleyball championships (M/F) held at L.N.U.P.E, Gwalior (M.P.) during the year 2009 – 2010. The mean age and SD of male and female volleyball players were 23.37 ± 2.39 and 30.67 ± 2.98 respectively. The results of the investigation revealed that national level male and female volleyball players preferred in greater amount of training and instruction followed by positive feedback, social support, democratic behaviour and autocratic behaviour from their coaches. They also expressed significantly similar preferences on five dimensions of leader behaviour.

Keywords: National level, Leadership Behaviour, Preferences

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INTRODUCTION

Research in sport psychology has concentrated on the coach as a leader. Researchers interested in team performance have largely ignored the leaders and leadership forces that may emerge or get appointed from within team membership itself (Fuoss & Tropmann, 1985).

Leadership is the behavioural process of influencing the activities of an organized group towards specific goals and the achievement of those goals. Leadership is more concerned with why people comply and how one person influences another (Carron, 1980).

Leadership in hockey situations appears to be more effective when the leader is oriented towards personal relations between himself and his team than when he is oriented primarily toward completion of the group task (Anpaugh, 1972).

Defensive players preferred and perceived greater amounts of democratic, autocratic behaviour, and social support, players who prefer more of a particular dimension may also in turn perceive greater amounts of that behaviour (Chelladurai & Saleh, 1980).

Leadership in basketball setting comes from a member of a team's starting five players who is held in rather high esteem by his teammates and is one of the better basketball players on the team. Leaders in the basketball situation are task oriented and are more intelligent, more venturesome, more conscientious and self-opinionated than non-leaders (Anpaugh, 1972).

The Psychological preparation on the basis of psychological characteristics of the sport, the competition conditions and the personality structure (profile) of the sportsmen, are planned and carried out with the aim of enabling the sportsman to be in an optimum psychic state at the time of competition so that he can achieve the maximum possible performance.

The purpose of the present investigation was to compare the leadership behaviour between national level male and female volleyball players. It was also hypothesized that there will be no significant difference in the Leadership behaviour between national level male and female volleyball players.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Subjects:

A sample of Three hundred (Males=150, Females=150) national level volleyball players representing their respective state teams in Senior National Male and Female Volleyball Competition and who volunteered to participate in this study, were selected to serve as subjects for this study. The subjects were in age group of 21 to 30 years. The subjects were selected from amongst the Senior National Male and Female Volleyball Competition held at Laxmibai National University of Physical Education during 2009-2010 in their respective volleyball courts.

Instrumentation:

Leadership Scale for Sports developed by P. Chelladurai (1994) was selected as a criterion tool to measure preferred behaviour preferences on five dimensions of preferred leadership behaviour of national level male and female volleyball players of India.

Statistical Analysis:

To assess the preferred leader behaviour of National level male and female Volleyball players, mean and standard deviation (Rothstein,1985) were computed. The t-ratio (Sheehan,1971) was computed to find out the significant difference between National level male and female Volleyball players on five dimensions of preferred leader behaviour. The level of significant was set at .05 level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To assess the preferences on five dimensions of leader behaviour, of national level male and female volleyball players, mean, standard deviation, and t-ratios with sex on five dimensions of leader behaviour as a set of dependent variables for all the subjects taken together for both the sexes were computed and data pertaining to this have been presented in table 1&2.

TABLE 1
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF PREFERENCES ON FIVE DIMENSIONS OF
LEADER BRHAVIOUR OF NATIONAL LEVEL MALE AND FEMALE
VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS

S.NO.	Leader Behaviour	Male (N=150)		Female (N=150)	
		M	SD	M	SD
1.	Training and instruction	4.261	0.451	4.323	0.439
2.	Democratic behaviour	3.721	0.728	3.744	0.613
3.	Autocratic behaviour	3.194	0.865	3.141	0.906
4.	Social Support	3.791	0.558	3.792	0.619
5.	Positive feedback	4.133	0.621	4.183	0.737

The mean scores of five dimensions of leader behaviour as preferred by male and female volleyball players at national level of their participation have been depicted in figure 1 to 5.

