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## **Golden Research Thoughts**



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# "EFFECT OF PESSIMISTIC AND OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE ON PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERUNIVERSITY CRICKET PLAYERS"

#### **Bhosale Suresh Rajaram**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

he world's expert in the study of Optimism is Dr. Martin Seligman, whose book, "Learned Optimism," is a classic in the field. Seligman's research shows that pessimistic athletes and teams believe that losses and even poor performance during crunch time reflect their lack of ability to succeed . These athletes and teams have learned to feel helpless in terms of controlling their performance, and thus their success or failure.

**KEYWORDS**:Pessimistic and Optimistic Attitude, Personality Characteristics, pessimistic athletes.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The research shows that when these athletes are confronted by unfortunate circumstancessuch as, in tennis, a series of double faults, windy conditions or the belief that their opponent is cheating



they will weaken, get angry, tighten up and believe they cannot succeed. This selffulfilling prophecy almost always leads to continued poor performance, so the athlete will ultimately lose the set and match. These pessimistic thinkers don't expect to win the next time out and with this negative expectation, they most likely will lose subsequent matches. This, of course, reinforces their negative view of themselves and their abilities and the negativity snowball is rolling down hill.

On the other hand, optimistic athletes look at the same negative events as temporary setbacks, and as

opportunities to actually re-focus and crank up their performance during the rest of the match. They recognize that they have ultimate control over their internal dialogue and how they view negative events. For example, they may "blame" a poor game or set on being distracted by fans cheering for their opponent or on the weather on getting irritated by the opponent cheating. They recognize that they can now change their thinking, re-focus on their game plan, recapture the momentum and still grasp victory. Even if they eventually lose the match, these optimistic thinkers understand how to change their internal dialogue prior to and during their next match. Accordingly, these players will go into the next match expecting success and will usually win!

The psychological dimensions of optimism and pessimism have been the topic of a substantial amount of research (Carver & Scheier. 2002a; Scheier & Carver. 2003; Scheier. Matthews, & Owens, 2003). Optimistic individuals are categorized as having positive expectations and perceptions on life. Optimists also believe the future holds desirable outcomes. In contrast, pessimistic individuals tend to represent a negative bias towards life because the future is undesirable (Carver & Scheier, 2002a; Scheier & Carver, 2003).

Optimism has been linked to both psychological (Scheier & Carver, 1985; Carver & Gaines, 1987; Carver & Scheier, 2002a, Car\er & Scheier, 2002b; Scheier, Matthews. & Owens, 2003), and physical (Scheier et al.. 1989: Carver & Scheier. 2003) well-being. For example, Carver and Gaines found an inverse relationship between postpartum depression and optimism. More recently. Fournier. Ridder, and Bensing (2003) found the impact of disease-related stressors on optimistic beliefs during a one-year period was decreased when patients reported depressive symptoms. Scheier, Matthews, and Owens found optimistic post-operative coronary heart patients to report lower levels of hostility and depression and achieved recovery goals more quickly than pessimistic coronary heart patients. Gerend, Aiken, and West (2004) found lower perceived susceptibility to particular disease (breast cancer, osteoporosis, and heart disease) in older women who are more optimistic.

Kevin L. Burke(2006) An Exploratory Investigation of Superstition. Personal Control, Optimism and Pessimism in NCAA Division I

Intercollegiate Student-Athletes. The usage of superstitious behavior in relation to personal control and optimism and pessimism was examined among 208 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I athletes. Questionnaires were administered to determine if personal control or optimism and pessimism was associated with the use of superstitious behaviors in Division I athletes. Previous research regarding locus of control (LOC) and the use of superstitions by athletes was equivocal. The Superstitious Ritual Questionnaire (Bleak & Frederick, 1998), Life Orientation Test- Revised (Scheier, Carver, & Bridges. 1994), and Belief in Personal Control Scale (Berrenberg. 1987) were the instruments used to assess the variables of interest. Findings supported previous research (Bleak & Frederic. 1998: Todd & Brown. 2001) that LOC does not effect superstitious behavior in Division 1 athletes. Optimism and Pessimism did not affect athletes' overall practice of superstitious behaviors. Athletes who had lesser beliefs in God-mediated control were less likely to be optimistic. A lesser belief in God- mediated control emerged as a slight predictor of less belief in the effectiveness of superstitions and therefore, less usage of superstitious behaviors. Individual athletes were found to exhibit a higher internal LOC compared to team athletes. Contrary to previous research, female athletes subscribed to different ritual habits than male athletes (Buhrmann, Brown. & Zaugg, 1982; Gregory & Petrie, 1975).

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

#### Objective and aim of the study:

The main objective and aim of the present study are to see the effect of pessimistic and optimistic attitude on personality characteristics of interuniversity cricket players.

