



## A Comparative Study of Problem Solving Ability Between Tribal and Non Tribal Sportspersons

### KEYWORDS

Problem solving ability, sportsperson, tribal, non tribal

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**ABSTRACT** *In the present study, problem solving ability was compared among university sportspersons on the basis of their tribal non-tribal belongingness. To conduct the study, 50 tribal sportspersons (Ave. age 24.09 years) and 50 non tribal sportspersons (Ave. age 25.18 yrs) were selected as sample. The sample comprises of sportspersons of both the sexes. The criteria for selection of sample was participation in inter university sports competition in any sporting discipline. Hindi version of problem solving ability scale prepared by Sharmila and Naga Subramani (2011) was used to assess problem solving ability of tribal and non tribal sportspersons. Results indicate that problem solving ability of non tribal sportspersons was found to be significantly superior as compared to tribal sportspersons. It was concluded tribal non-tribal belongingness do affect the problem solving ability of sportsperson.*

### Introduction

A problem refers to an obstacle which hinders an individual's goal. When individual encounter frustration in achieving his/her desired goals it is due to a problem. Problem solving aids an individual or a group individually or collectively to adjust to environmental stressors successfully. It is a learnable ability. Everybody in their day-to-day life are confronted with obstacles which they try to negate with problem solving skills. Like any other human activity, a sportsperson also comes across variety of problems on and off the field. It may be in the form of technique, tactics, environmental issues, conflict with team member etc. A sportspersons needs to solve these problems efficiently so that his /her performances do not get affected. Majority of the problems can be solved with the help of simple actions or procedure but some problems require special cognitive, technical and psychological abilities to find a correct solution (Gulsen, 2008)<sup>1</sup>. According to Volkamer (2009)<sup>2</sup> sporting success comes from eliminating problems. Hence problem solving ability can be considered as psycho-cognitive variable that enables an athlete to take right decision at right time to solve the problem in shortest time.

Our society comprise of individual's coming from all race, caste and culture. In India, sportspersons also comes from to various race, ethnicity and caste. The participation of tribal sportspersons in Indian sports is quite a bit and number of studies in the past have made in order to comparative assess the psychological, physiological, skill related difference in tribal and non tribal sportspersons taking part in various sports. In this relation so many researchers namely Thakur (2012)<sup>3</sup>, Patil (2013)<sup>4</sup>, Dhamne and Salvi (2013)<sup>5</sup>, Ghosh and Majumdar (2013)<sup>6</sup>, Diwan, S. (2014)<sup>7</sup>, Baro (2014)<sup>8</sup>, Karkare (2015)<sup>9</sup> studied psycho-social, physiological and skill related differences in tribal and non tribal sportspersons. Surprisingly problem solving ability of sportsperson has not been assessed for, hence the present study was planned to assess problem solving ability of inter-university tribal and non tribal sportspersons.

### Hypothesis

It was hypothesized that problem solving ability of inter university sportspersons will differ significantly on the basis of their tribal, non tribal belongingness.

### METHOD:

To test the abovementioned hypothesis, following meth-

odological steps were taken.

### Sample :

To conduct the study, 50 tribal sportspersons (Ave. age 24.09 years) and 50 non tribal sportspersons (Ave. age 25.18 yrs) were selected as sample. The sample comprises of sportspersons of both the sexes. The criteria for selection of sample was participation in inter university sports competition in any sporting discipline. The sample was selected using purposive sampling technique.

### Tools :

#### Problem Solving Ability Scale :

To assess problem solving ability of selected subjects, Hindi version of Problem Solving Ability Scale prepared by Sharmila and Naga Subramani (2011) was used. This test consists of 40 statements. The equal length Spearman-Brown reliability coefficient of this scale was found to be 0.825 while it has fair construct validity.

### Procedure :

50 tribal and 50 non tribal sportspersons were selected from inter university sports competition for various sports. Prior consent was obtained from each subject that their participation in this study is voluntary. Problem solving ability scale prepared by Sharmila and Naga Subramani (2011) was administered to each subject in a laboratory like condition and convenience of the subjects. Scoring of responses given by the subjects was done according to author's manual. After scoring, data were tabulated according to their respective groups. 't' test was used to find out differences among these two groups. Results are presented in table 1.

### RESULTS

#### Table No. 1

#### Comparison of Problem Solving Ability between Tribal and Non-Tribal Sportspersons

Variable	Tribal Sportspersons (N=50)		Non-Tribal Sportspersons (N=50)		t	Level of Significance
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.		
Problem Solving Ability	104.72	12.33	111.44	12.80	2.67	.01

A perusal of statistical entries reported in table 1 indicate that problem solving ability of non tribal sportspersons (M=111.44) was found to be significantly of higher magnitude as compared to tribal sportspersons (M=104.72). The calculated  $t=2.67$ ,  $p<.01$  also confirms this finding statistically.

## DISCUSSION

In the present study problem solving ability of non tribal sportsperson was found to be significantly superior as compared to tribal sportspersons. It may be due to fact that tribals get stereotyped teaching since childhood and that hampers their creativity and subsequently problem solving ability. This reflected in inferior problem solving ability of tribal sportspersons even at later stages of their life.

## CONCLUSION :

On the basis of results it may be concluded that non tribal sportspersons excel in problem solving ability as compared to tribal sportspersons.

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