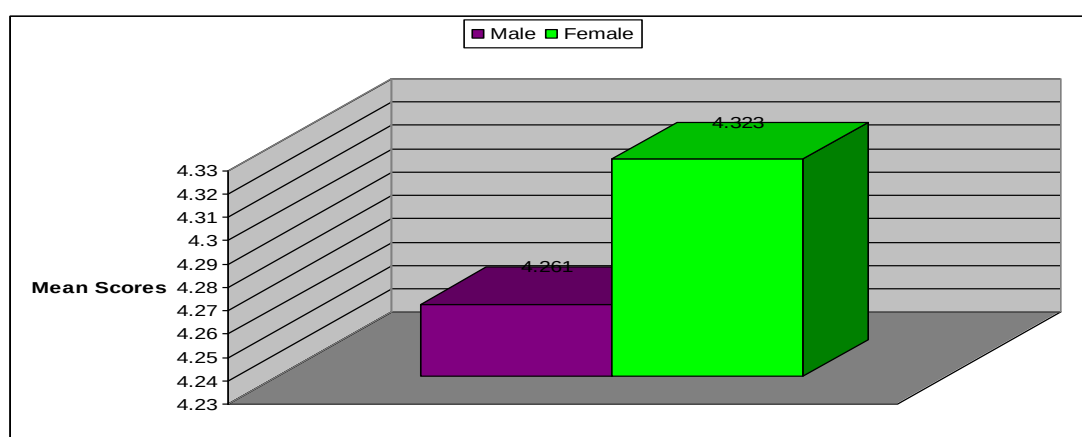


Fig.1: Mean Scores of Training and Instruction Leader Behaviour Dimension of Preferred Leadership for National Level Male and Female Volleyball Players.

