



PERSONALITY PROFILE OF SPORTS JOURNALISTS BASED ON PREVIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Dev Singh Patil¹ and Dr. Yuwraj Shrivastava²

Affiliations:

¹ Research Scholar, Department of Physical Education, Dr. CV Raman University, Kargi Road Kota Bilaspur C.G.

² Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education, Dr. CV Raman University, Kargi Road Kota Bilaspur C.G.

ABSTRACT

The present study assessed the personality profile of sports journalists based on their previous involvement in competitive sports. To conduct the study 50 former players cum sports journalists (Average age 42.11 years) and 50 sports journalist (Average age 39.17 years) with no previous involvement in competitive sports were selected as sample. The former players cum sports journalists have the credentials of participation in the national level tournament. To assess the personality profile of selected sports journalists, the Hindi PEN inventory prepared by Menon (1978) was used. Results revealed that ex-players cum sports journalists were low neurotic and extraverted as compared to sports journalist with a non-sporting background. No significant difference was observed in the psychoticism dimension of personality between the two groups. It was concluded that the advantage of previous involvement in competitive sports in terms of superior emotional stability and extraverted characteristics was seen in ex-players cum sports journalist as compared to sports journalists from the non-sporting background.

Keywords: Personality, Sports Journalist, Ex-players, Profile, Competitive

1. INTRODUCTION

Sports journalism is also a form of writing which covers sporting events and competitions. It started in the early 1800 with sports news in print media. In India, sports journalism was not considered serious journalism until the advent of the corporate sector. It was believed that sports journalists do not require a special skill set and intelligence. The history of sports journalism is not too old and it was started in 1930 in the form of sports news in free press journal. Sports journalism in modern times in India is very competitive and a lot of ex-players are part of it. Some of the sports journalists also come from the non-sporting background. Many ex-players are taking sports journalism as a career after retirement. This creates challenges for sports journalists from the non-sporting background. The popularity of former players is immense and people love to read their articles. Whether personality plays a part in framing a good sports columns of ex-players than the sports journalists from the non-sporting background is an issue unexplored. Sports reporting may also be influenced by personality just like reporting in other allied areas. In a study by Khan (2005) it was found that personality is linked to the performance of journalist. It was found that neuroticism significantly affects journalists adaptability in a noisy atmosphere. It was also observed that neuroticism was also linked to worry about the deadline to present the article. Extraversion was strongly correlated with news source in this study. It is indeed natural for an introvert to feel some discomfort to approach someone to get information about a new story. In this sense, an introverted sports journalists may not get the inside story while his/her counterpart with an extraverted personality may lay hand to that information. According to Nuraeni et al. (2018) the job performance of journalists is dependent on certain psychological factors such as motivation, extraversion etc. These psychological factors are thought to be important for journalists to survive the tough competition. Several personality theories have been propounded under psychology and Eysencks Personality theory is one of them. Eysenck, a German-born British psychologist, went a step further in the adopting factor analysis technique by extracting second-order factors and grouping traits into definite personality types. The three dimensions of Eysenck's personality is psychoticism, extraversion-introversion and neuroticism (PEN). Psychoticism is the first dimension propounded by Eysenck. The high score on this dimension denotes lack of concentration, insensitive and impulsive behaviour and egocentric characteristics in an individual. Characteristics such as outgoing, sociable, optimistic denote an extroverted person while characteristics such as reserved, reflective and introspective are associated with introversion personality. The neuroticism dimension refers to emotional stability/instability. The low neurotic people are stable, calm, even-tempered and reliable while the high neurotics are anxious, moody, toughness and restless. Eysenck's work has verified that human behaviour and personality can be organised into a hierarchy with explicit responses at the bottom and the definite personality type at the top. The PEN model propounded by Eysenck has two main categories i.e. descriptive and causal. The descriptive aspect of the model is a hierarchical taxonomy based on factor analysis.

