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Impact of Field Training With and Without Psych-Up Strategies on Selected Psychological and Performance Variables among Cricket Players

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Abstract

The objective of the study was to investigate the influence of field training with and without psych-up package on selected Psychological variables among Cricketers. For this study Forty two male Madurai District level Cricketer were randomly selected from various schools in Madurai District and their age ranged between 18 and 25 years. Initially the Cricket playing ability of the subjects were subjectively rated by three qualified coaches. By using matching procedure on the basis of their Cricket playing ability the subject were classified into three matched groups, each having sixteen subjects. Group-I was involved in game-specific field training, Group II was given game-specific field training combined with psychup package and Group III (Control) was not exposed to any specific training / conditioning. The game-specific field training schedule was specifically designed to improve the Cricket playing ability and fitness levels of the Cricketers. The game-specific training packages designed by the investigators of the study was administered for a period of twelve weeks, five days a week, two sessions each day, each session lasted two hours. The selected psych-up packages were meted out for 25 minutes to group II either before or after the game-specific field training. The Psychological variables namely Self confidence, anxiety& worry managment and Concentration (Hardy and Neloson's Mental skill Questionaire). The pre and post test were conducted one day before and after the experimental treatment. Analysis of covariance was used to analyze the collected data. Scheffe's test was used as a post hoc test to determine which of the paired mean differ significantly. The results of the study reveal that both game-specific training and game-specific combined with psych-up strategic packages produced positive impacts on the Psychological and performance variables among cricket players.

Keywords: Field Training, Game-Specific, Cricket, Psychological.

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Introduction

Cricket is one of the most popular games in India, in recent times. Basically, Cricket is the battle between the bat and ball, but the approach has changed from time to time. Sports performance in a complex mixture of genetic make-up and environmental influences like training etcetera. In Cricket, performance is determined by several factors namely skill, technique, tactics, fitness, training, etcetera. In any sports, a player's success or failure results from a combination of physical and mental abilities. So training plays an important role in modern day cricket. As very little research has been conducted on the influence of psyching-up on Cricket performance, the investigator was motivated to take up the study.

Statement of the problem

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of field training with and without psych-up strategies on selected Psychological and performance

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variables among Cricketers.

Methodology

Forty two Madurai district Cricketers were randomly selected as subjects. Their age ranged from eighteen to twenty five years. By using the matching procedure on the basis of their initial Cricket playing ability performance test scores, the subjects were divided into three equal groups of fourteen each. The control group was not exposed to any specific training / conditioning. The experimental groups 'A' and 'B' were subjected to field training schedule which was specifically designed to improve the technico-tactical part of the game and also fitness components essential for Cricketers. The field training was given for ten weeks, six days per week with two hours of duration each in the morning and evening sessions. In addition to the above field training, the experimental group 'B' had also undergone psych-up schedule. This psych-up package was given for 25 minutes each day, in the morning and evening sessions, except on the rest day. The psych-up package consisted of psych-up strategies namely attention focus, self talk, relaxation, imagery and preparatory arousal. Self confidence, Anxiety and Worry management, Concentration ability and Cricket playing

ability were selected as variables as they may have direct relation to the performance of Cricket players in competitive situation. Subjective rating of Cricket Playing ability the tests used for collecting the data. By using the Mental skills questionnaire of Hardy and Nelson, the data on the Psychological part were collected. The data were collected first at the beginning (pre-test) and finally at the end of the experimental period often weeks (post-test). The study was aimed to find out the influence of training on selected dependent variables. In addition to that, it had been analyzed if there was any difference between the groups with psychup and without psych-up package on field training

programme.

The collected data from three groups were statistically analysed for significant difference if any, by applying the Analysis of Covariance, whenever the 'F' ratio was found to be significant for adjusted post test means, Scheffe's test was followed as a post-hoc test to determine the level of significant difference between the paired means. The analysis of covariance on the obtained scores in pre, post and adjusted post-test of the control, experimental group I and II for psychological variables namely Self confidence, Anxiety ,Concentration ability and playing ability have been presented in table No. I

