

## **“Study of Superstitious Behavior in Sports and Its Relationship to Related Personality Characteristics”**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of the study was to find out the Study Of Superstitious Behavior In Sports And Its Relationship To Related Personality Characteristics. For the present study the source of subjects were selected from colleges from various colleges of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. Forty subjects from various colleges were selected for this study. The data pertaining to superstitious behaviours of inter collegiate players was collected through standard questionnaire prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat, “Superstitious Attitude Scale (SAS). And the data pertaining to personality characteristics of inter collegiate players was collected through self -designed Questionnaire. The data obtained from the responses given by inter-collegiate players on the Superstitious Attitude Scale questionnaire prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat., questionnaire measures Superstitious Attitude Scale in sports activities prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat, and Self -made questionnaire of Personality Characteristics which was marked according to the key and analyzing by using statistical technique Product Moment Method in the Inter-Correlation Matrix to find out the relationship in Superstitious behaviour with relation to their personality characteristics.

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### **Introduction:-**

Superstition has had different meanings in different cultures and epochs. One thing binding these meanings together is that they are usually negative superstition is a concept defined principally by its self-declared opponents. A second is that superstition is defined as the opposite of something praiseworthy usually true religion or true science. The ancient Greeks referred to superstition as deisidaimonia fear of the spirits or demons. This term was originally used positively, in the sense of "God-fearing." The first known negative use occurred around the fourth century B. C. in Theophrastus' Characters. His character of the superstitious man shows a person so obsessed with carrying out rituals to ward off the gods' anger that he could not lead a normal life. After Theophrastus, negative uses of deisidaimonia became much more common, although positive uses never entirely ceased.

### **Superstitious behaviours in sport:**

From professional athletic organizations to the local little league team, the use of superstitious behaviours in sport is evident from numerous TV and newspaper reports covering athletics. These rituals can come in the form of ice baths before a football game to listening to a certain song before a gymnastics event. Athletes may have lucky charms that inspire them during the contest or they may repeat a secret phrase known only to them before shooting a free throw. Other superstitious behaviours related to food, pre and post-game activity, clothing, and behaviours during competition are prevalent in

all major sports Superstitious behavior's in sport can be defined as actions which are repetitive, formal, sequential, distinct from technical performance, and which the athletes believe to be powerful in controlling luck or other external factors. The repetitive nature of such events allows for the term "ritual" to be used to describe these superstitious behaviours. Psychologists discuss how use of superstition in sport can serve other purposes for the athlete as well, such as the lowering of anxiety levels and enhancing the outcomes of performance. In addition, these behaviours or rituals can be either personalized for each individual athlete, or they may be team-generated and agreed upon by the larger group. The role of superstitious ritual in sport is not new. As far back as the beginning of this century, Gardiner had already observed the use of superstitious behaviours in athletes. Malinowski suggested that these rituals occur primarily when conditions of uncertainty or chance are present and occur throughout cultures. In an athletic environment where one can sustain a career ending injury one minute or raise to the heights of individual or team performance the next, uncertainty is the rule. As alluded to above, superstitious behaviours or rituals may be used for a variety of reasons in athletics. Ritualistic behaviours are hypothesized to be used to decrease an athlete's anxiety and increase perceived chance of success (The inherent competitiveness of athletes and the societal pressure to succeed in sport can influence an athlete to resort to external means, such as superstitious behaviours, to control the outcome of an athletic contest. Douglas as well as Venturi has implied that the ambiguity inherent in sport may cause athletes to seek control and certainty through the use of superstitious rituals, as well as use of magical charms or talismans. Thus, an athlete with a high need to succeed seeks to develop control over outcomes through use of superstitious behaviours, or uses ritual to gain control over chance elements or events under others' control.

#### **METHODOLOGY:-**

**Source of Data:**For the present study the source of subjects were selected from colleges from various colleges of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.

**Selection of the Subject:**Forty subjects from various colleges were selected for this study.

**Sampling Methods:**The subjects were selected by using simple random sampling method.

**Equipment's used for collection of data:** The data pertaining to superstitious behaviours of inter collegiate players was collected through standard questionnaire prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat, "Superstitious Attitude Scale (SAS). And the data pertaining to personality characteristics of inter collegiate players were collected through self -designed Questionnaire.

**Criterion Measures:** Following are the criterion measures which were responsible for collection of data, to testing the hypothesis.