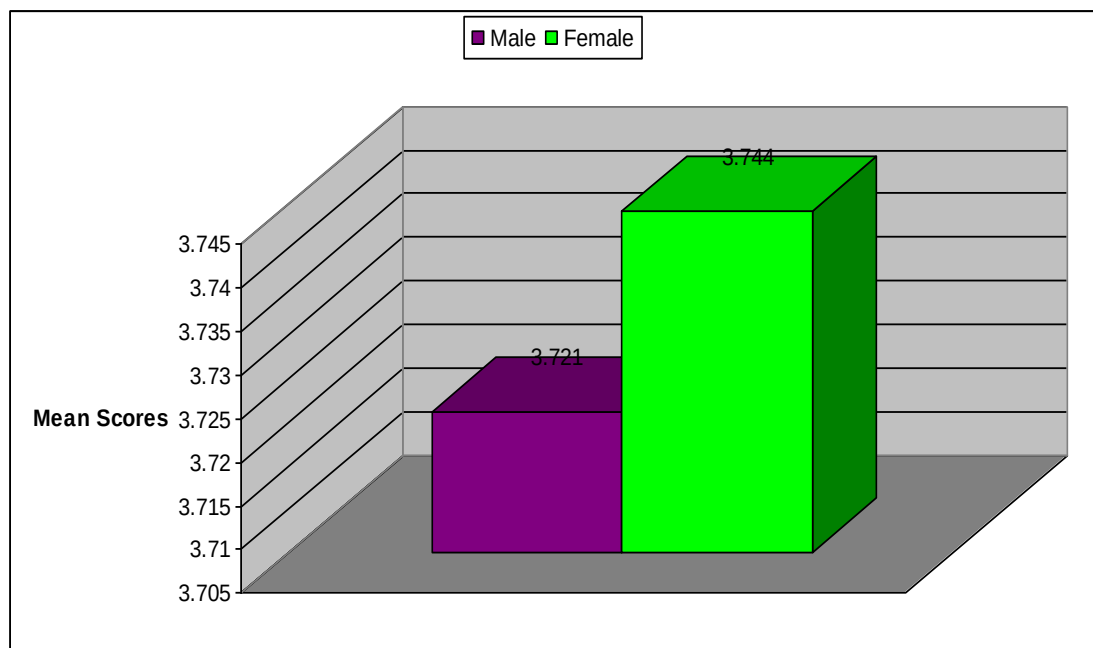


Fig.2: Mean Scores of Democratic Leader Behaviour Dimension of Preferred Leadership for National Level Male and Female Volleyball Players.

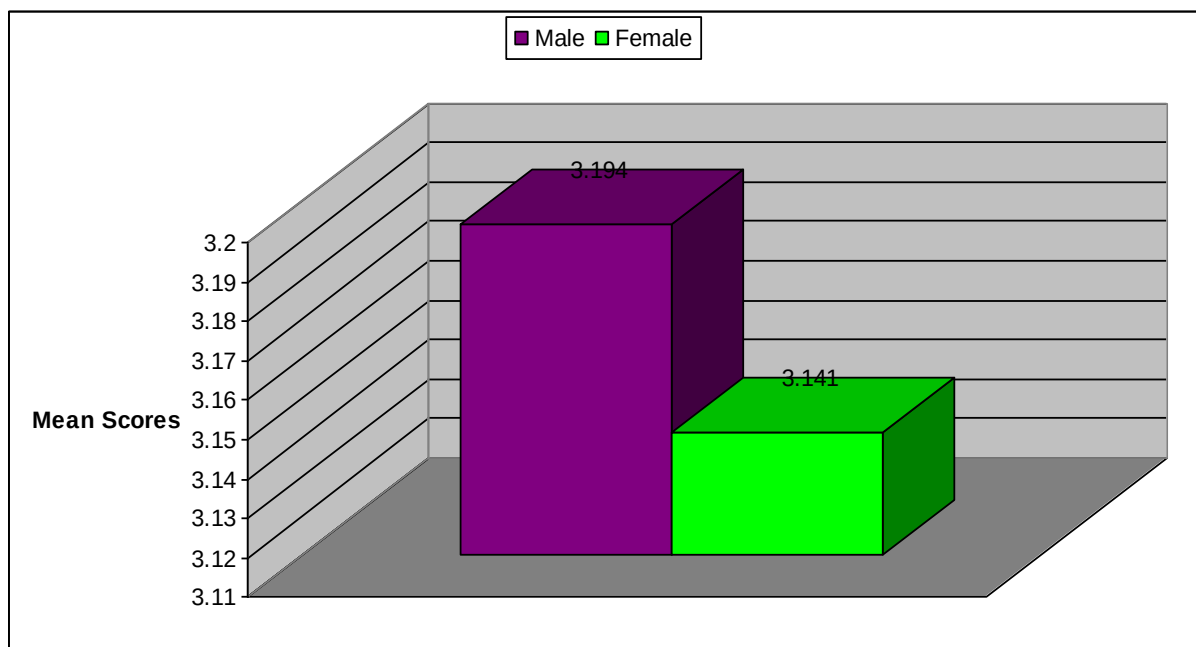


Fig.3: Mean Scores of Autocratic Leader Behaviour Dimension of Preferred Leadership for National Level Male and Female Volleyball Players.

