A Critical Study of Doping Attitude in Indian Competitive Sports between Male and Female Sportsperson

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\textbf{ABSTRACT}

Doping is accompanied by evident physical benefits. Sportsmen may refer to doping in order to improve their physical capabilities to win. Besides motivation are also recognized to be factors affecting doping behavior. In the present research the researcher in pursuing to answer the query of doping attitude in Indian competitive sports between male and female sportsperson. For accomplish the study total 60 subjects were selected as sample through random sampling technique. Out of that 30 samples were male and 30 were female. The age of subjects were ranged from 18 to 30 years. Male and female elite athletes in the team fields of different games were chosen by random sampling method who filled the questionnaire of Performance Enhancement Attitude Scale developed by Mallet, et al., independent sample ‘t’ test was conducted to explore the difference between PEAS of male and female sport person. There was no significant difference found but it was found that male athletes have more score than female which indicated that male athletes more prone to have doping in sports.

Key words: doping attitude, doping, performance enhancement.

\textbf{INTRODUCTION}

In competitive sports, doping refers to the use of banned athletic performance-enhancing drugs by athletic competitors, where the term doping is widely used by organizations that regulate sporting competitions. The use of drugs to enhance performance is considered unethical, and therefore prohibited, by most international sports organizations, including the International Olympic Committee. The recent history of sporting events is marred with reports of athlete doping. Sports can provide instant fame, financial security, and respect, and these reasons are why athletes Use such risky methods, even at the risk of dying. Doping gives clear physical advantages as explained above. Not only do they help improve Strength, speed, and endurance, but they can also aid in recovery from injury. The advantages of being stronger or faster are very tempting for elite athletes. When extrinsic rewards such as prizes and money are the focus of competition, athletes may turn to doping to improve their physical prowess in order to win.

Irving et. al. reported higher percentages of use of PED among young males as compared to females. Wroble, Gray, and Rodrigo conducted a survey of 1553 preadolescent (10–14-year-old) athletes from 34 states and found a much lower anabolic steroid (AS) usage percentage among 10–14 year olds (0.9% male and 0.2% female). In an investigation by Stigler and Yesalis that surveyed 873 Indiana high school football players, 6.3% admitted to using AS. Among adult athletes, in self-reported-use studies, doping prevalence has been estimated to be 5–15%. Numerous studies have reported that an athlete’s drug use in sport could be credited to a complex interaction of personal and environmental factors.

Possible contributing environmental factors include attitudes of peer groups, parents, coaches, accessibility to drugs, and cultural norms and values. Participants in Diacin, Parks & Allison study supported athlete drug testing and identified factors that influenced their perceptions of the use of performance-enhancing substances. Their data showed that female athletes were more supportive of testing programs than males, testing by schools and the NCAA was supported but conference-wide testing programs were not, and finally that in general the athletes questioned were indifferent to drug testing. A one-way ANOVA statistical test in Manouchehri and Tojari, Manouchehri et. at. indicated statistical significant differences in participants’ attitudes toward PEDs among the different groups of athletes competing in diverse levels.
Key word definition: doping attitude- doping attitudes defined as the willingness of a person to the use of banned performance-enhancing substances.

PROCEDURE AND METHODOLOGY

Selection of the sample

The samples for this research consisted of professional athletes in team sports (for both men and women) who had record of competition in different sports. The research sample consisted of 60 participants (30 male and 30 female) who were randomly selected among available sports. The age of selected samples were ranged from 18-30 years respectively.

Table-1: Random Sampling technique used in study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This tool aims to gather information on University and National level athletes’ attitude to doping and performance-enhancing substances. The statements showed in the questionnaire what many people think and feel about sports and performance-enhancing substances/drugs. The subjects were assured kept their information confidential and only used for research purpose.

Tool and Techniques

Performance enhancement attitude scale (PEAS): The doping attitudes defined as the willingness of a person to the use of banned performance-enhancing substances. This scale is to measure athlete’s general attitudes to doping. After translating the English version of performance enhancement attitude scale to the Hindi, scale validity was confirmed by experts in this field and scholar calculated .83 reliability by test retest method after translation in Hindi and finalized as Hindi plus English combine version for collection of data. The subjects were assure for the confidentiality of information given in the tool by not mentioning their identity on questionnaire but given a ID number to each subject. The PEAS is a 17-item self-report instrument with attitude statements which measure participants’ attitudes toward performance enhancement drugs (PEDs).

A 6-point Likert scale with points ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 6 (strongly agree) was used to score the survey. Petroczi and Aidman (2009) compared seven scores of hypothetical doping situations (UK/U.S./Hungarian athletes) and found PEAS scores were congruent with previous literature. The researchers analyzed data using PEAS scores and compared the responses from non-users and users. The results showed a statistically significant difference between users and an elevated score on the PEAS as well as between non-users and a lower score on the PEAS. In all but one of the seven studies the users scored higher than non-users on the PEAS. Petroczi and Aidman concluded the PEAS is a valid measure. Reliability scores (r = 0.71 to 0.91) indicate medium to high internal consistency. These psychometric values show the PEAS is a valid and reliable tool for examining athletes’ attitudes toward doping (Petroczi & Aidman). A potential weakness of this instrument is that the data is self-reported.

Collection of the Data

The data was collected from thirty National and University level players. The questionnaires was administered separately for each sports person of different sports. Before the test or filling the questionnaire players were well explained about the objectives of the study and how to fill the questionnaires. Once the subject fully understood what to do, then they were ask to fill the questionnaire as per standardized procedure. Questionnaires were than collected back once they have completed.

Statistical Methods

Descriptive statistics were applied for summarizing and categorizing row data and for measuring mean, SD, and drawing graphs and tables. The ‘t’ test was used for measuring difference between the mean of doping attitude of male and female athletes calculated in SPSS-17 version software.
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After application of the statistical techniques on the raw data the result were discussed and interpreted.

Table 2: Mean difference of doping attitude between Indian male and female sportsperson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEAS</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>56.00</td>
<td>13.784</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.845</td>
<td>.098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50.20</td>
<td>10.324</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Significant at 0.05 level of significance with df (58)

The independent ‘t’ test was calculated to explore the difference between mean score of doping attitude of Indian male and female sportsperson. The table no. 1 reveals that the mean score of male is 56.00 and female is 50.20 respectively, with a difference of 5.80 score on PEAS. The ‘t’ value (1.845) is lower than tabulated value at 0.05 which is not significant. It means that there is no significant difference found between the male and female in their performance enhancement attitude.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study has been designed to investigate to find out the difference between Indian male and female athlete in their performance enhancement attitude scale. After analysis of data it was observed that there is no significant difference in their doping attitude. It means, male and female have equal attitude towards doping phenomenon. The result showed that the score was found less in female and male athletes have higher score doping attitude scale with a mean difference of 5.80 which was significant at 0.098 slightly less than 0.05 level of confidence. It indicate that male were more interested to enhance their sports performance by any means and method including drugs or doping.

REFERENCES