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## A comparative study of anxiety behaviour among the sportsmen and non-sportsmen

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### Abstract

The aim of the present study was carried out to appraise the significant difference of anxiety behaviour among the sportsmen non-sportsmen. The Ex-post-fact research method was adopted. To achieve the purpose 200 sportsmen and non-sportsmen were selected randomly as subjects, the age ranging from 20 to 25 year. The Questionnaire Anxiety Test was administered. The data pertaining to variable in this study has been examined by using “t” test. The “t” value is 0.12 is lesser than table value. The conclusion is drawn that there is no significant difference in anxiety behaviour among the sportsmen and non-sportsmen as it is not conformed. It might be due to their living condition and poverty made them to manage their emotion.

**Keywords:** Anxiety, behaviour, sportsmen, non-sportsmen, questionnaire anxiety test

### Introduction

The pressure experienced by the players especially at a professional level is recognized as influencing playing performance. Heavy playing schedules, competition for team places, the media and fans as well as the pressure to win trophies all play a part in players developing high stress and anxiety levels. Even experienced players can suffer from pre-match anxiety. Developing ways to control this is important in order to prevent players from ‘falling’ apart. And anxiety level will be decided by individual life style and social environment.

### Anxiety

Anxiety is a psychological and physiological state characterized by somatic, emotional, cognitive, and behavioural components. It is the displeasing feeling of fear and concern. The root meaning of the word anxiety is 'to vex or trouble'; in either presence or absence of psychological stress, anxiety can create feelings of fear, worry, uneasiness, and dread. Anxiety is considered to be a normal reaction to a stressor. It may help an individual to deal with a demanding situation by prompting them to cope with it. When anxiety becomes excessive, it may fall under the classification of an anxiety disorder.

### Definitions

1. Anxiety define as a emotional reaction evoked by stimulus that is perceived as threatening
2. A negative emotional state with feelings of nervousness, worry and apprehension associated with activation or arousal of the body. (Weinberg & Gould)
3. According to one dictionary definition, anxiety can be defined as a strong and unpleasant feeling of nervousness or distress in response to a feared situation, often accompanied by physiological effects such as nausea, trembling, breathlessness, sweating, and rapid heartbeat.

Various aspects of the self-concept have been correlated with be general test anxiety. In a study of the relationship between a self-esteem and test anxiety in grades 4 through 8, many and many 11 (1975) found statistically significant negative correlations between the measures of self esteem and each of the measures of general and text – anxiety, when scores were analyzed by total group, grade level, and sex.

Chand and Grau (1977) have investigated the relationship of perceived self and ideal self ratings with high and low levels of anxiety in college women.

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Subjects with a high degree of anxiety were found to have a significantly greater discrepancy between their perceived self and ideal concept than subjects who had low levels of anxiety. A discriminate analysis of self-ratings of college students having differential manifest anxiety, by, Mukherjee (1969), has revealed that those with high scores on the manifest Anxiety scale tend to rate themselves lower on perseverance and higher on perfection dimensions than those scoring low. A multivariate analysis that the high group expressed an overall inferior self-image than the low group.

Though some earlier studies had reported no significant difference in terms of anxiety level between groups of actualized and non-actualized subjects, Witkins *et al.* (1977) found a confirmation of a hypothesis inverse relation between levels of self-actualization and anxiety. These latter workers discussed their results in relation to the conceptual distinction between debilitating and facilitating anxiety and their respective effect on psychological growth. On the basis of their studies, Rokeach and his associates (Fruchter, 1959) concluded that dogmatism as related to anxiety. These initial findings led to Rokeach's contention that dogmatism "is nothing than a total network of psycho-analytical defense mechanisms". Although some inconsistent results have been obtained, the general trend seems to confirm Rokeach's findings by showing a positive relationship between dogmatism and anxiety.

### **Effect of Anxiety**

The physical effects of anxiety may include heart palpitations, muscle weakness and tension, fatigue, nausea, chest pain, shortness of breath, stomach aches, or headaches. As the body prepares to deal with a threat, blood pressure, heart rate, perspiration, blood flow to the major muscle groups are increased, while immune and digestive functions are inhibited (the fight or flight response). External signs of anxiety may include, sweating, trembling, and pupillary dilation. Someone who has anxiety might also experience it subjectively as a sense of dread or panic.