**Superstitious behavior in sports:-**Standard questionnaire namely "superstitious attitude scale (SAS) questionnaire prepared by "Dr. (smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat" was used to know Superstitious behaviour among the players of inter-collegiate player's. The questionnaire of "superstitious attitude scale battery" consists 24 questions out of which 12 are categorized as favourable and 12 as non-favourable questions. Each statement of this questionnaire was with five options or responses and these responses were (1) Strongly agree (2) Agree (3) Undecided (4) Disagree (5) Strongly disagree.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:-** The data obtained from the responses given by inter-collegiate players on the Superstitious Attitude Scale questionnaire prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat., questionnaire measures Superstitious Attitude Scale in sports activities prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat, and Self -made questionnaire of Personality Characteristics which was marked according to the key and analyzing by using statistical technique Product Moment Method in the Inter-Correlation Matrix to find out the relationship in Superstitious behaviour with relation to their personality characteristics.

**Findings:**For the present study, the data was collected from male inter-collegiate players of five selected colleges of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. The statistical result of the under taken inter-collegiate players Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. The data collected from the subjects has been statistically analyzed and has been shown in separate tables given below. The data pertaining to Superstitious behavior was collected through a Questionnaire “Superstitious Attitude Scale” consists of 24 items .the collected from 11 inter-Collegiate Players was referred to the norms prepared by Dr. (Smt.) Shailaja Bhagwat. The result of the data of superstitiousness among inter-collegiate after referred to the given norms is shown in the table given below.

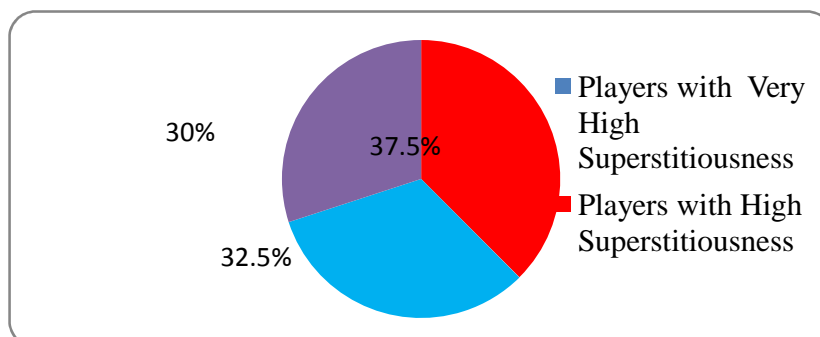
**Table-1**

**Interpretation of the category of superstitiousness**

Category	Score	No of Intercollegiate Players
Very High	100 and above	0
High	80-99	13
Moderate	60-79	15
Low	40-59	12
Very Low	39 and below	0

Through this study it was found that out of 40 subjects that were taken under study 13 inter-collegiate were found with High Superstitiousness, 15 with Moderate Superstitiousness and 12 with Low Superstitiousness. This means that out of 100% subjects 32.5% were found under the category of High Superstitiousness, 37.5% under the category of Moderate Superstitiousness and rest of 30% were found under the category of with Low Superstitiousness.

**Graph-1**  
**Graphical Representation of Superstitiousness among Inter-collegiate Players**



The analysis and interpretation of data pertaining to the score of Religiosity, Locus of control, Sports Anxiety, and Cognitive State Anxiety of collegiate players has been presented in this chapter. To find out relationship of Superstition behaviour with personality characteristics like Religiosity, Locus of control, Sports Anxiety, and Cognitive State Anxiety attitude, of inter-collegiate players Product Moment Method in the Inter-Correlation Matrix was applied. The multiple correlation analysis tables had been given below.