#### **Hypothesis:**

Optimistic interuniversity cricket players were significantly high personality characteristics than the pessimistic interuniversity cricket players.

#### Sample:

For the present study 180 Sample were selected from Maharashtra State, India. The effective sample consisted of 180 subjects, 90 subjects were Optimistic interuniversity cricket players and 100 subjects were pessiimistic interuniversity cricket players. The age range of subjects was 18-25years Ratio were 1:1, as well as ratio of male and female were 1:1.

#### Tool:

#### PDS:

Personal data information sheet was used for collecting necessary information about the players.

#### Multi Assessment Personality Series (MAPS) (1996):

This scale was constructed and standardized by Psy Com. It consists of 147 sentences and each item provide three alternatives the subjects had to select one of the three alternative and this test used Split-Half and Test-Retest Reliability Coefficients & Factorial Validity.

#### Procedures of data collection:

For data collection first permission has been taken from respective sources than the respondance has

been selected for data collection. Personal data sheet (PDS) has been given to collect the premilary information with respect to subjects related variables then standerlized test administed to the subjects. Before that rapport was established with subjects. And the have been told that their responces was keptconfidencial and the information is used for research purpose only.

The study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase, optimistic and pessimistic scale were give on the 180 interuniversity cricket players. The data were obtained and mdian value on optimistic and pessimistic scale was calculated. Students at and above median value were treated as having optimistic interuniversity cricket players and below median value were treated as having pessimistic interuniversity cricket players. From among 180 subjects, 90 subjects having optimistic interuniversity cricket players and 90 subjects having pessimistic interuniversity cricket players, were selected. The selected subjects

were subjected to Multi Assessment Per> nality Series (MAPS) test in the second phase. The obtained data analyzed using '-test.

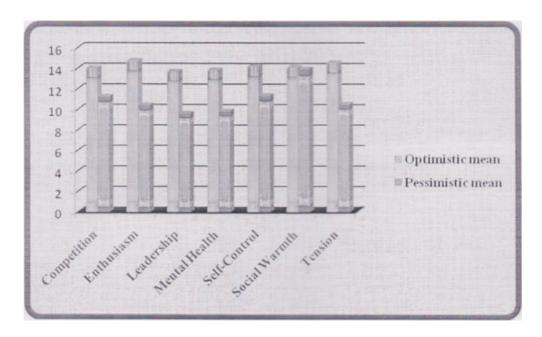
#### Variables:

Independent variable: 1) Players a) Opiimistic b) Pessimistic Dependant variable:

1) Personality Charateristics

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:**

Dimension of Personality	Optimistic (N=90)		Pessimistic (N=90)		t- ratio	df	Р
	Mean	SI)	Mean	SI)			
Competition	14.03	2.43	11.21	2.19	8.18**	178	<.01
Enthusiasm	14.72	4.13	10.40	3.41	7.65**	178	<.01
Leadership	13.70	3.78	9.60	3.01	8.05**	178	<.01
Mental Health	13.83	3.10	9.81	2.73	9.23**	178	<.01
Self-Control	14.18	3.57	11.33	3.03	5.77**	178	< .01
Social Warmth	14.09	2.69	13.93	3.10	0.37	178	NS
Tension	14.53	4.63	10.49	2.23	7.69**	178	<.01



The results related to the hypothesis have been recorded. Mean of Competition score of the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 14.03 and pessimistic interuniversity cricket players Mean are 11.21 The difference between the two mean is highly significant ('t' =  $8.18 \, df = 178. \, P < 0.01$ ). Mean of enthusiasm score of

the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 14.72 and pessimistic interuniversity cricket

players Mean are 10.40 The difference between the two mean is highly significant ("t'=7.65 df =178, P < 0.01) . Mean of leadership score of the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 13.70 and pessimistic nteruniversity cricket players Mean are 9.60 The difference between the two mean is highly significant ('t'=8.05 df = 178, P < 0.01) . Mean of nental health score of the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 13.83 and pessimistic interuniversity cricket players Mean are 9.81 The difference between the two mean is highly significant ('t'=9.23 df = 178. P < 0.01). Mean of self-control score of the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 14.18 and pessimistic interuniversity cricket players Mean are 11.33 The difference between the two mean is highly significant ('t'=5.77 df =178. P < 0.01) . Mean of social warmth score of the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 14.09 and pessimistic interuniversity cricket players Mean are 13.93

The difference between the two mean is not significant ('t'= 0.37 df = 178, P = NS). Mean of tension score of the optimistic interuniversity cricket players are 14.53 and pessimistic interuniversity cricket players Mean are 10.49 The difference between the two mean is highly significant ('t'= 7.46 df =  $1^{8}$ . P < 0.01).

#### **RESULTS:**

Optimistic interuniversity cricket players were significantly high personality characteristics than the pessimistic interuniversity cricket players.

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