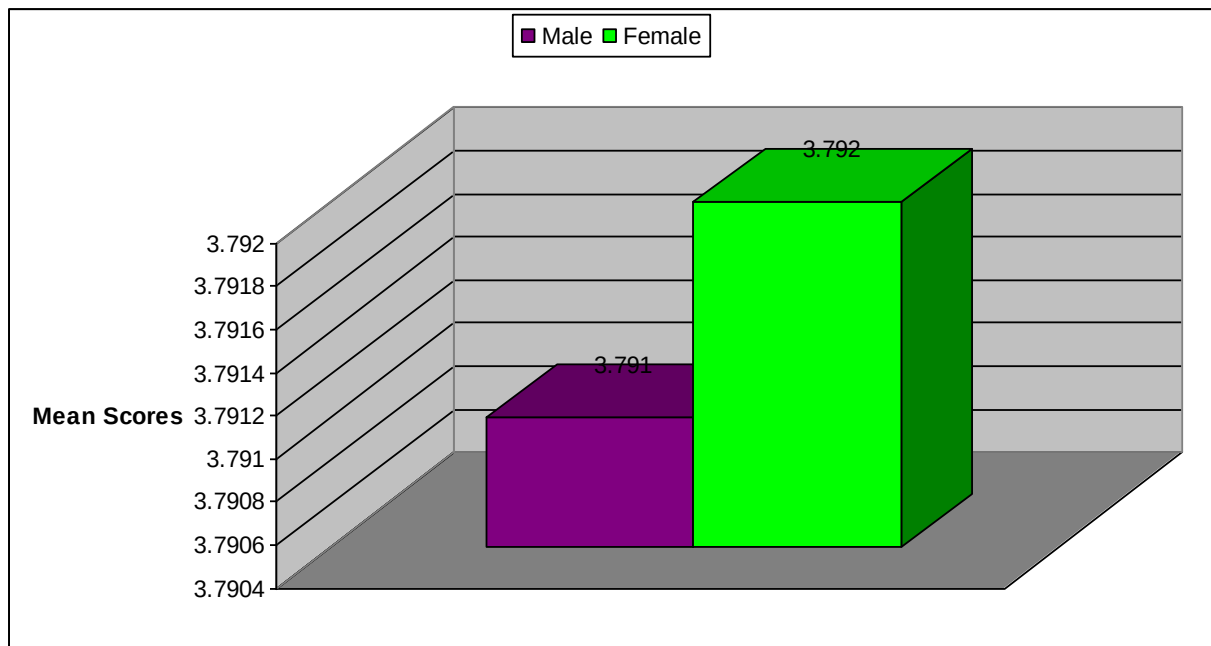


Fig.4: Mean Scores of Social Support Leader Behaviour Dimension of Preferred Leadership for National Level Male and Female Volleyball Players.