**Table-2**  
**Inter Correlation Matrix of group with High superstitious Behaviours**

	Locus of control	Cognitive anxiety	religiosity	Sports anxiety	Superstitious behavior
Locus of control	1.000				
Cognitive anxiety	0.47	1.000			
Religiosity	1	0.50	1.000		
Sports anxiety	0.09	0.51	-0.049	1.000	
Superstitious behavior	0.44	-0.48	-0.096	-0.39	1.000

From the above tables the under mentioned summary had drawn in respect of the interrelationship of each component to other. The results which were statistically analysis with the help of multiple correlation analysis formula were verified up to which how extent they were interrelated to each other with the help of standard norms propounded by "GLASS AND HOPKINS" (1996) for interpreting the data which are analysis with multiple correlation equation method. The following standard norms are as follows:-

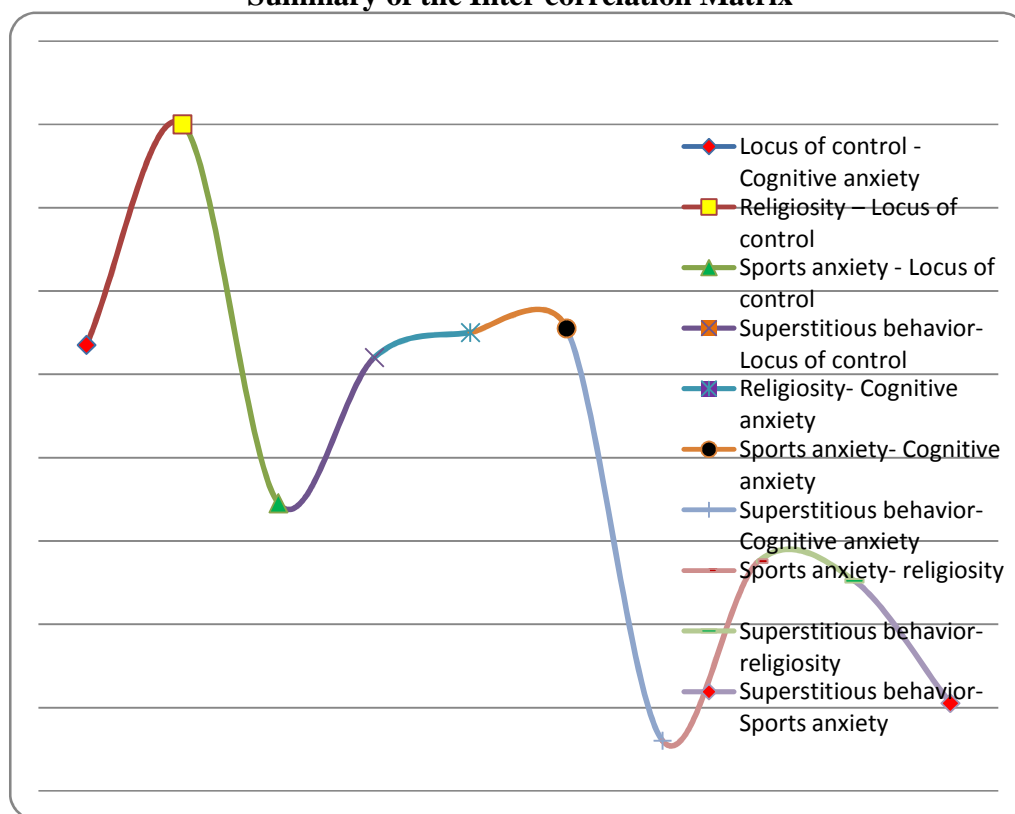
### Interpretation of Correlation coefficient

Coefficient(r)	Relationship
.00 to .20	Negligible
.20 to .40	Low
.40 to .60	Moderate
.60 to .80	Substantial
.80 to 1.00	High to very high

Graph 2

A Graph Showing Relationship Of High-Superstitious Behaviour with selected personality characteristics of inter-collegiate players

Table-3  
Summary of the Inter correlation Matrix



S. No.	Variable	Calculated r	Relationship
1	Locus of control -Cognitive anxiety	0.47	Moderate
2	religiosity – Locus of control	1	High
3	Sports anxiety - Locus of control	0.09	Negligible
4	Superstitious behavior- Locus of	0.44	Moderate

	control		
5	Religiosity- Cognitive anxiety	0.50	Moderate
6	Sports anxiety- Cognitive anxiety	0.51	Moderate
7	Superstitious behavior- Cognitive anxiety	-0.48	Negligible
8	Sports anxiety- religiosity	-0.049	Negligible
9	Superstitious behavior- religiosity	-0.096	Negligible
10	Superstitious behavior- Sports anxiety	-0.39	Negligible

