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Dr. Ramesh Naik K
Assistant Professor of Physical Education, College of Horticulture, Halladakeri Form, Hyderabad Road, Bidar, Karnataka, India

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Ramesh Naik K
Assistant Professor of Physical Education, College of Horticulture, Halladakeri Form, Hyderabad Road, Bidar, Karnataka, India

A comparative study on the parental support to female athletes towards participation in sports competition

Dr. Ramesh Naik K

Abstract

Women's sport history started back in the 19th century. By the end of the 19th century, horseback riding, archery, golf, tennis, skiing and skating were being enjoyed among women in the upper social class. The first time for female athletes to participate in the modern Olympic Games was the second Olympic Games in 1900. Only free male Greek citizens were allowed to participate in the 1st modern Olympic Games as well as the ancient Olympic Games. In most societies, participation in sports has been primarily a male domain. When the first female ball player circled the bases at Vassar College in 1866, sportswomen have taken their sports experiences to heart (Sandoz & Winans, 1999). One out of every two women over the age of 60 suffers from osteoporosis (brittle bones). Females today should not desire to relive the experiences of previous generations of women who were not permitted to play sports or encouraged to participate in weight-bearing exercises that are necessary in establishing bone mass. To achieve the purpose of the study necessary data was collected from total 80 subjects of which 40 from urban area and 40 from rural area. The subjects selected were from district, state and national tournament participants. The subject's age ranged between 14 to 25 years during 2020-2021. As it was a comparative study and the purpose was to determine the parental support, questionnaire method was used to collect the necessary data. Questions (statements) covering main aspects such as parents sports carrier facilities for daughters, religious aspects, sportswear, customs and traditions emotional aspect, social aspect and miscellaneous were prepared. An attempt was made to make the test of the questionnaire clear, relevant, simple and free from ambiguity. Provisions was made on the right side of the each statement to note the attitude of the respondent by "ticking" (✓) one of the response viz Yes /No respectively. The collected data were tabulated for the purpose of analysis. The chi-square was used for testing the hypothesis for significance of testing difference in the statistical formula. All the statistical calculation was carried out with the help of SPSS Windows package. This study attempted to evaluate the parental support towards female athlete's participation in the competitive sports as well as to discover the comparative difference between rural area and urban area. The conclusion was that there is a significant difference to female athletes to receive sufficient support from their parents to participate in competitive sports among urban area compared to rural area.

Keywords: Parental support, sports women, motivation, social support, competition

Introduction

According to the IOC (International Olympic Committee), only 12 female athletes participated in the second Olympic Games out of the 1066 athletes from 19 countries. They competed in only two events which were golf and tennis. In the 3rd St. Louis Olympics, archery was the only women's event. In the 4th London Olympics, archery, figure skating, and tennis became women's events, and diving, swimming and tennis in the 5th Stockholm Olympics. The decision of whether women can participate in the event or not was up to men who operated the Olympic Games. The events that men considered being a "feminine sport" were recognized as women's sport events.

A total of 204 countries and regions, the largest number in Olympic history, participated in the Beijing Olympic Games. Among the 25 medals that Japan won, 12 were won by female athletes. It seems that the gap between men and women in sport is getting much smaller when we look at women's sport history. However, there are still definite issues that must be solved concerning women's sport. For example, female athletes who must raise their family and children often face challenges of balancing athletic career and personal life. There is still a low ratio of female coaches and executives in sports organizations.

In short, the number of female coaches who have the potential to become leaders has not increased yet.

“Sports participation by women routinely carries a negative stigma,” because traditional images of sports are seen as incompatible with traditional roles for women (Goldberg & Chandler, 1989) [4].

Considering these issues in women’s sport, Japanese Center for Research on Women in Sport encourages research to ensure that female athletes can focus on their athletic performance in a better environment.

In most societies, participation in sports has been primarily a male domain. However, over the past decades women in sports advocates have proven that women are also competent and have a place in the sports world. When the first female ball player circled the bases at Vassar College in 1866, sportswomen have taken their sports experiences to heart (Sandoz & Winans, 1999) [3]. Even without strong history of achievements women had to prove that they were competent in sports. In present days, we see vast number of women participating in not only considered minor sports but also in type of sports that require great prowess and skills.

Materials and Methods

Selection of subjects

To achieve the purpose of the study necessary data was collected from total 80 subjects of which 40 from urban area and 40 from rural area. The subjects selected were from district, state and national tournament participants. The subject’s age ranged between 14 to 25 years during 2020-2021.