Results

Table I. Analysis of covariance for pre, post and adjusted post test data on self confidence, anxiety, concentration and performance variable of game-specific field training group, game-specific field training group & combined with psych-up package and control group

| Variables | | GSFG | GSFGWYPG | CG | Source | df | Sum of | Mean | 'F' ratio |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| | | | | | of | | square | square | |
| | | | | | variance | | | | |
| nce | Pre-test | 10.571 | 10.214 | 11.143 | B.M | 2 | 6.140 | 3.07 | 0.5718 |
| | Mean | 2.352 | 2.210 | 2.133 | | | | | |
| | SD | | | | W.G | 39 | 209.50 | 5.37 | |
| | Post-test | 14.929 | 19.071 | 11.357 | B.M | 2 | 417.33 | 208.67 | |
| | Mean | 3.390 | 3.127 | 1.445 | **** | 20 | 225.05 | 0.20 | 24.88* |
| ide | SD | | | | W.G | 39 | 327.07 | 8.39 | |
| Self confidence | Adjusted | 14.001 | 10.200 | 10.000 | B.S | 2 | 480.57 | 240.28 | 42.00% |
| | Post-test | 14.981 | 19.388 | 10.988 | W.C | 20 | 212.02 | 7 (0) | 42.88* |
| Sel | Mean | | | | W.S | 38 | 212.92 | 5.60 | |
| | | 11.143 | 12.857 | 10.643 | D M | 2 | 37.76 | 18.88 | 3.0600 |
| rry | Pre- test Mean | 11.143 | 3.335 | 1.716 | B.M | 2 39 | 240.64 | 6.17 | 3.0600 |
| worry | t t | 1./10 | 3.333 | 1./10 | W.G | 39 | 240.04 | 0.17 | |
| | | 13.286 | 17.786 | 12.000 | B.M | 2 | 258.43 | 129.21 | 12.1368* |
| l 53 | Post- test Mean | 1.906 | 4.585 | 2.236 | D.WI | 39 | 415.21 | 10.65 | 12.1300 |
| \sim | Post- test Mean | 1.900 | 4.363 | 2.230 | W.G | 37 | 413.21 | 10.03 | |
| Anxiety management | Adjusted | | | 12.662 | B.S | 2 | 115.94 | 57.97 | 7.69* |
| ety ge1 | Post-test | 13.582 | 16.828 | 72.734 | D.5 | 2 | 286.49 | 7.54 | 7.07 |
| Anxiety manager | Mean | 13.302 | 10.020 | 72.731 | W.S | 38 | 200.17 | 7.51 | |
| A | 1,10uii | | | | 11.5 | | | | |
| | Pre-test | 11.000 | 11.500 | 10.357 | B.M | 2 | 9.19 | 4.60 | |
| | Mean | | | | | | | | 0.6384 |
| | SD | 2.878 | 2.353 | 2.496 | W.G | 39 | 280.71 | 7.20 | |
| Concentration | Post-test | 14.786 | 19.929 | 10.571 | B.M | 2 | 614.90 | 307.45 | |
| | Mean | | | | | 39 | | | 32.8768* |
| | SD | 3.405 | 3.369 | 1.761 | W.G | | 364.71 | 9.35 | |
| | Adjusted | | | | B.S | 2 | 490.55 | 245.27 | |
| | Post-test | 14.749 | 19.510 | 11.027 | | | | | 46.46* |
| One | Mean | | | | W.S | 38 | 200.59 | 5.28 | |
| C | | | | | | | | | |
| Cricket playing ability | Pre-test | 4.979 | 4.986 | 4.993 | B.M | 2 | 0.00158 | 0.00079 | |
| | Mean | | | | | | | | 0.0005 |
| | SD | 1.240 | 1.181 | 1.206 | W.G | 39 | 61.45 | 1.58 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| ric | Post-test | 4.214 | 7.786 | | B.M | 2 | 238.62 | 119.31 | |
| <u>а</u> | Mean | | | 5.121 | | 39 | | | 23.0759* |

| SD | 0.937 | 0.880 | | W.G | | 35.69 | 0.92 | |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----|----|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | 0.947 | | | | | |
| Adjusted | | | | B.S | 2 | 214.18 | 107.09 | |
| Post-test | 6.069 | 7.557 | 5.117 | W.S | 38 | 8.64 | 0.23 | 93.19* |
| Mean | | | | | | | | |

B.M - Between the MeansW.G - Within Group

B.S – Between sets W.S – Within sets * Significant at 0.05 level

The table values required for significant at 0.05 level with df (2, 39) and (2,38) are 3.24 and 3.25 respectively. The Self confidence, Anxiety and Concentration of pre and post and adjusted post-test means and standard deviation of Game-Specific field training group, Game-Specific field training group combined with psych-up package and Control group are presented in above table. The obtained 'F' ratio of pre, post, adjusted post-test of all selected psychological variables namely Self confidence, Anxiety and Concentration 'F' value was lesser than the obtained F-value in all test barring pre-test. The obtained 'F' ratio of all the selected psychological and performance (cricket

playing ability) variables is greater than the table 'F' value in the case of post test. Similarly in adjusted post test the obtained 'F' value is also greater than the table 'F' value., it was clear that obtained 'F' values were greater than the table value in all the cases and the only exception was the pre-test. The results revel that there was significant difference among post-test and adjusted post-test means of the of Game-Specific field training group, Game-Specific field training group combined with psych-up strategic package and Control group. To determine which of the three paired means had a significant difference, Scheffe's test was applied.