From the above given table-2 after doing it's minutely observation, it is clear that the relationship of Locus of control with Cognitive anxiety (0.47) is Moderate ,religiosity with Locus of control status (1) is high, Sports anxiety with Locus of control (0.09) is negligible. Superstitious behavior with Locus of control (0.44) is Moderate Religiosity with Cognitive anxiety(0.50) is Moderate, Sports anxiety with Cognitive anxiety(0.51) is Moderate, Superstitious behavior with Cognitive anxiety(-0.48) is Negligible, Sports anxiety with religiosity(-0.049) is Negligible, Superstitious behavior with religiosity(-0.096) is Negligible and Superstitious behavior with Sports anxiety(-0.39) is Negligible

**Table-4**

**Inter Correlation Matrix of the group with Moderate superstitious Behaviour**

	Locus of control	Cognitive anxiety	religiosity	Sports anxiety	Superstitious behavior
Locus of control	1.000				
Cognitive anxiety	0.046	1.000			
religiosity	-0.14	0.19	1.000		
Sports anxiety	-0.16	0.67	0.14	1.000	
Superstitious behavior	0.12	0.91	0.91	0.18	1.000

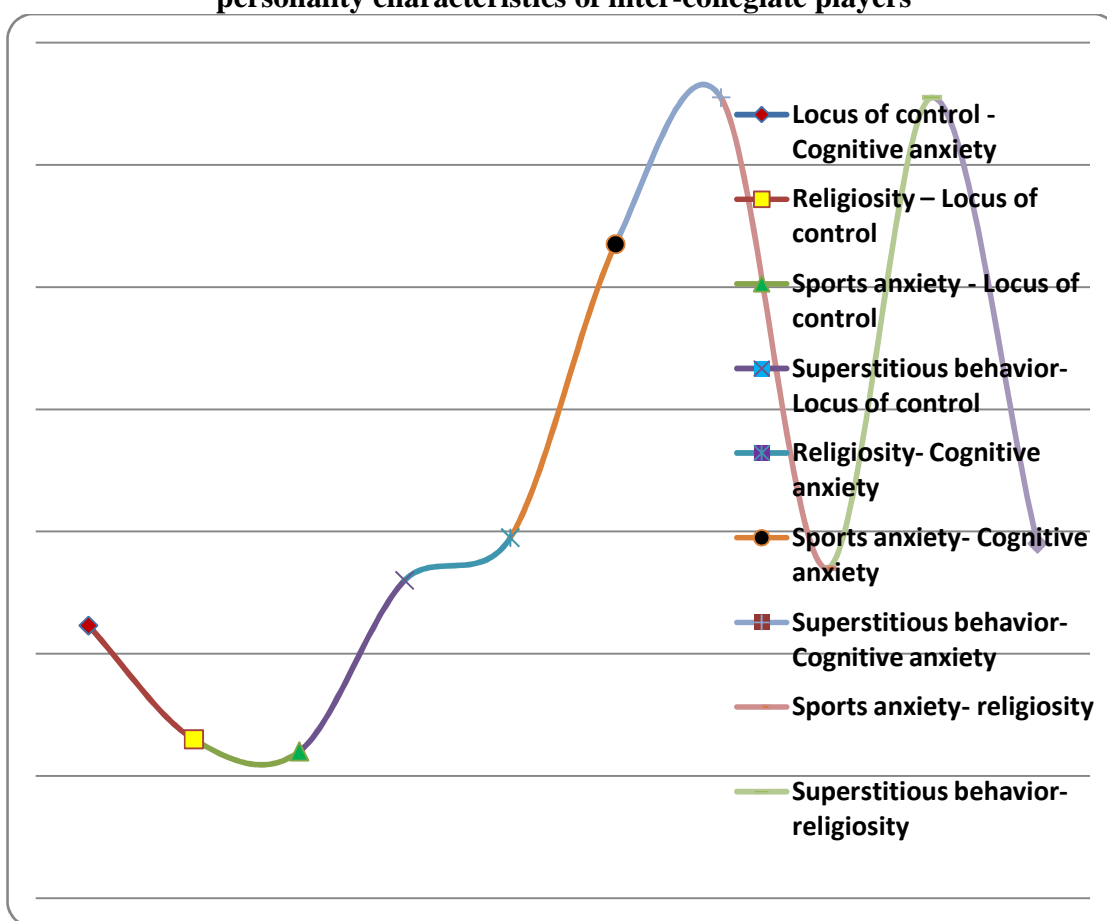
From the above tables the under mentioned summary had drawn in respect of the interrelationship of each component to other. The results which were statistically analysis with the help of multiple correlation analysis formula were verified up to which how extent they were interrelated to each other with the help of standard norms propounded by "Glass And Hopkins" (1996) for interpreting the data which are analysis with multiple correlation equation method. The following standard norms are as follows.

