



THE IMPACT OF GENDER ON RISK –TAKING BEHAVIOUR IN OUTDOOR SPORTS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT The aim of the present study was to explore gender disparities in risk-taking behaviour among outdoor sport participants. A random sampling method was utilized, involving a total sample of 50 individuals, divided into 25 males and 25 females. Participants were selected using a stratified random sampling approach, drawn from both private and government physical education colleges and sports clubs in Nagpur city. The age range of the participants varied between 20 to 30 years. Risk taking questionnaire constructed by Virendra Sinha and P. N. Arora was used to measure risk taking behaviour. Data analysis was performed using a t-test. The findings demonstrated a statistically significant gender difference in risk-taking behaviour. Male subject show more risk taking tendency than female. This investigation provides important insights into the comprehension of gender-related variations in risk taking behaviour among sport person, with potential implications for sports training and coaching strategies.

KEYWORDS : Risk taking, Outdoor games, Gender, Sports.

INTRODUCTION

Outdoor sports are exciting activities like playing cricket, football, hockey etc. Outdoor sports are physical activities you do outside in nature. People enjoy them because they're thrilling, let you appreciate nature, and make you feel healthy and happy. These sports can be a bit risky ,so person need to be fit and know what you're doing. Whether you're playing cricket, football, hockey outdoor sports are all about fun and adventure.

Risk-taking refers to the willingness or propensity of individuals to engage in activities or decisions that involve uncertainty, potential hazards, or the possibility of adverse outcomes. It is a complex and multidimensional behaviour influenced by various factors, including personality, experience, societal norms, and individual perceptions. There are several theories that explain why people take risks. Some of the prominent ones include: Expected Utility Theory: This theory suggests that individuals make decisions based on the expected value or utility of different outcomes. Risk-taking behaviour can be influenced by the perceived benefits and probabilities of different outcomes. Prospect Theory :- Developed by Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, this theory suggest that people's decisions are influenced by potential gains and losses relative to a reference point. People tend to be risk-averse when facing potential gains but risk-seeking when facing potential losses. Risk-Return Trade off: This theory suggests that individuals are willing to take more risks if they expect higher returns. It's often associated with investment decisions where higher-risk investments may offer the potential for greater rewards. Social and Cultural Factors: Social and cultural influences play a significant role in risk-taking behaviour. Peer pressure, societal norms, and cultural values can impact an individual's willingness to take risks. Evolutionary Psychology: Some theories suggest that risk-taking behaviour may have evolved as an adaptive trait. Taking risks in certain situations could have provided an advantage in terms of survival and reproduction. Personality Factors: Personality traits, such as sensation-seeking and impulsivity, can influence an individual's propensity to take risks. People with high levels of sensation-seeking may be more inclined to engage in risky behaviours. Cognitive Biases: Cognitive biases, such as overconfidence and availability bias, can lead people to underestimate risks and overestimate potential rewards, influencing their risk-taking decisions. In the context of outdoor sports and adventure activities, risk-taking may manifest in several ways: Physical Risks: Engaging in activities that carry a physical risk, such as rock climbing without safety ropes playing cricket without guard, helmet. Exploratory Risks: Venturing into uncharted or remote areas where safety is not guaranteed, like wilderness backpacking. Sporting Risks: Participating in extreme or high-risk sports, such as playing cricket, hockey, football. Decision-Making Risks: Making choices in unpredictable outdoor situations, such as navigating through changing weather conditions or assessing the stability of natural terrain. Experience and Training: A person's experience and training in outdoor activities can influence their risk-taking behaviour. Experienced individuals may take calculated risks based on their knowledge and skills. Understanding the factors that influence risk-taking in outdoor sports is essential for promoting safety, developing risk management strategies, and tailoring training and education programs. Moreover, research into how gender impacts risk-taking

behaviour in outdoor sports, as mentioned in the earlier context, is part of the broader. In present study we want to know if being a man or a woman affects how adventurous people are in these sports. Does being a man make you more likely to take risks, and do women tend to be more cautious? We're going to explore this question. This study is important because it's not just about sports; it's also about fairness, safety, and helping sport person perform better. We want to understand why some people take more risks in outdoor sports, and how their gender might play a role. We're not only looking at the differences but also the special strengths that both men and women bring to outdoor sports. Our goal is to make outdoor sports more inclusive, safer, and even more exciting for everyone.

Review

1) DK Ngetich, Eric MPED studied Motivational gender differences in sport and exercise participation among university sport science students. The studies was carried out to determine gender differences in participation motive to physical activity of sport science students of a university. Data was collected through questionnaires from 60(30 males and 20 females) sport science students. Results showed that sport science students perceive their physical health status as fair and they are involved in diverse physical activity with no significant gender differences.

