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Stress Levels of Policemen with and without Sports Background: A Comparative study

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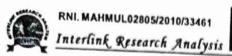
Research Paper - Physical Education

Stress is the feeling of being under too much mental or emotional pressure. Pressure turns into stress when one feel unable to cope. People have different ways of reacting to stress, so a situation that feels stressful to one person may be motivating to someone else. Many of life's demands can cause stress, particularly work, relationships and money problems. And, when someone feels stressed, it can get in the way of sorting out these demands, or can even affect everything. Stress can affect how one feels, think, behaves and how his body works. In fact, common signs of stress include sleeping problems, sweating, loss of appetite and difficulty concentrating. Stress is simply a fact of nature, forces from the inside or outside world affecting the individual. The individual responds to stress in ways that affect the individual as well as their environment. Because of the overabundance of stress in our modern lives, we usually think of stress as a negative experience, but from a biological point of view, stress can be a neutral, negative, or positive experience.

There has been a lot of research on the negative effects of stress on people in general and policemen in particular. This is because police work is one of the top rated professions for job stress. Every human being has to deal with stress and there is considerable evidence suggesting that law enforcement officers are killed by more job-related stress than they are by criminals. For every police officer slain by an assailant in the line of duty, hundreds perhaps thousands succumb to the insidious, long-range effects

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of job-induced reassures. The stress imposed by the physical hazards of policing is with known. Few occupations require employees to face the kind of dangerous situations applice officers may encounter as part of their daily routines.

This constant exposure of police officers to physical danger puts them in a st of continual conflict between their instinctual tendency to avoid hazard and their obligati to face up to the risk. Police employees typically suffer a variety of physiologic psychological and behavioural stress effects. It has been suggested that particular attention should be given to occupational stress in policing, as its potential negative consequence affect society in more direct and critical ways than those stressed in most othe occupations. Moreover, the background of the policemen such as sports background and non-sports background also plays a role in their coping strategies vis-à-vis stressources. In the back drop of above information this study was carried out to know th stress levels of policemen with and without sports background.

Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that the stress of players & non-players policemen will be significantly different.

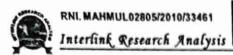
Universe, Population, Sample Selection and sample size

In the present study, complete Vidarbha region formed the universe of the study while all police officers working in this region formed the population of this study. In this study, data was collected from 400 police officers of Vidarbha region. Of these 400 policemen 200 had sports background while other 200 were non sportspersons. The age of the policemen varied between 30 and 40 yrs.

Data collection

In the present study, data was collected by following survey method. Survey questionnaires are typically used for feedback research to determine the current status or "situation," or to estimate the distribution of characteristics in a population. The standard questionnaires were used for the purpose of data collection. The data for this study was collected from four districts namely Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur & Amravati of Vidarbha by using the questionnaire made by Singh et al., Singh personal Stress Source Inventory.





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Statistical Analysis and Significance Level

The data characteristics (descriptive statistics) such as Frequency, Mode, Mean, Standard deviation etc. were determined. 'Z' test of two means was used to analyze the data. The significance level was chosen to be 0.05 (or equivalently, 5%).

Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

Sources of Stress - Guilt Proneness

Table 1: Comparative assessment of the guilt proneness of policemen (players and

non-players) Policemen N Mean SD Min Max MD Z Value P Value Players 200 10.1 ± 1.2 8 13 -4.2-2.967< 0.05 Non Players 200 14.3 ± 1.6 9 16

N= Sample Size; SD: Standard Deviation; Min: Minimum; Max: Maximum;

Z: Z Statistic; P: Probability

B

Above Table 1 presents results regarding the guilt proneness of the policemen. It was evident from the results that the mean for policemen with background as a player was 10.1±1.2 (varying between 8 and 13), while that of policemen with background as non-players was 14.3±1.6 (varying between 9 and 16). The comparative assessment showed that there is significant difference (P<0.05) in the level of guilt proneness amongst policemen having different background (players and non-players). Specifically, it is clear from the data that the policemen with background as a non-player have higher level of guilt proneness.

Suspiciousness

Table 2: Comparative assessment of the Suspiciousness of policemen (players and non players)

Policemen	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max	MD	Z Value	P Value
Players	200		±1.1	3	6	-1.6	-2.007	< 0.05
Non Players	200	6.2	±1.3	4	8			0.03

N= Sample Size; SD: Standard Deviation; Min: Minimum; Max: Maximum;

Z: Z Statistic; P: Probability

Table 2 presents results regarding the suspiciousness level of the policemen. It

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was evident from the results that the mean for policemen with background as a pl was 4.6±1.1 (varying between 3 and 6), while that of policemen with backgrounnon-players were 6.2 ± 1.3 (varying between 4 and 8).

Tension

Table 3: Comparative assessment of the Tension of policemen (players and non

D.P.			T	players)						
Policemen	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max	MD	Z Value	D W-L		
Players	200	9.8	±1.8	7	13	-3.6				
Non Players	200	13.4		10	16	-5.0	-2.219	< 0.05		
			41.7	10	10	- 1	- 1			

N=Sample Size; SD: Standard Deviation; Min: Minimum; Max: Maximum;

Z: Z Statistic; P: Probability

Above Table 3 presents results regarding the tension level of the policemen. I was evident from the results that the mean for policemen with background as a player was 4.6±1.1 (varying between 7 and 13), while that of policemen with background as non-players were 6.2±1.3 (varying between 10 and 16).

Level of Stress

Table 4: Comparative assessment of Stress level in policeman

	Chi Square			
Players		ers Non		- Cin Square
No.	Per.	No.		1
34	17	63		Ch: C
68	34			Chi Square =
98	49			19.75, P<0.01
200	100			F < 0.01
	No. 34 68 98	Players No. Per. 34 17 68 34 98 49	Policemen Players Non I No. Per. No. 34 17 63 68 34 79 98 49 58	Players Non Players No. Per. No. Per. 34 17 63 31.5 68 34 79 39.5 98 49 58 29.0

Above Table 4 presents results regarding the stress level among policemen. It was evident from the results that 49% of players and 29 % of non-players had low level of stress respectively. 34% and 39.5% of players and non-players had moderate level of stress and 17% and 31.5% players and non-players had high level of stress respectively.

Hypothesis Testing

- It is hypothesized that the stress of players & non-players policemen will be 1) significantly different.
- On the basis of the statistical analysis of the information received during the 2)





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research study, it is observed that there is significant difference in the level of stress of players & non-players policemen, hence, the hypothesis, which states that "It is hypothesized that the stress of players & non-players policemen will be significantly different", is accepted.

Conclusions

On the basis of the study results, it is concluded that the policemen having background as non-player have remarkably higher level of guilt proneness, suspiciousness and tension. Moreover, the stress levels are also significantly (P<0.05) high in the policemen with no sports background. Hence, in broader sense it is evident that the sports participation can help the policemen in coping with the pressures of their professional work in more appropriate way.

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