



STUDY OF SELF CONCEPT OF INDIAN SOCCER REFEREES

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to analyze and compare the self concept Indian soccer referees. Total 200 Indian male, active and retired, FIFA/National Referees (known elite group) and State Football referees, divided into two groups of 100 referees in one group, were taken as subjects. The self concept questionnaire developed by Dr. Raj Kumar Saraswat was used to measure self concept of the subjects. Results of the study revealed that elite referees had better self concept than their state level counterparts. Remarkably 79% of elite referees and 91% of state level referees were found to be having average and low self concept respectively. Only 11% elite referees possessed high self concept but surprisingly none of the state referees exhibited high self concept.

Key words: Self concept, soccer, referee, FIFA, elite,

INTRODUCTION

Every game is played according to some rules formed by the governing body of that game and sports officials have been a part of organized sports since its inception. Officiating is a part and parcel of games and sports.

Sports' officiating has been recognized as a potentially stressful activity. Sports officials are placed in a competitive environment and they are in a highly evaluative position, in which their integrity is often questioned. Reports of verbal and instances of physical abuse of soccer officials are on the increase. This can be threatening if they anticipate failure or negative appraisal from other¹

Soccer is a game of constant action and requires continuous adaptation to changing situations by the players as well as by the officials so the game of soccer requires that an official is physically fit possesses technical knowledge concerning the rules and has the necessary psychological attributes to deal with a broad range of situations and experiences.

Today soccer is established firmly in most of the world as a vital part of sporting scene. Countless millions play the game at many levels and many more watch it. Surely no game has even had the appeal and found such a fixed place in lives of so many nations as soccer has at this time²

Probably soccer is the only game in which excitement runs so high throughout the contest, even before and after the contest. Everyone is under the grip of this mounting excitement; let it be players, spectators, officials, TV viewers or organizers. Officiating is one of the most important aspects of games and sports but has been very much neglected until recently, this is very unfortunate. Poor officiating detracts so much from the enjoyment of the spectators, and players and sometimes it becomes the cause of unstoppable and undesirable unrest.

Being a referee is demanding and full of unrelenting pressure. There are occasions when referee may succumb to the pressure. Refereeing is one of the most difficult professions in the world. To be an effective referee one must possess extraordinary abilities, skills and knowledge. After coaches and managers, referees are the third dimension of athletic contest.³

To become superior official certain combination of physical and mental skills is necessary. Being an official can be challenging, exciting and rewarding, on the other hand, officials can also feel frustrated, abused and unappreciated. Whether an official experiences the positive or the negative rests on his mental approach. The mental approach can be thought of as three selves. The ideal self refers to the person you would like to be. It represents your values, your sense of right and wrong. The public self is the image you believe others have of you; you want others to believe certain things about you. The real self is the sum of other subjective thoughts, feeling and needs that you see as being the authentic. The real self is continually changing, and the healthy person strives to honestly know him or herself and to relate this inner self to the realities of the outside world. Through interactions with others, through the communication process, you come to understand, accept and experience the real self.⁴ To be a successful referee, besides having good physical fitness one must have high self concept. So this study was focused on to analyze the self concept of Indian soccer referees.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of Subject:

Total 200 Indian male, active and retired, FIFA, National and State Football referees were taken as subjects, divided into two groups of 100 referees in one group. Group one consisted of India's 100 FIFA and national referees combined together (elite referees) and group two consisted of India's 100 state level referees (state class Ist, IInd and IIIrd referees combined together), registered with different Indian states/districts football associations.

Instrumentation :

The self concept questionnaire developed by Dr. Raj Kumar Saraswat⁵ was used to measure self concept of the subjects. Reliability of the questionnaire was found by test-retest method and it was found to be 0.91 for the total self concept. Before giving the questionnaire to the respondents, the purpose of the testing was explained to the respondents and they were ensured about the secrecy of the information provided by them. They were encouraged to respond the statements sincerely and authentically without spending much time over any question. The self-concept inventory provides six separate dimensions of self-concept, viz. Physical, Social, Temperamental, Educational, Moral and Intellectual self-concept. It also gives a total self-concept score.

Scoring:

The self-concept inventory contains total 48 questions. Respondent is provided with five alternatives to give his responses ranging from most acceptable to least acceptable description of his self-concept. The responses or alternatives were arranged in such a way that the scoring system for all the items remained the same i.e. 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for the five responses respectively whether the items were positive or negative. The subject had to tick (✓) the option which he thinks most appropriate.

The summated score of all the forty eight items provided the total self-concept score of an individual. A high score on this inventory indicates a high self-concept, while low score indicates low self-concept.

