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Research Paper

A Study on Selected Soccer Skill Performance of Rural and Urban Soccer Players

Physical Education

KEYWORDS : Soccer players, 30 meter run with ball, Kicking accuracy, Juggling with the ball.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the study was to compare the means between rural and urban area's soccer players on three selected soccer skill performances. In the present study, 44 soccer players (each from 22), ranging their age between 16-20 years were randomly selected from East and West Midnapore, West Bengal in India as a subjects. Three selected soccer skills were 30 meters run with ball, kicking accuracy and juggling with the ball. The data were analyzed by applying independent t-test in order to determine the comparison of means between rural and urban soccer players. The t-value between rural & urban soccer players of 30 meter run with ball, kicking accuracy and juggling with the ball were 1.178 (<0.05), 2.500 (>0.05) and 5.072(>0.01) respectively.

Introduction:

I am from the countryside. It is known that education is not given that much attention in rural areas; families do not encourage their children to go to school. I started learning all by myself as I had the desire. But to be a student you need educational materials and I couldn't afford those.

– Young man, Ethiopia

Superficially, it is easy to assume that a sport like soccer is identical around the world. The rules, the playing field, the objectives, the number of players, the skills required for success, all seem to cross national and cultural boundaries. When moving beyond the superficial, however, differences emerge. An achievement in soccer game is always a many sided phenomenon in the sense that it depends on many factors such as physique, motor fitness, technique, tactics, intelligence early life exercise, physiological conditioning, personality traits, motivation level, anxiety, levels of training and socio-economic status etc. Performance related fitness is a readiness or preparedness for performance with special regard for big muscle activity without undue fatigue. Performance related fitness has been identified as that part of motor fitness which helps an individual to achieve high level of performance in movement activities depending on the components mostly hereditary in nature. Performance related fitness requires the abilities necessary for proficient execution of sports skill. A motor skill is acquired through a long process of motor learning. Skill denotes the level of effectiveness with which a movement or motor action can be done. Skill is defined as automatisation of a motor action. Technical skills in sports, therefore, represent automatisation of a motor action. An urban area is characterized by higher population density and vast human features in comparison to areas surrounding it. Urban areas may be cities, towns or conurbations, but the term is not commonly extended to rural settlements such as villages and hamlets. Rural areas or the country or countryside are areas of land that are not urbanized, though when large areas are described, country towns and smaller cities will be included. They have a low population density, and typically much of the land is devoted to agriculture and there may be less air and water pollution than in an urban area.

Objectives of the study:

The objectives of the present study were as follows.

1. To find out the performance skill status of rural and urban area's soccer players.
2. To compare the means between rural and urban area's soccer players in relation to three selected soccer skill performances.

Methodology:

The subjects were taken from the students of High School of East and West Midnapore in West Bengal, India. All the subjects were participated at least inter district soccer competition. The total of forty-four (44) soccer players, twenty two (22) from rural area and remains from urban area, were selected randomly. The age range of the subjects was 16-20 years. Three selected soccer skills were measured for this study. The first was 30 meters run with the ball. At first two straight lines, 30 meter apart, were marked on the field. The examinee was instructed to stand behind a marked line without touching the line, with a football placed on the line. On the signal ready, the player started running with the ball as first as possible to reach the 30 meter finish line. Time was measured from the interval of starting "Go" until both ball and the player reach to the finish line (two attempts and 30 seconds interval). The second was kicking accuracy. The goal post was divided into three equal parts by fixing two ropes. Football was placed at the penalty mark (11 meter distance at goal line). The examinee was given ten attempts 4 to kick the ball in left part, 4 to right part and 2 to the middle part of the goal in the following sequence-first two kicks into the right part followed by one kick in the middle part of the goal to be followed by 2 kicks to the left part, and repeating the same pattern for the remaining five kicks. The ball was required to cross the goal line in the air to have the desired speed and strength in the kick. The third was juggling with the ball. The subject was instructed to keep the ball in the air by juggling continuously and was told that he might use any part of the body except hand while juggling (foot, thigh, chest, and head). For starting the juggling, the subject was allowed to throw the ball in the air or to bounce the ball on the floor and started juggling till the subject was able to juggle the ball without dropping it on the ground. To compare the mean differences between rural and urban soccer players of three selected soccer skill, mean, standard deviation (SD) and t-test was computed by means of SPSS Software version 17.0 (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, version 17.0, SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL, USA).