The emotional effects of anxiety may include "feelings of apprehension or dread, trouble concentrating, feeling tense or jumpy, anticipating the worst, irritability, restlessness, watching (and waiting) for signs (and occurrences) of danger, and, feeling like mind's gone blank" as well as "nightmares/bad dreams, obsessions about sensations

The cognitive effects of anxiety may include thoughts about suspected dangers, such as fear of dying. "One may fear that the chest pains are a deadly heart attack. The behavioural effects of anxiety may include withdrawal from situations which have provoked anxiety in the past. Anxiety can also be experienced in ways which include changes in sleeping patterns, nervous habits, and increased motor tension like foot tapping.

Anxiety can be defined as an unpleasant state of mental uneasiness or concern that causes physical and psychological discomfort. Extreme anxiety disrupts and unsettles behaviour by lowering the individual's concentration and affecting their muscular control. Any sporting game or contest can give rise to anxiety when one's perceived ability does not measure up to the demands of the task.

### **Trait Anxiety**

Trait anxiety refers to a general level of stress that is characteristic of an individual, that is, a trait related to personality. Trait anxiety varies according to how individuals have conditioned themselves to respond to and manage the

stress. What may cause anxiety and stress in one person may not generate any emotion in another. People with high levels of trait anxiety are often quite easily stressed and anxious.

### **State Anxiety**

State anxiety is characterised by a state of heightened emotions that develop in response to a fear or danger of a particular situation. State anxiety can contribute to a degree of physical and mental paralysis, preventing performance of a task or where performance is severely affected, such as forgetting movements during a dance or gymnastic routine, to breaking in sprint or swim starts or missing relatively easy shots at goal i.e., pressure situations.

For some athletes sports anxiety can be a valuable motivator, e.g., contact sports such as rugby, whereas other sports require a very low level of anxiety for successful performances, e.g., archery, pistol shooting.

Athletes can learn to manage anxiety using techniques such as relaxation, hypnotherapy, cognitive behaviour therapy and positive thinking. For state anxiety, therapies focus on the specific situations causing stress to the athlete whereas Trait anxiety requires a broader approach.

Sports and performance anxiety often go hand-in-hand. Have you ever "choked" during an important sporting event or felt your nerves get in the way of your athletic performance? While many athletes become "pumped up" during competition, when the rush of adrenaline is interpreted as anxiety, and negative thoughts begin to swirl, it can have devastating effects on your ability to perform. Before you learn how to manage the symptoms of anxiety during competitions, it is important to understand the relationship between anxiety and athletic performance.

### **Relationship between Anxiety and Athletic Performance?**

Anxiety before or during athletic competitions can hinder your performance as an athlete. The coordinated movement required by athletic events becomes increasingly difficult when your body is in a tense state. A certain level of physical arousal is helpful and prepares us for competition. But when the physical symptoms of anxiety are too great, they may seriously interfere with your ability to compete. Similarly, a certain amount of worry about how you perform can be helpful in competition, but severe cognitive symptoms of anxiety such as negative thought patterns and expectations of failure can bring about a self-fulfilling prophecy. If there is a substantial difference between how you perform during practice and how you do during competitions, anxiety may be affecting your performance.

### **Factors Influencing the Effect of Anxiety on Athletic Performance**

Some types of athletes are more prone to feeling the effects of anxiety on performance. Amateur athletes are more likely than seasoned professionals to experience anxiety that interferes with their ability to perform in competition -- this makes sense due to their relative lack of experience both in competition and in managing arousal. Athletes who participate in individual sports have also been found to experience more anxiety than those who play team sports. Common sense suggests that being part of a team alleviates some of the pressure experienced by those who compete alone. Finally, there is evidence that in team sports, when a team plays at the venue of the opposition (known as an "away" game) anxiety levels tend to be higher than when playing at home. Again, common sense would indicate that

having greater fan support and more familiarity with the venue plays a role in anxiety levels during competition.

Extraversion and neuroticism dimensions of personality as measured by Maudsley Personality Inventory, were correlated with scores on the manifest anxiety scale, in a study by bending (1957). The correlations of anxiety with both extroversion and neuroticism were found to be significant. However, the direction of relationships in case of extroversion was negative and in case of neuroticism positive.

In the recent studies conducted by some researcher scholars in the field of anxiety's effect on sportsmen performance concluded that (i) the competitive anxiety decreases "with the increase in age in the case of the male athletes but it increases in the case of female athletes, (ii) in the case of male and female athletes, the competitive anxiety in the Indian athletes has no relationship with their experience of participation in competition, (ii) the Indian athletes have moderate level of competitive anxiety as compared to the sample norms proving the inverted U-shape the relationship between performance and anxiety. In another study, he (1986) found that there were no significant differences in the anxiety sources of athletes, whether males or females on the basis of four different categories of athletes i.e., sprinters, middle and long distance runners, throwers and jumpers. Also there were no significant differences in the anxiety scores of hockey players whether males or females on the basis of their playing position i.e., forwards, centre and backs.

