

Impact of Sports in Relation to Socio-Cultural Factors Among Urban Society

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Abstract

The objective of this paper was intended to identify the impact of sports in relation to socio-cultural factors among urban society. Four hundred fifty subjects were selected from various urban regions of Chennai, Tamil Nadu . The subjects selected for the study were classified into three categories such as the experts in the field of Physical Education like, Physical Education Teachers, Coaches, District Sports Officers, Retired Sports Officers, Journalist, Members of Different Sports Associations; secondly, the laymen belonging to all walks of life, viz. parents, Engineering, Doctors, Business Executives, Teachers, Clerks, Peons etc., and thirdly the Students from Schools, Colleges and Universities. Members belonged to both the sexes were selected for all categories of respondents, who were asked to reveal their attitude towards sports and the problems and difficulties confronted by them in the field of sports and its impact on society and culture. In the questionnaire twenty eight questions were finally included in the questionnaire after a lot of modifications. It was concluded that the sports have significantly influenced the urban society in respect to socio-cultural factors and physical educationalist is of the opinion that sports have a positive impact on the society with regard to socio-cultural.

KEYWORDS: Socio-cultural, Urban society, Both sex

Introduction

The participation in various sporting activities in the form of competition and also engaging in sports as a leisure time activity are termed as 'Sports' in a single term. The term also refers to involvement of masses of both the sexes and of all ages. Sports not only provide fun and recreation but it develops great understanding, friendship and fellowship and socialization can be easily practiced through sports. It is dynamic interaction between players and spectators who identify with their efforts. It is an individual even depends upon his or her own sprit, strength and skill. Examples: Athletics, Chess, Weightlifting, Swimming etc. It is generally individualistic **Sherrill. C, (1993).**

Society

Society is a system of usage authority and mutuality based on "we" feeling and likeness. Interdependence and cooperation are its basic. It is essentially a pattern for imparting the social behavior. It consists in mutual interaction and inters relation of individuals and of the structure formed by their relations. There should be a common aim and the members of the society are bound to one another by accepted rules and regulation norms. Their folk games, sports faith, beliefs custom, festivals must be common for all **Balsamo, L, (1995).**

Culture

The aggregate of the social, ethical, intellectual, artistic, governmental and industrial attainments are also characteristics of group, state or nation and by which it can be distinguished from or compared with other groups state or nation. **Heilpern, Jeffrey and David Nadler. (1992).**

Statement of the Problem

The purpose of the study was to investigate the Impact of Sports in relation to socio-cultural factor among Urban society with special reference to Chennai.

Hypothesis

On the basis of available literature and investigator's own knowledge of the area under study, it was hypothesized that the sports have significantly influenced the urban society in respect to socio-cultural factors with special reference to Chennai.

Methodology

To achieve the purpose of the study 450 subjects were selected and data were collected. Personal Interview and the technique of questionnaire were adopted to collect the relevant data of this study.

Selection of Subjects

Four hundred fifty subjects were selected from various urban regions of Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The subjects selected for the study were classified into three categories - (1) the experts in the field of Physical Education like, Physical Education Teachers, Coaches, District Sports Officers, Retired Sports Officers, Journalist, Members of Different Sports Associations; (ii) The laymen belonging to all walks of life, viz. parents, Engineering, Doctors, Business Executives, Teachers, Clerks, Peons etc., and (iii) the Students from Schools, Colleges and Universities. Members belonged to both the sexes were selected for all categories of respondents, who were asked to reveal their attitude towards sports and the problems and difficulties confronted by them in the field of sports and its impact on society and culture.

Construction of the Questionnaires

The questionnaire was prepared with great care in consultation with three experts in the field of Physical Education and also by going through the literature on the subject, so that a detailed study could be made. The questions were short, clear, direct and simple. Out of the initial Seven five questions that were prepared, twenty eight were finally included in the questionnaire after a lot of modifications.

