

**Impact
Factor
2.147**

ISSN 2349-638x

Reviewed International Journal



**AAYUSHI
INTERNATIONAL
INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH JOURNAL
(AIIRJ)**

Monthly Publish Journal

VOL-III

**ISSUE-
IV**

Apr.

2016

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CHIEF EDITOR – PRAMOD PRAKASHRAO TANDALE

Values Cherished By Athletes And Non-Athletes : A Comparative Study

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Introduction

Values and generations probably are closely associated; values cherished in one generation may not necessarily be approved in the next generation because values go on changing, according to the changing situations or changing conditions. If we consider developmental psychology, then we find that behavioural changes take place at different stages in the life of an individual. A normal individual is one, whose behaviour is in accordance with the norms approved by the society for that age group, e.g. during childhood the role model of the child either is the mother or the father, or both. But when the child goes to school, then there is a change in the role model and now the teacher of the child is his/her role model. Naturally the values of the child change according to the role model. When the child grows up and joins the pal group, then in the group s/he has to cherish the values of the group. Otherwise, s/he has to go away from the group. This simple example, clearly makes one to think that the values go on changing. Still some values persist; it is mainly because, some of the values are considered as healthy values that are beneficial for the development of society.

When we talk about games and sports, then it is expected that the sportspersons should observe or cherish specific values so that the sportsmanship is maintained and they should take victory as well as defeat sportingly. Secondly, it is necessary that the sportsperson must develop high morale as well as high morals. Morale refers to the feeling or the attitude, "one for all and all for one", that is why, the term should function as a unit where every sportsperson is important to run the unit. Especially in our country it is observed that there is absence of morale among the sportspersons; every sportsperson on the field tries to demonstrate that he is the superior most among them.

Aim and Objectives of the Study:

The aim of the study is, to measure the impact of individual – sportspersons vs. non sportspersons on the development of ten different values namely; religious, social, democratic, aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonistic, power, family prestige, and health value.

The specific objective of the study is as follows

- To assess and compare the level of different values (religious, social, democratic, aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonistic, power, family prestige, health) amongst sportspersons and non sportspersons.

Hypotheses of the Study:

Assuming that the other factors are kept constant, it is hypothesized that,

- There will be no difference in the level of different values (religious, social, democratic, aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonistic, power, family prestige, health) amongst sportspersons and non sportspersons.

Methodology

In present study a scientific and systematic methodology is used to search the influence of types of individual namely sportspersons and non sportspersons. Present study was designed as a 2x2x2 factorial research design. Here, three factors namely types of individual, gender, and SES were treated as independent variables. whereas, ten different types of values namely; religious, social, democratic, aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonistic, power, family prestige, and health values were considered as dependent variables.

Selection of Subjects (Sample)

While selecting the sample of study, two stage sampling technique was used. In the first place athletes or sportspersons were selected from physical educational institutions. Around 296 athletes were selected from various institutions. Of these 296 subjects, 151 were males and 145 were females. After selecting these athletes or sportspersons their age, educational standard, and socio-economic background were also noted down.

Tools used for Data Collection:

Two standardized tools were used for collecting data.

- Personal Value Questionnaire
- Socio-Economic Status Scale

Statistical Analysis of Data and Significance Level

Analysis of data was done with the help of suitable statistical tests. The descriptive statistics, such as mode, frequency, percentage, minimum and maximum, etc. were determined from the collected data. The comparative assessment was done using suitable graphs. The significance level was chosen to be 0.05 (or equivalently, 5%) by keeping in view the consequences of such an error. Finally, Scheffe's Test of Multiple Comparison was used. The data generated during the study was processed using various statistical tests with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 18.0 software.

Statistical Interpretation Of Results

In this study a factorial design was used and hence, the aim of the study is the to measure the impact of type of individual – sportspersons vs. non sportspersons.

On the basis of results following conclusions were drawn.

- ❖ Athletes cherished significantly more religious values than non athletes.
- ❖ Social values were significantly more prevalent among athletes than non athletes.
- ❖ Democratic values were significantly more predominant among athletes than non athletes.

- ❖ No significant difference was found between athletes and non athletes with regards to economic values.
 - ❖ Knowledge values were significantly more predominant among non athletes than athletes.
 - ❖ Hedonistic values were significantly more predominant among athletes than non athletes.
 - ❖ Athletes and non athletes had more or less similar power value; they failed to differ significantly from each other on power value.
 - ❖ Athletes and non athletes failed to differ significantly from each other on family prestige value; both these group cherished more or less similar family prestige value.
- There will be no difference in the level of different values (religious, social, democratic, aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonistic, power, family prestige, health) amongst sportspersons and non sportspersons.

On the basis of the study results, it is evident that there is significant ($P < 0.05$) difference in the level of different values (religious, social, democratic, aesthetic, economic, knowledge, hedonistic, power, family prestige, health) amongst sportspersons and non sportspersons.

Recommendations: In view of the results of study following recommendations are made-

Generally, differentiation is made between athletes and non athletes. Society expects specific type of behaviour from both athletes and non athletes of the society. There are several norms of the society which are unwritten. However, reminder of these norms and values that are useful for both sportspersons and non sportspersons should be made, so that, the individual may not deviate largely from the rules of society.sportspersons.

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