Studies have shown that personality is linked to job stress, work behaviour and other communication problems so it would be interesting to compare the personality profile of ex-player cum sports journalist with sports journalists from the non-sporting background. The research work about sports journalist is not exhaustive but few studies namely by Kennard et al. (2018), Lee et al. (2016), Hussain (2014), Kian and Clavio (2011), Hardin et al. (2008), Hagerty (2005) have taken various issues related to it. In limited research work personality of sports-journalist have not been assessed in the light of their previous involvement in competitive sports, hence the present study was planned.

1.1 Objectives

The objective of the present study was to compare the personality of sports journalists with and without previous involvement in competitive sports

1.2 Hypothesis

It was hypothesized that the former national players cum sports journalist will be low psychotic, extrovert and less neurotic as compared to sports journalists with no previous involvement in competitive sports.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Sample

To conduct the study 50 former players cum sports journalists (Average age 42.11 years) and 50 sports journalist (Average age 39.17 years) with no previous involvement in competitive sports were selected as sample. The former players cum sports journalists have the credentials of participation in the national level tournament. The selection of sports journalists was done from various daily newspapers circulated in India. Purposive sampling was used in this study.

2.2 Instrument

Eysenck's Psychoticism, Extraversion and Neuroticism (PEN) Inventory: The extraversion, neuroticism and psychoticism dimensions of personality among sports journalist were assessed by the Hindi version of Eysenck's PEN inventory prepared by Menon et al (1978). It consists of 78 items. The test-retest reliability coefficients have been found as 0.630, 0.888, 0.687 and 0.337 for P, E, N and L scales respectively. The authors of this Hindi PEN also attempted to estimate its correlation with the English PEN and found the resulted coefficients fairly high.

2.3 Procedure

100 sports journalists were selected purposively from various daily newspapers circulated in India. The Eysenck PEN Inventory was communicated on an online platform as google forms. The subjects were asked to give their response on each statement and submit the google form.

3. RESULTS

The obtained responses were tabulated and an Independent sample 't' test was used and the results are shown in Tables 1.

TABLE 1
COMPARISON OF PSYCOTOCISM DIMENSION OF PERSONALITY AMONG
SPORTS JOURNALISTS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PREVIOUS
INVOLVEMENT IN SPORTS

Sports Journalists	N	Mean	SD	MD	DM	t-ratio
With Previous Involvement in Competitive Sports	50	5.58	3.72	0.38	0.95	0.40
Without Previous Involvement in Competitive Sports	50	5.90	4.10			

*Significant at .05 Level

t.05 (98) = 1.98

A perusal of statistical entries reported in table 1 revealed that there was no significant difference in psychoticism dimension of personality between two study groups namely former players cum sports journalists (M=5.58) and sports journalists with no previous involvement in

competitive sports (M=5.90). The calculated $t=0.40$ also justifies this finding because it did not meet the statistical criteria of significance.

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF EXTRAVERSION DIMENSION OF PERSONALITY AMONG
SPORTS JOURNALISTS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PREVIOUS
INVOLVEMENT IN SPORTS

Group of Sports Journalists	N	Mean	SD	MD	DM	t-ratio
With Previous Involvement in Competitive Sports	50	13.02	2.46	0.98	0.49	1.99*
Without Previous Involvement in Competitive Sports	50	12.04	2.44			

*Significant at .05 Level

$t_{.05(98)} = 1.98$

Table 2 gives statistical figures regarding the extraversion dimension of personality in two study groups. It was found that the former players cum sports journalists were extrovert (M=13.02) as compared to sports journalists without any prior involvement in competitive sports (M=12.04) at .05 level of statistical significance.

TABLE 3
COMPARISON OF NEUROTICISM DIMENSION OF PERSONALITY AMONG
SPORTS JOURNALISTS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR PREVIOUS
INVOLVEMENT IN SPORTS

Sports Journalists	N	Mean	SD	MD	DM	t-ratio
With Previous Involvement in Competitive Sports	50	5.72	2.77	1.62	0.62	2.63*
Without Previous Involvement in Competitive Sports	50	7.34	3.34			

*Significant at .05 Level

$t_{.05(98)} = 1.98$

In Table 3, when the neuroticism dimension of personality was compared between two study groups it was found that the former players cum sports journalists were low neurotic (M=5.72) as compared to sports journalists without any prior involvement in competitive sports (M=7.34) at .01 level of statistical significance.