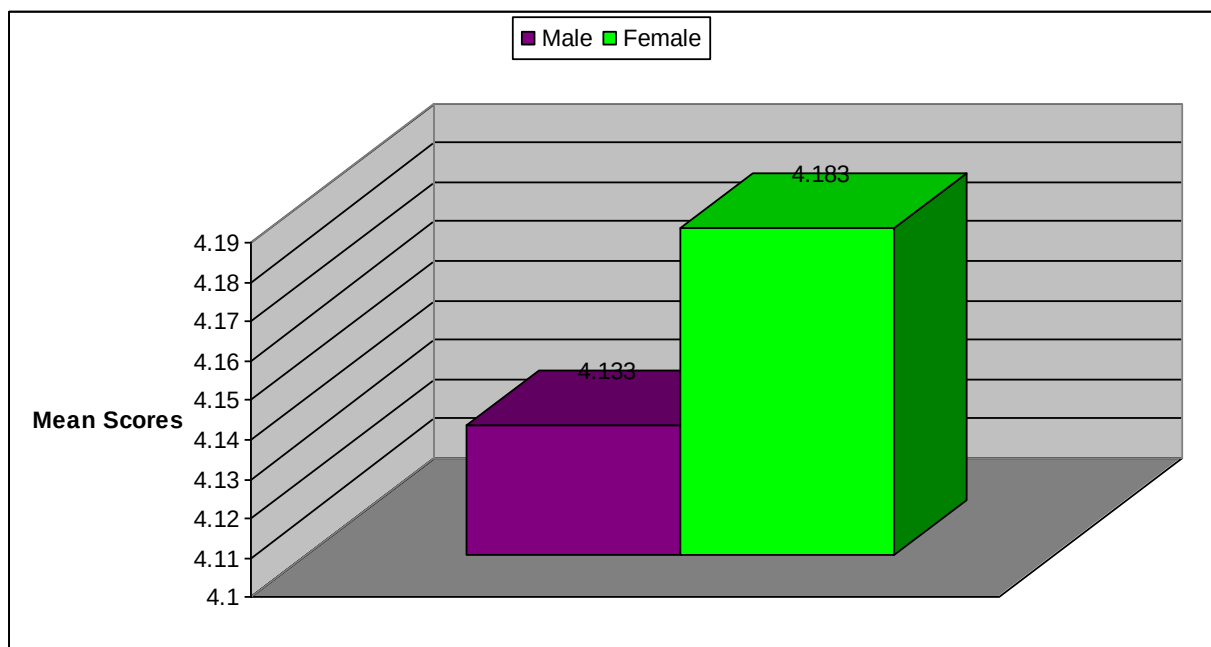


Fig.5: Mean Scores of Positive Feedback Leader Behaviour Dimension of Preferred Leadership for National Level Male and Female Volleyball Players.

The t-ratio was computed to find out the significant differences between national level male and female volleyball players on five dimensions of preferred leadership behaviour and data pertaining to this have been presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2
SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEAN SCORES OF MALE AND FEMALE VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS ON FIVE DIMENSIONS OF PREFERRED LEADERSHIP BEHAVIOUR

S. No.	Variables	Sex	Mean	MD	σ DM	t-ratio
1.	Training and instruction	Male Female	4.418 4.323	0.095	0.161	0.585
2.	Democratic behaviour	Male Female	3.721 3.744	0.024	0.062	0.384
3.	Autocratic behaviour	Male Female	3.194 3.141	0.053	0.082	0.653
4.	Social support	Male Female	3.791 3.792	0.001	0.054	0.007
5.	Positive feedback	Male Female	4.133 4.183	0.049	0.063	0.794

Insignificant at .05 level

t.05 (298)= 1. 96

It is evident from table 2, that there was no statistically significant difference between national level male and female volleyball players in their preferences on five dimensions of leader behaviour, as the obtained t-values of 0.585, 0.384, 0.653, 0.007 and 0.794 were lesser than the requires t.05 (466)=1.96.

DISCUSSION

Findings of descriptive data of national level male and female volleyball players on five dimensions of preferred leadership behaviour indicated that male volleyball players preferred more training and instruction and autocratic behaviour from their coaches than did female respondents. In case of female volleyball players, they preferred more democratic behaviour, social support and positive feedback from their coaches in comparison of male volleyball players.

When the national level male and female volleyball players were compared together on five dimensions of preferred leadership behaviour, they did not differ in any of the five dimensions of preferred leader behaviour. This may be due to similar cultural background, sporting ideologies and competitive requirement.

There would be significant difference in the leadership Preferences between national level. male and the female volleyball players is accepted, as the national level male and female volleyball players had significantly similar preference on the set of five dimensions of leader behaviour.

CONCLUSIONS

1. National level male and female volleyball players exhibited different preferences on five dimensions of leader behaviour.
2. National level male and female volleyball players preferred in greater amount of training and instruction followed by positive feedback, social support, democratic behaviour and autocratic behaviour from their coaches.
3. National level Male and female volleyball players expressed significantly similar preferences on five dimensions of leader behaviour.
4. National level Male volleyball players preferred more training and instruction and autocratic behaviour from their coaches than their counter parts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that coaches of volleyball game may modify their coaching behaviour according to the preferences expressed by the national level male and female volleyball players on five dimensions of leader behaviour. A similar study may be conducted on university volleyball players in the different states of India. A comparative study may be replicated on Indian and foreign athletes.

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