2) Howard L. Nixon write research paper on Coaches' views of risk, pain, and injury in sport, with special reference to gender differences. The main purpose of his paper is to consider the extent to which college coaches subscribe to a set of beliefs in the culture of sport concerning risk, pain, and injury. A secondary purpose of this paper is to consider whether gender makes a difference in how coaches think about risk, pain, and injury. The data are from a survey of coaches at a medium-sized (11,500-student) comprehensive university in the south eastern United States. The results showed ambivalence among coaches in their views of risk, pain, and injury, which suggested the existence of a risk-pain-injury paradox.

3) Nicolas Cazenave, Christine Le Scanff, Tim Woodman studied Psychological profiles and emotional regulation characteristics of women engaged in risk-taking sports. He investigated the psychological profiles and emotional regulation characteristics of women involved in risk-taking sports. The research sample (N=180) consisted of three groups of women engaged in: (1) non-risk sports (N=90); (2) risk-taking sports for leisure purposes (N=53); or (3) risk-taking sports as professionals (N=37). Each participant completed five questionnaires, the Sensation Seeking Scale, the Bem Sex Role Inventory, the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale, Risk & Excitement Inventory, and the Toronto Alexithymia Scale. The results revealed significant differences between the groups' profiles.

Significance of Study

This study can provide insights into the factors contributing to safety and injury risks in outdoor sports. It can lead to the development of targeted safety measures and risk management strategies, benefiting both male and female sport person. By examining how risk-taking behaviour varies between genders, the research may reveal opportunities for improving athletic performance and training methods tailored to different gender-specific characteristics and preferences. The study can also shed light on the psychological and

societal factors that influence risk-taking behaviour. This understanding can contribute to better education and awareness programs related to outdoor sports.

Methodology

Research Question: To what extent does gender influence risk-taking behaviour in the context of outdoor sports, and what are the underlying factors contributing to gender based differences in this topic?

Objective of Study

The objective of present research was to examine and quantify the differences in risk-taking behaviour between male and female participants in outdoor sports.

Hypothesis

Keeping in mind the objective of the study; following hypothesis have been formulated:

A significant difference would exist between outdoor male and outdoor female sports persons on risk taking . However male outdoor sports participant will exhibit a significantly higher propensity for risk-taking behaviour compared to their female counterparts.

Sample

The sample consisted of 50 outdoor sport participant out of which were 25 males and 25 females. The subjects were selected randomly using stratified random sampling technique; from various private and government physical education colleges and sports club of Nagpur City. The age of the subject ranges from 20 to 30 yrs.

Tools Used

Risk Taking Questionnaire of Virendra Sinha and P. N. Arora was used to collect data.

Procedure of Data Collection

The testing was done on a group of outdoor males and outdoor female sport participant. The whole procedure was explained to them clearly. After getting willingness of the subjects the scale were administered in a small group.

Statistical Techniques

For the present study, the mean value, standard deviation and independents 't' test were applied to analyze the data.

Variables Under Study

Gender of the subjects treated as independent variables. Whereas, risk taking tendency treated as dependent variable.

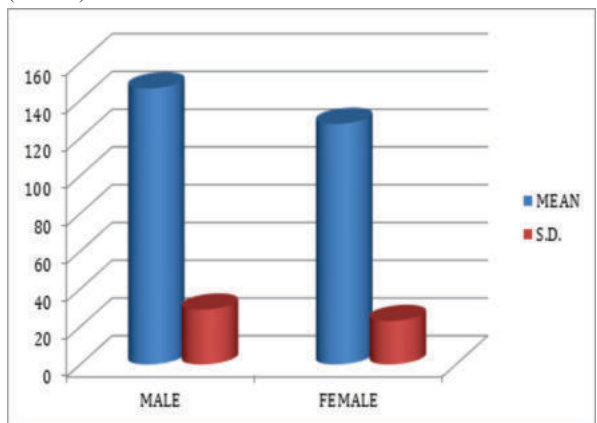
RESULTS

The main objective of present study was to know the differences of gender on risk taking tendency among outdoor sport participants. The t-test was used to find out whether gender (males |females) has an impact on risk taking. Significant difference was found between males and females on risk taking tendency.

Table 1. Showing the Mean, SD and t-critical value of Risk Taking Among Males and Females Participated in Outdoor Sports.

Groups	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value
Male	25	146.24	29.05	2.27
Female	25	127.48	23.05	

(P<0.05)



From above table for male participant, the mean score was 146.24, with a standard deviation of 29.05. In contrast, female participant had a mean score of 127.48, with a standard deviation of 23.05. Calculated value is greater than table value and it's significant at 0.05 level. Hence formulated hypothesis is accepted. Means Significant difference was found between males and females on risk taking tendency. Male outdoor sports participant exhibit a significantly higher propensity for risk-taking behaviour compared to their female counterparts.

CONCLUSION

The result showed that there is significant gender difference on risk taking behaviour among outdoor sports players. Male outdoor sports participant exhibit a significantly higher propensity for risk-taking behaviour compared to their female counterparts.

Recommendations

- 1) Further studies to undertake among top level outdoor sports players.
- 2) Comparative study is recommended among other outdoor sports players.
- 3) Sample size was small.
- 4) Duration of study is short.

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