Table II. Scheffe's test for the differences between the adjusted post test paired means of self confidence, anxiety and concentration

| GSFG | GSFGWYPG | CG | Mean Difference | Confidence Interval |
|--------|----------|--------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 14.981 | 19.388 | | 4.407* | 2.249 |
| 14.981 | | 10.988 | 3.993* | 2.449 |
| | 19.388 | 10.988 | 8.400* | 2.449 |
| 13.582 | 12.662 | | 3.246* | 2.160 |
| 13.582 | | 16.828 | 0.920 | 2.160 |
| | 12.662 | 16.828 | 4.166* | 2.160 |
| 14.749 | 19.510 | | 3.722* | 2.184 |
| 14.749 | | 11.027 | 4.761* | 2.184 |
| | 19.510 | 11.027 | 8.483* | 2.184 |
| 6.069 | 7.557 | | 0.952* | 0.456 |
| | 7.557 | 5.117 | 2.440* | 0.456 |
| 6.069 | 7.557 | 5.117 | 1.488* | 0.456 |

^{*}Significant at 0.05 level of confidence

From the table- II, it is clear that the adjusted post test means scores of self confidence, anxiety and concentration are presented. The mean differences in all the selected psychological and performance variables are numerically presented in the above table, which were significant at 0.05 level of confidence. The analysis revels that there was considerable difference between adjusted post-test means of Game-Specific field training group, Game-Specific field training group combined with psych-up package and Control group in all the selected variables among cricket players.

From the results obtained, it may be concluded

that both the experimental groups improved their level after the respective experimental treatment. The group-II (Game-Specific field training group combined with psych-up package) showed noticeable improvement in psychological and performance variables after 12 weeks of field training with psych-up package training. The data of self-confidence, anxiety & worry management, concentration and cricket playing ability of Game-Specific field training group, Game-Specific field training combined with psych-up package group and Control group are presented in Figure I to IV.

Figure I. The mean values of pre, post and adjusted post test data on self confidence of experimental group I & II and control group

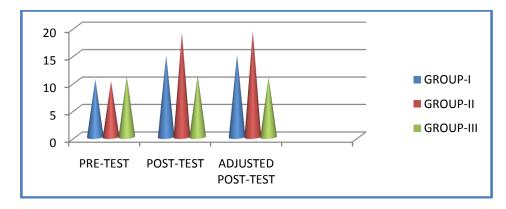


Figure II. The mean values of pre, post and adjusted post test data on anxiety of experimental group I & II and control group

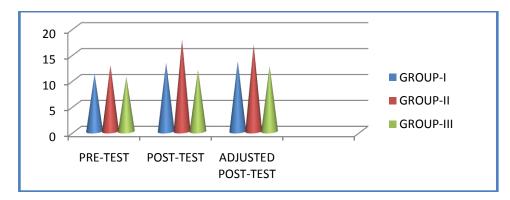
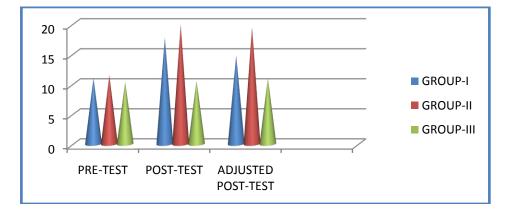


Figure III. The mean values of pre, post and adjusted post test data on concentration of experimental group I & II and control group



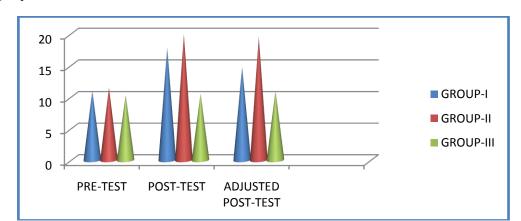


Figure IV. The mean values of pre, post and adjusted post test data on cricket playing ability of experimental group I & II and control group

Results

The analysis revels that the field training with and without imaginary training groups showed significant improvement in all the selected Psychological variables when compared with control group. Hence, the Cricketers of experimental groups showed noticeable improvement in Self confidence, anxiety & worry management, Concentration and performance (cricket playing) which may be due to 12 weeks of field training with and without psych-up package.

At the same time, when the experimental groups were compared, the field training with psych-up package group showed improvement in Self confidence. The other variables namely Anxiety and Concentration had also gained some improvement, when it was compared to the field training without psych-up package group. These results by and large in conformity with the findings of Kalidasan (1996).

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