Findings and Discussions:

To find out the mean, standard deviation and standard error of selected soccer skill performance of rural and urban soccer players, descriptive statistics was employed. Findings pertaining to this were presented in table 1.

Table 1: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS OF RURAL & URBAN SOCCER PLAYERS ON SELECTED SOCCER SKILL PERFORMANCES

Parameter	Areas	Mean ± SD	SE
30 mt. Run with ball (sec)	Rural	6.02±1.06	0.23
	Urban	5.69±0.77	0.16
Kicking accuracy (no)	Rural	4.36±1.73	0.37
	Urban	5.41±1.46	0.31
Juggling with ball (no)	Rural	4.18±3.05	0.65
	Urban	11.23±5.78	1.23

SD = Standard Deviation; SE = Standard Error of Mean

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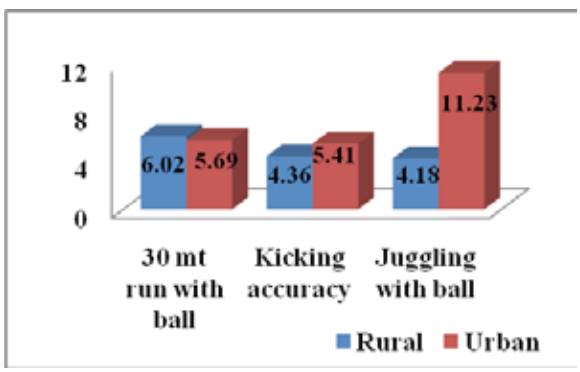
Table 1 shows that mean value and standard deviation (SD) of rural and urban soccer players in relation to 30 meters run with ball, kicking accuracy and juggling with ball were 6.02±1.06 & 5.69±0.77 seconds; 4.36±1.73 & 5.41±1.46 and 4.18±3.05 & 11.23±5.78 numbers respectively.

The graphical representation of means of rural and urban soccer players of three selected soccer skill was employed. This was presented in figure 1.

Figure 1: THREE SOCCER SKILL PERFORMANCES OF RURAL AND URBAN SOCCER PLAYERS



The comparison of rural and urban area's soccer players of three selected soccer skill performances was employed. This was presented in table 2.

Table 2: COMPARISON OF MEAN OF RURAL AND URBAN AREA'S SOCCER PLAYERS FOR SELECTED SOCCER SKILL PERFORMANCE

Parameter	Areas	Mn	MD	SED	t-value
30 mt. Run with ball (sec)	R	6.02	0.33	0.28	1.17
	U	5.69			
Kicking accuracy (no)	R	4.36	1.05	0.48	2.50*
	U	5.41			
Juggling with ball (no)	R	4.18	7.05	1.39	5.07**
	U	11.23			

R = Rural; U = Urban; Mn = Mean; MD = Mean difference; SED = Standard Error of the Difference between means

*Significant at 0.05 levels; **Significant at 0.01 levels; $t_{0.05}$ (42) = 2.02; $t_{0.01}$ (42) = 2.69

Table 2 reveals that the obtained 't' values of rural and urban area's soccer players on 30 meters run with ball, kicking accuracy the ball and juggling the ball was 1.17, 2.50 and 5.07 respectively, whereas the tabulated 't' value at 42 degree of freedom with 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance was 2.02 and 2.69 respectively. It was also evident from table 2 that there exists significant mean difference between rural and urban area's soccer players in relation to kicking accuracy the ball and juggling the ball at 0.05 & 0.01 levels respectively.

Conclusions:

The following conclusions have been made in the light of the findings of the study.

1. Insignificant difference was found between rural and urban area's soccer players in relation to 30 meters run with the ball.
2. Significant difference was found between rural and urban area's soccer players in relation to kicking accuracy of the ball and juggling with the ball.
3. In kicking accuracy of the ball urban area's soccer players were better than rural area's soccer players.
4. Urban area's soccer players were better than rural area's soccer players in juggling with the ball.

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