4. DISCUSSION

Findings reveal that the personality of sports journalists differs based on their previous involvement in competitive sports. It shows that former players cum sports journalists were low neurotic and extrovert as compared to sports journalists with no previous involvement in competitive sports. Studies in the past have also shown the benefits of participation in sports on psycho-social development (Sidhu et al. 2013, Singh et al. 2013, Mittal, 2014; Chowdhary and Shrivastava, 2017). These studies have documented that participation in sports develop characteristics such as self-confidence, optimism, extrovert behaviour, emotional stability, cognition and superior mental skills. While participating in sports we learn to accept defeat and learn from our mistakes to bounce back. It also enables better coping ability during frustrating situations. Hence there is no surprise that former players cum sports journalist show better

personality characteristics such as emotional stability and extraversion as compared to sports journalist with no previous involvement in sports.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on results, it can be concluded that former players cum sports journalists were extrovert and low neurotic as compared to sports journalists without any previous involvement in sports.

REFERENCES

- Chowdhary, M.S. and Shrivastava, Y. (2017).** Social behaviour of secondary students: with reference to participation in competitive sports. *International Journal of Advance Research*, 5(5).
- Eysenck H.J. (1977).** Psychology is about people. Penguin.
- Hagerty, B. (2005).** It's cricket, but is it journalism? *British Journalism Review*, 16 (3), (pp.79-84)..
- Hardin, M., Shain, S., and Shultz-Poniatowski, K. (2008).** "There's no sex attached to your occupation": The revolving door for young women in sports journalism. *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*, 17(1), 68-79.
- Hussain, F. (2014).** Coverage of Sports in the Mainstream Print Media: Study of Trends with Special Reference to Cricket. *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 9, 49-64.
- Kennard, M., McLellan, T., and McKinlay, A. (2018).** Sports Media Representations of Concussions in the National Rugby League. *Aust. Psychol.*; 53:97–102.
- Khan, Z. (2005).** The influence of personality traits on journalists' work behaviour: An exploratory study examining a Bangladeshi sample. *Asian Journal of Communication*, 15(1):72-84.
- Kian E.M., and Clavio G. (2011).** A comparison of online media and traditional newspaper coverage of the men's and women's open tennis tournaments. *Journal of Sports Media*, Vol. 6 (1), pp 55-84.
- Lee, M., Daeyeon, K., Williams, A.S., Pedersen, P.M. (2016).** Investigating the Role of Sports Commentary: An Analysis of Media-Consumption Behavior and Programmatic Quality and Satisfaction. *Journal of Sports Media*, University of Nebraska Press, Volume 11, Number 1.
- Menon D.K. et al (1978).** Hindi PEN Inventory Preliminary Data on Normals and Psychiatric Patients. *Indian Journal of Clinical Psychology*, a(1), 59-62.
- Mittal, Bhavna (2014).** A Comparative Study on the Adjustment of Player and Non-Player College Level Female Students. *International Journal of Health, Sports and Physical Education* Vol.2, No. 2: 13 - 15.
- Nuraeni, R., Cheng-Ling Tan, and Azmawati, A.A. (2018).** The Influence of Individual Factors on The Indonesian Journalists Job Performance. *EpSBS*, VOL. 65.
- Sidhu, A.S.; Dutta, S.; Singh, S. and Khan, N. (2013).** Effect of anxiety and motivation on the levels of stress on players and non-players. *IJOBSMS*, Vol. 2, Issue 2, 19-23.
- Singh, D.; Sing, A. and Singh, S. (2013).** A comparative study of sports personology between sports-persons and non sports-persons. *International Journal of Behavioral Social and Movement Sciences*, Vol. 2, Issue 2, 184-191.