The statements include in the questionnaire were such that responses could be made in precise ways. This questionnaire was designed to collect the opinion of physical Educationalist, parents and students about the impact of sports on society.

The responses given by the subject were statistically analyzed using chi-square test and the level of significance chosen was .05 level of confidence. The responses were also analyzed in percentages.

The value of chi-square was less than required values as given in the chi-square table. It was considered that there were no divergences of the respondents.

Analysis Of Data And Results Of The Study

The responses of the questionnaire were analyzed in percentages and were also subjected to chi-square (x2) test on the basis of Linkert's attitude measurements system, assigning five degree of opinion. The response of subjects were converted into three point scale from five point scale as given in the questionnaire in which strongly agree and agree were considered as an agreement with the statement, while disagree were considered as disagreement.

THE RESPONSES OF THE SUBJECTS FOR THE STATEMENTS REGARDING SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACT ON SPORTS

Question er No:	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Chi-square
	Frequ ncy	Perce ntage	Freq uenc y	Perce ntage	Frequ ency	Perce ntage	
1	388	86.22	25	5.55	37	8.23	5.932
2	437	97.11	5	1.11	8	1.78	2.153
3	336	74.67	44	9.77	70	15.56	39.10*
4	395	87.77	33	7.33	22	4.90	8.17
5	401	89.11	19	4.22	30	6.67	4.19
6	402	89.33	25	5.55	23	5.12	8.59
7	354	78.66	48	10.66	48	10.68	6.59
8	356	79.11	53	11.77	41	9.12	3.59
9	205	45.55	76	16.88	169	37.57	32.33*
10	159	35.33	60	13.33	231	51.34	20.84*
11	301	66.88	64	14.22	85	18.90	2.04
12	178	39.55	73	16.22	199	44.23	13.80*
13	265	58.88	46	10.22	139	38.90	6.68

*significant at 0.05 levels.

Discussion

The sports have significantly influenced the urban society in respect of socio-cultural factors with special reference to Chennai. A similar study proves that the benefits of sports for the participants and the society as a whole and have already been established by **Grove and Dodder Nixon and Spreitzer and Synder (1979)** and . In a gender-stratified analysis, parents' occupational status was only a predictor of sports participation in girls. Differences between municipalities in adolescents' sports participation remained significant when controlled for individual factors such as gender, age, parents' background or parents' physical activity. The association between socio-cultural and SES was stronger for girls than boys. In conclusion, demographics, SES and socio-cultural factors were the best determinants of adolescent sport participation, **John Wiley & Sons A/S (2010)**.

Conclusion

Within the limitations and delimitations of the present study, the hypothesis and purpose of the study were analyzed using relevant statistics and arrived at the following conclusions.

1. The physical Educationalist are of the opinion that sports have a positive impact on the Indian society with regard to socio-cultural, political and religious aspects.
2. The physical Educationalist, parents and students have expressed that sports teach them respect for authority, develops, self-discipline and builds personality of the participants.
3. Parents have expressed their view in favour of sports providing an opportunity to participants to progress and to achieve their ambitions and also help to develop inter personal relationship amongst the participants.
4. The respondents have also opinion that participation in sports helps an individual for preparation in life through participation and adjustment in the society.
5. The respondents are of the view that through participation in sports, the sports person learns the general ways of thinking, feeling an acting which makes them, socialized and enables them to become contributing members of the society.
6. The respondents have favored the view that sport is a very strong socializing force and develops international understanding.
7. The physical Educationalist, parents and students generally agreed that participation in sports does not lead to loss of femininity amongst women but in fact helps women to raise the status in the society. They have further expressed that females have keen interest in sports but their responsibilities pertaining to domestic work and profession interferes with their participation. Besides above factors, socio- cultural prejudices, superstitions and their beliefs regarding social convention also interfere with participation in sports.
8. Parents did not favor the girls wearing sport kits while participating in sport publicly. They had also expressed that participation in sports by females may have harmful affects personal physiological problems.

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