Selection of test items

As it was a comparative study and the purpose was to determine the parental support, questionnaire method was used to collect the necessary data. Questions (statements) covering main aspects such as parents sports carrier facilities for daughters, religious aspects, sportswear, customs and traditions emotional aspect, social aspect and miscellaneous were prepared.

An attempt was made to make the test of the questionnaire clear, relevant, simple and free from ambiguity. Provisions was made on the right side of the each statement to note the attitude of the respondent by “ticking” (✓) one of the response viz Yes /No respectively.

Procedure

Data was collected by the investigator during spare time of the subjects. Objectives of the tests were made clear to the subjects at the outset. The researcher oriented the subjects regarding the procedure of all the tests to be conducted. An informed written consent was received from each subject to ensure their willingness to take part in the study as subjects. Honest responses were sought from the subjects and doubts were timely clarified. Each written test tool took no more than 20 minutes each. The filled in questionnaire was received by the subjects for intended analysis of data.

Results & Discussion

Table 1: Summary of chi square test in emotional aspects in female athletes’ participation in competitive sports in rural and urban area.

| Urban And Rural | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Emotional aspect | Urban | Rural | Chi square |
| YES | 234 | 218 | 9.709 |
| NO | 6 | 22 | |

The above table 1 shows that chi square of the female athletes of urban area and rural area having high parental support in the emotional aspects towards participation in competitive sports compared to rural area.

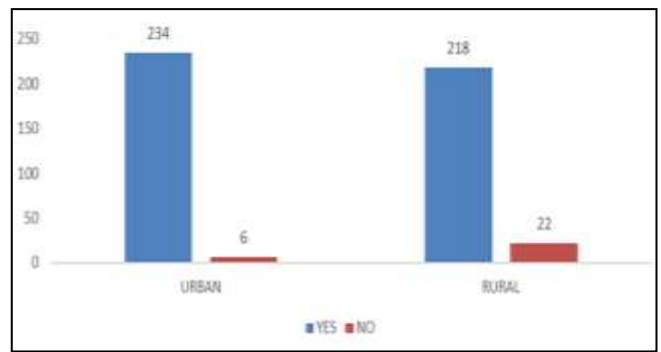


Fig 1: Graphical illustration on emotional aspects in rural and urban area.

From figure 1 it becomes clear that the facilities for daughter of urban area have high parental support in the emotional aspects towards participation in competitive sports compared to rural area.

Table 2: Summary of chi square test in social aspect in female athlete’s participation in competitive sports in rural and urban area.

| Urban And Rural | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Social aspect | Urban | Rural | Chi square |
| Yes | 199 | 219 | 7.409 |
| No | 41 | 21 | |

The above table 2 shows that chi square of the female athletes of urban area and rural area having high parental support in social aspect towards participation in competitive sports compared to rural area.

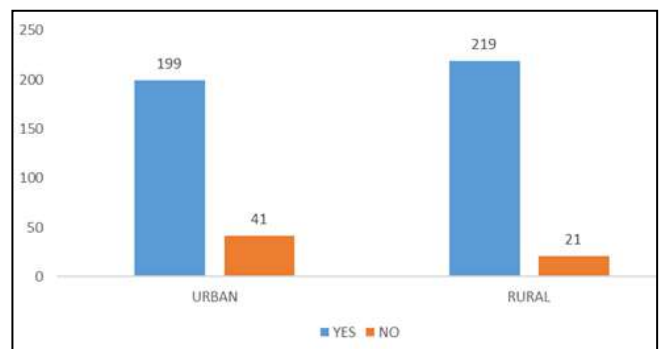


Fig 2: Graphical illustration on social aspects in rural and urban area.

From figure 2 it becomes clear that the facilities for daughter of urban area have high parental support in social aspect towards participation in competitive sports compared to rural area.

Following are the major findings pertaining to the study in The urban areas have the high parental support towards the participation of female athletes in competitive sports compared to rural area. The parents of rural area are mostly depended on emotional and social aspect, so the support towards the female athlete’s participation in competitive sports is low compared to urban area.

Conclusions

This study attempted to evaluate the parental support towards female athlete’s participation in the competitive sports as well

as to discover the comparative difference between rural area and urban area.

The conclusion was that there is a significant difference to female athletes to receive sufficient support from their parents to participate in competitive sports among urban area compared to rural area.

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