## Methodology

### Statement of the Problem

The purpose of the study is to assess the sports competitive anxiety among the sportsmen and nonsportsmen of Banasthali University, Rajasthan

### Variables

**Independent:** Sportsmen and Non-sportsmen of University players.

**Dependent Variable:** Anxiety behaviour.

### Limitations

1. The study is limited to the measuring the level of anxiety among the sportsmen and non-sportsmen.
2. The study would be limited to the sportsmen and non-sportsmen of Banasthali University, Rajasthan

### Delimitation

1. The present study tries to analyze probe the level and extent of anxiety, among the sportsmen and non-sportsmen.

## Results and Discussion

For the purpose of the present study two samples were drawn from the sportsmen and non-sportsmen of Banasthali University, Rajasthan, at random. The total sample consisted of 200 students of equal education qualification. The sports sample consisted to 100 P.G. students who have participated and represented in different athletic meet at different levels and non-sportsmen sample consisted of 100, those did not participated in any sports activities. The two samples were selected from different P.G. Department of Banasthali University, Rajasthan.

**Table 1:** Shows the Sample Design and Sample Compositions of Sportsmen and non-Sportsmen

P.G. Students	Sportsmen	Non-Sportsmen
Arts	40	40
Science	35	35
Commerce	25	25
Total	100	100

The subjects were divided into Groups to facilitate the administration of competitive anxiety scale and locus of control scale. Each Group consisted of 100 P.G. Students. The entire sample consisted of male students were excluded from the study in order to eliminate the influence of such factors as would result from lack of sex homogeneity.

## Test Administration

### Tools

The Sinha's Comprehensive Anxiety Scale were administered to two samples of P.G. students, who were belonging to Sportsmen and Non-Sportsmen Group. The athletes sample consisted of 50 P.G. students who were studying in one or other P.G. course and has participated in sports activities at different levels of competition. The non-sportsmen sample consisted of those students who were studying in different P.G. courses and who did not participate in any sports activities.

At first instance, the Sinha's Comprehensive Anxiety Scale and separate answer sheets were issued to each student in the group. They were asked to go through the instruction given in the front page. Then for the whole group the instructions were read out loudly and method making in the answer sheet was demonstrated on the black board. First of all, the subjects were asked to sheet was also explained to the group. The subjects were informed to be free in working their responses. The SCAT were administered in a good and permissive atmosphere and it was maintained through out the administration to all groups as for as possible.

They were also informed that the test is neither a test of their intelligence nor of their proficiency. While there were answering the question supervision was done to know whether they were following instructions in answering SCAT, or not, personal data sheet was also checked to know whether they have filled on all the information that was given on the personal data sheet.

### Scoring

Inventory was scored accurately by the help of the manual in the present study. After completing the scoring of all 200 answers and sheets for both anxiety of both sportsmen and non-sportsmen students, they were statistically analyzed to answer the problems that were set for the investigation.

### Statistical Analysis

1. To know the significant difference of anxiety behaviour among the sportsmen and non-sportsmen, mean, variance, standard deviation and 't' were calculated. The results are discussed here.

**Table 2:** Table showing the Mean, SD and Acquired 't' Value of Anxiety Behaviour of Sportsmen and Non-Sportsmen

Sl. No.	Variables	Mean	Sd.	't' Value
1.	Non-sportsmen	45.3	2.62	0.12
2.	Sportsmen	43.3	2.70	

The mean scores and standard deviation on non-athletes and athletes were 45.3, 2.62 and 43.3, 2.70 respectively which show that there is not much or little deviation in the anxiety level of sportsmen and nonsportsmen. Both non-sports and sportsmen showed almost same level in anxiety behaviors.

When these scores were subjected to 't' test, the acquired 't' value was 0.012 which was lower than 't' table value at 0.05 level hence. It reveals that there is no difference in anxiety behaviour of Sportsmen and Non-sportsmen. Hence formulated hypothesis was rejected. This may be due to the fact that the respondents consisted to sportsmen and non-sportsmen are coming from rural areas they are exposed to various activities and faced lot of problem to pursuing their degree and education and hard working nature made them to sustain stress and manage anxiety behaviour effectively when they exposed to situation.

### Conclusion

The Study carried out by researcher reveals that anxiety behaviour will manifested by situational factor but sportsmen and non-sportsmen chosen for this study were coming from the rural and poverty background, these factors made them to cultivate the sustainable ability and managing skills among the sportsmen and non-sportsmen of the university.

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