### Interpretation of Correlation coefficient

Coefficient(r)	Relationship
.00 to .20	Negligible
.20 to .40	Low
.40 to .60	Moderate
.60 to .80	Substantial
.80 to 1.00	High to very high

**Graph 2**

**A Graph Showing Relationship of Moderate-Superstitious Behaviour with selected personality characteristics of inter-collegiate players**



**Table-5**  
**Summary of the Inter correlation Matrix**

S. No.	Variable	Calculated r	Relationship
1	Locus of control -Cognitive anxiety	0.046	Moderate
2	religiosity – Locus of control	-0.14	High
3	Sports anxiety - Locus of control	-0.16	Negligible

4	Superstitious behavior- Locus of control	0.12	low
5	Religiosity- Cognitive anxiety	0.19	low
6	Sports anxiety- Cognitive anxiety	0.67	Moderate
7	Superstitious behavior- Cognitive anxiety	0.91	Negligible
8	Sports anxiety- religiosity	0.14	Negligible
9	Superstitious behavior- religiosity	0.91	Negligible
10	Superstitious behavior- Sports anxiety	0.18	Negligible

From the above given table-2 after doing it's minutely observation, it is clear that the relationship of Locus of control with Cognitive anxiety (0.046) is Moderate, religiosity with Locus of control status (-0.14) is Negligible, Sports anxiety with Locus of control (-0.16) is negligible. Superstitious behavior with Locus of control (0.12) is low Religiosity with Cognitive anxiety (0.19) is low, Sports anxiety with Cognitive anxiety (0.67) is substantial, Superstitious behavior with Cognitive anxiety (0.91) is Negligible, Sports anxiety with religiosity(-0.14) is Negligible, Superstitious behavior with religiosity (0.91) is high and Superstitious behavior with Sports anxiety(0.18) is Negligible

**Table-6**  
**Inter Correlation Matrix of low superstitious Behavior**

	<b>Locus of control</b>	<b>Cognitive anxiety</b>	<b>religiosity</b>	<b>Sports anxiety</b>	<b>Superstitious behaviuor</b>
<b>Locus of control</b>	1.000				
<b>Cognitive anxiety</b>	-0.071	1.000			
<b>religiosity</b>	-0.44	-0.02	1.000		
<b>Sports anxiety</b>	-0.18	0.14	0.53	1.000	
<b>Superstitious behavior</b>	0.38	0.27	-0.020	0.012	1.000

From the above tables the under mentioned summary had drawn in respect of the interrelationship of each component to other. The results which were statistically analysis with the help of multiple correlation analysis formula were verified up to which how extent they were interrelated to each other with the help of standard norms propounded by "GLASS AND HOPKINS" (1996) for interpreting the data which are analysis with multiple correlation equation method. The following standard norms are as follows:

