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A COMPARISON OF COMPETITIVE BEHAVIOUR BETWEEN AIR PISTOL AND AIR RIFLE FEMALE SHOOTERS

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Abstract: Competition makes sports exciting. The very thought of winning gives every player an adrenaline rush but competition is not only about winning. If we take a deeper look, it channelizes our positive energy as well as provides exact information about one's status in comparison to other opponents in a given sporting endeavour. The present investigation was an attempt to find out the difference of competitive behaviour between air pistol and air rifle shooting players. Competitive behavior test developed by Tyson was administered for collecting the data from the subjects. To find out the difference between the groups (air pistol and air rifle) t-test was applied. On analyzing the data it was found that there was no significant difference existed between air pistol and air rifle female shooters with regard to their competitive behaviour.

Keyword: Competition, Competitive Behaviour, Air Pistol and Air Rifle.

INTRODUCTION:

Competition in sports is becoming more intense day by day. Individuals and nations are striving hard to gain supremacy over others. Modern competitive sports are an extremely complex behavioral phenomenon. In tough competitions, some top athletes who are potentially strong in terms of technique or physical efficiency often fail to achieve their best form simply because they lack required psychological attributes to excel in competitive endeavours. Performance in sports is not only related to physical strength and skill, rather psychological states and traits are considered independable in delivering peak performance. Psychological strength seems to facilitate the players in converting their physical strength and sport skills into optimal performance. There is growing realization that mind has the power to influence the physical functioning of human body. Performance in top competitive sports goes beyond mere physical efforts and skills which have their own natural limits that can not be pushed beyond certain limits. However, it is difficult even to reach up to these limits without training the mind.

Competition is a very soul of sports, sports competition is not only sustains interest but also provide thrill and joy of life. It satisfies the urge of a player for social recognition and dominance. It provides opportunities to athletes to know their own position in relation to other athletes. Competition provides feedback to athletes and coaches about their potentialities and short comings. Hence competitions serve as a means to improve the performance. Athletes are encouraged to compete for inherent reward which may be championship, ranking, and position of a team or even money. Researches has revealed that highly competitive and less competitive athletes pre-dominantly possess a few desirable psychological characteristics

including consistency, self-confidence, concentration and moderate arousal in terms of performance readiness state (Nicholls, 1989; Rogerson & Hrycaiko 2002).

Competitive behaviour may be defined as “the direct struggle between individuals for a common goal. Although there is a lack of research on the antecedent and developmental aspects of cooperation and competition. The available literature however suggests that such factors may be important in understanding cooperation and competition. Mead (1937) and May and Doob (1937) have reported that culture affects patterns of cooperation and competition. Similarly McKee and Leader (1995) also indicate that societal and personality factors may also be important determinants of cooperative and competitive behavior.

The aim of the present investigation was to explore the difference of competitive behaviour between air pistol and air rifle shooting players.

METHOD

Participants

The present investigation was undertaken on air rifle and air pistol shooting players who were participated in All India intervarsity shooting championship held at Jivaji University, Gwalior in February, 2012. Eighty Seven Female shooters (Air Pistol=29, Air Rifle=58) served as the participants for this study.

Tool

Keeping in view the research objectives and availability of the appropriate questionnaire the Competitive behaviour Test developed by Tyson (2000) was administered on the subjects for the collection of data. It comprised 50 items to measure the competitive behaviour.

Procedure

The above mentioned tool was administrated individually to each participant. Prior to the administration of psychological test, the investigator approached concerned coaches and participants at the personal level and requested them to help in the data collection. The investigator clearly explained the items on questionnaire in simple and understandable language before they filled the questionnaire. In order to explore the differences between two groups of subjects on competitive behavior, t-test was computed using the SPSS 16.

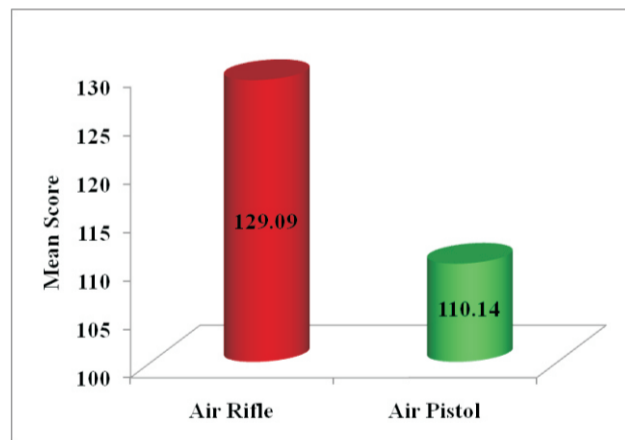
Table-1 Mean Differences between Air Rifle and Air Pistol Shooting Players on Competitive Behaviour

Group	N	Mean	SD	t-value
Air Rifle	58	129.09	12.04	0.84
Air Pistol	29	110.14	11.42	

df=85, tab [t]=1.98 (p>0.05)

It may be depicted from the obtained value of t (0.83) was lesser than the tabulated t (1.98), Thus it may be concluded that there was no significant difference between air pistol and air rifle shooters on the variable of competitive behavior.

Figure-1: Mean comparison of Air Rifle and Air Pistol Shooting Players



DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study explored that there was no significant difference exist between female air pistol and air rifle shooters on their competitive behaviour. However, the mean score of air rifle shooters was higher than the air pistol shooters but it was negligible. As in both the events of shooting, almost similar type of equipment and competitive situations exist, the level of the competition was also same identical concerntration and mental poise are needed. Hence no significant difference in the competitive

behaviour of the female shooters of two events have been found. The results of the present investigation are in line with the findings of Rajora & Prajapati (2012) who studied the competitive behaviour of south and west zone intervarsity female hockey players and found insignificant difference on competitive behavior.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study showed that statistically there was no significant difference between Air Pistol and Air Rifle female shooters in regard to their competitive behaviour. Thus it may be concluded that both Air Pistol and Air Rifle female shooters had similar competitive behaviour irrespective of their events.

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