RESULTS

TABLE 1
FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF SELF CONCEPT OF ELITE AND STATE LEVEL SOCCER REFEREES

Self Concept	Total	
	Elite Soccer Referees	State Level Soccer Referees
Low Self Concept	10	91
Average Self Concept	79	09
High Self Concept	11	00
Total	100	100

The scores of table 1 indicate that out of 100, large number (79) elite soccer referees having average self concept, only 11 elite soccer referees having high self concept while only 10 were found to be with low self concept. Out of 100, majority (91) of state level soccer referees exhibited low Self Concept. Only 9 state soccer referees having average self concept and remarkably none of the state soccer referees exhibited high self concept.

TABLE 2
DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF ELITE REFEREES (FIFA & NATIONAL LEVEL) AND STATE REFEREES ON SELF CONCEPT

Variables	Groups	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error
Self-Concept	Elite Referees	187.08	14.113	1.411
	State Referees	151.61	15.600	1.560

Table-2 clearly indicates the mean, standard deviation and standard error of Elite Referees (FIFA & National Level) and State Referees on Self-Concept. The observed mean and standard deviation on Self-Concept of Elite Referees were 187.08 and 14.113 while standard error was 1.411; and State Referees 151.61 and 15.600 with standard error 1.560 respectively. Elite Referees had higher mean score as compared to state referees.

TABLE- 3
SIGNIFICANCE OF MEAN DIFFERENCE OF ELITE REFEREES (FIFA & NATIONAL LEVEL) AND STATE SOCCER REFEREES ON SELF CONCEPT

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	df	M.D.	SEd	t ratio
Self-Concept	Elite Referees	100	187.08	14.113	198	35.47	2.103	16.861*
	State Referees	100	151.61	15.600				

*Significant at 0.05 level, Tabulated t value= 1.960. df (198)

From table 3, it is evident that the obtained t ratio 16.861 is greater than the tabulated t value 1.960 at 0.05 level with df (198); therefore, there has been a significant difference between Elite Referees (FIFA & National Level) and State Referees on Self Concept. Elite Referees (FIFA & National Level) possess better Self Concept than State Soccer Referees.

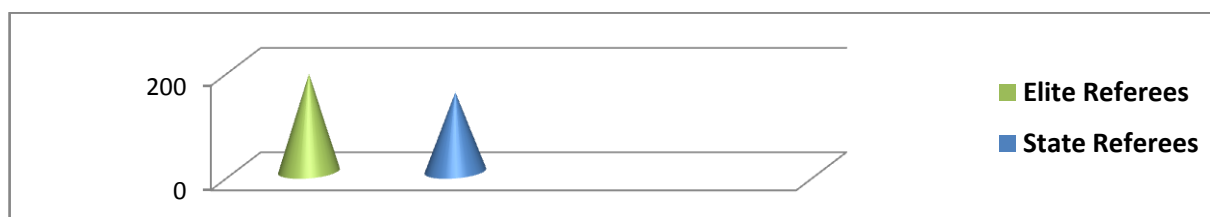


Fig. 1: Mean Scores between Elite Referees (FIFA & National Level) and State Level Referees on Self Concept

DISCUSSION

Table - 1 reveals that majority (79%) of Elite Soccer Referees (FIFA & National Level) have average self concept whereas most of the (91%) state soccer referees have low self concept. Not a single state referee exhibited strong self concept.

Remarkably, majority (94.5%) of India's soccer referees (elite and state referees combined together) have average or low self concept. Reason for this situation can be attributed to the miserable condition of soccer in India and India's poor standing in FIFA's world ranking. Soccer is not considered as high profile sport in India. So most of the time performances of good players or officials go unnoticed. They do not get the due recognition or value in media.

In comparison of State Soccer Referees Elite Referees (FIFA & National Level) have been found to be better in Self Concept.

CONCLUSION

Results of the study revealed that elite referees had better self concept than their state level counterparts. Remarkably 79% of elite referees and 91% of state level referees were found to be having average and low self concept respectively.

Only 11% elite referees possessed high self concept but surprisingly none of the state referees exhibited high self concept. Self concept is known as individual's views about oneself and how an individual perceives and values oneself. Keeping in view the unexciting scenario of soccer in India, it does not seem to be surprising to know about the poor level of self concept of Indian soccer referees.

Players and officials associated with soccer in India are not able to make big name, fame internationally. Football is not a good source of glamour, recognition or money in India which is not going to have an encouraging impact on their self concept.

Questionnaires were given to subjects personally, by mail or sent by post. Although full confidentiality of the responses was promised, still some of the subjects might have hesitated in giving genuine responses and any bias that might existed due to this should be considered as a limitation of the present study.

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