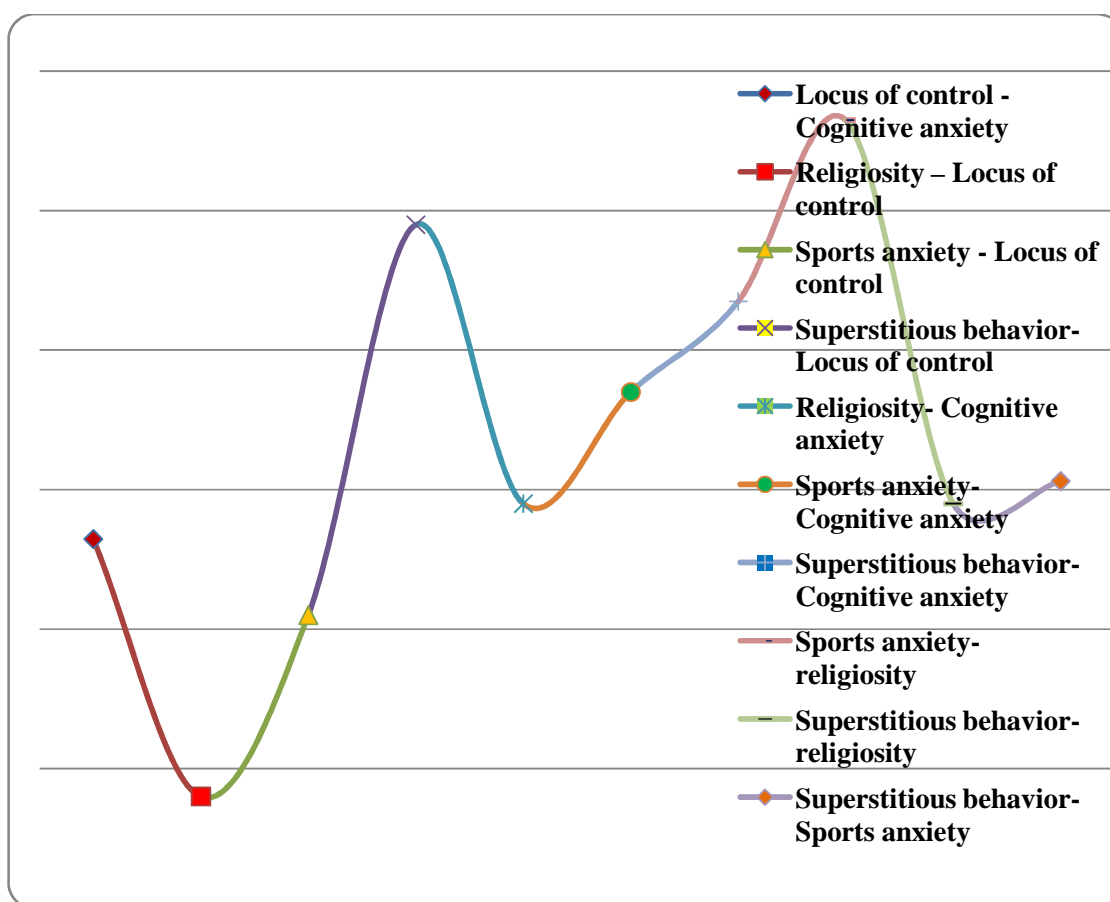


### Interpretation of Correlation coefficient

Coefficient(r)	Relationship
.00 to .20	Negligible
.20 to .40	Low
.40 to .60	Moderate
.60 to .80	Substantial
.80 to 1.00	High to very high

**Graph 3**

**A Graph Showing Relationship of Low-Superstitious Behaviour with selected personality characteristics of inter-collegiate players**



**Table-7**  
**Summary of the Inter correlation Matrix**

S. No.	Variable	Calculated r	Relationship
1	Locus of control -Cognitive anxiety	-0.071	Moderate
2	Religiosity – Locus of control	-0.44	High
3	Sports anxiety - Locus of	-0.18	Negligible

	control		
4	Superstitious behavior- Locus of control	0.38	Moderate
5	Religiosity- Cognitive anxiety	-0.02	Moderate
6	Sports anxiety- Cognitive anxiety	0.14	Moderate
7	Superstitious behavior- Cognitive anxiety	0.27	Negligible
8	Sports anxiety- religiosity	0.53	Moderate
9	Superstitious behavior- religiosity	-0.020	Negligible
10	Superstitious behavior- Sports anxiety	0.012	Negligible

From the above given table-2 after doing it's minutely observation, it is clear that the relationship of Locus of control with Cognitive anxiety (-0.071) is Negligible, religiosity with Locus of control status (-0.44) is Negligible, Sports anxiety with Locus of control (-0.18) is Negligible. Superstitious behavior with Locus of control (0.38) is low Religiosity with Cognitive anxiety (-0.02) is Negligible. Sports anxiety with Cognitive anxiety (0.14) is Negligible, Superstitious behavior with Cognitive anxiety (0.27) is Low, Sports anxiety with religiosity (0.53) is Moderate, Superstitious behavior with religiosity (-0.020) is Negligible and Superstitious behavior with Sports anxiety (0.012) is Negligible.

### Conclusion:

Within the limitations of the study and from statistical analysis the following conclusion was drawn.

It was hypothesis that there will be a significant relationship of superstitious behaviour of inters collegiate players with relation to their personality characteristics but after the analysis of data through product moment correlation method it is found that there is no significant relationship of superstitious behaviour of inters collegiate players with relation to their personality characteristics. Hence the researcher's pre-assumed hypothesis is rejected.

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