



AGGRESSION AND SUCCESS ORIENTATION AMONG SPORTSPERSONS: GENDER SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract: From the large sample of subjects selected for PhD, 120 Ss were pooled out on the basis of predetermined criteria of gender and success orientation. Gender and success orientation were treated as an independent variables, each varied at two levels. Aggression was dependent variable. A 2x2 factorial design was used and three hypotheses were tested in the study. Male sportsperson exhibit significantly more aggressive behavior than female sportsperson. The sportspersons having individual success orientation are significantly more aggressive than those having group success orientation. The interactional hypothesis reads as, male sportsperson having individual success orientation are significantly more aggressive than female sportspersons having group success orientation. First the data were treated by descriptive statistical techniques mean and standard deviation. Finally, two way analysis of variance was applied. Findings of the study revealed that male sportsperson were significantly more aggressive than female sportspersons. Strong association was found between individual success orientation and aggression. Results fail to support interactional hypothesis. It seems with regards to aggression, gender and success orientation functioned independently.

Introduction:

In sports and games psychology is found to be useful in many ways. Personality characteristics of the sportsperson are measured; accordingly, some tendencies are measured. One such tendency is success orientation. This kind of tendency is clearly observed in team games. Some sportspersons exhibit individual success orientation, others show group success orientation. Individual success orientation is beneficial in non-team games, where there is competition between one to one. But it is harmful in team games, where success is dependent on the co-ordination of the team players. Recognizing this fact, Zander (1971) constructed and developed a scale for measuring success orientation among sportsperson.

Another phenomenon, observed on the sports field, is aggressive behavior amongst sportspersons. About three decades before sportspersons felt ashamed of playing foul games, but now a day's success is more important than nature of the game. Aggressive approach on the sports field in many cases is encouraged by the supporters. Obviously, aggressive behavior is more visible today.

Assertive approach could be tolerated because there is no intent to inflict harm to others. But, aggression is a behavior performed with the intent of physically or

psychologically hurting one or more other people. Internal feelings of anger and hostility may be involved, but external observed aggressive behavior must occur to qualify as aggression. Due to this several happenings of aggression on sports field fail to qualify as aggression. Most sportsperson take advantage of this drawback. Interestingly, this type of behavior is learned (Kobayashi, et al. 1995)

Our social training tells us that men are more aggressive than women and this seems to be confirmed by casual observation. After all, it is almost exclusively men who engage in such aggressive sports as football and boxing and primarily men who commit violent crimes. The question is whether these casual observations are major theories and careful empirical research. The early research supported the deeply ingrained stereotype that women are gentle nurturing. Whereas men are aggressive and demanding (Swim, 1994; Smith, 1998). However, after reviewing the literature prior to 1983, White and Gruber (1982) concluded that males may have greater innate preparedness for aggression, but that this genetic difference is a relatively minor factor in the observed differences in aggressive behavior. The fact is that there are women who are more aggressive than men and men who are less

aggressive than many women (White & Humphrey, 1994).

Present study deals with the Indian sportsperson who cherish traditional mentality even in the twenty first century. The aim of study is to examine the extent to which aggressive behavior could be attributed to success orientation and gender of the sportsperson.

Hypothesis: The following hypotheses were framed:

- Sportspersons having individual success orientation are significantly more aggressive than those having group success orientation.
- Male sportsperson are significantly more aggressive than female sportspersons.
- Male sportspersons having individual success orientation have significantly more aggression than the female sportspersons having group success orientation.

Sample: total sample of the study consisted of 120 Ss. Of them, 50% were male sportspersons and remaining were female sportspersons. All these sportspersons were selected players of team games. Half of the male persons were playing football and remaining were hockey players. In case of female sportspersons proportion was the same. Age range of the subjects was 20-25 years.

Tools Used for Data Collection:

- Success Orientation Scale: This scale was constructed and developed by Zander. It consisted of 12 statements only. Each statement is provided with two alternatives. Reliability of the scale determined on Indian sample was .81. No validity index is given.
- Aggression Questionnaire: This instrument was constructed and developed by Buss and Perry. Though it is called Questionnaire by the authors, it contains 29 statements depicting different types of aggressive behavior. Each item is provided with 5 alternatives. Test-retest reliability is .83.

Procedure of Data Collection: Personal interview method was used for collecting data from most of the sportsperson who participated in the study. A good number of

subjects preferred writing down the responses themselves, so they were given copies of the scale and filled copies were collected after a few days.

Results and Discussion: In the present study a 2x2 factorial design was used. Gender and success orientation were used as independent variables; each was varied at 2 levels. So, there were four classified groups. Mean and Standard Deviations obtained by the four classified groups are presented in the following table:

Table No.1. Mean and Sds obtained by four classified groups on aggression measure.

AGGRESSION		A1B1	A1B2	A2B1	A2B2
	X	79.93	69.87	71.33	62.53
S	5.69	7.93	6.44	8.54	

A1= Males; A2=Females; B1=Individual success Orientation; B2= Group Success Orientation

Careful examination of means and SDs denotes a fact that the groups differ remarkably from each other. The difference in the mean is large, which might be significant. Lowest aggressive behavior was shown by group A2B2 (X=62.53, SD= 8.54); contrary to that group A1B1 was found relatively more aggressive among the four classified groups. When the aggression data were treated by Two Way ANNOVA, following results were obtained:

Table No.2. Summary of Two Way ANNOVA for Aggression Measure

Source of Variations	SS	df	MS	f
A: Gender	1904.04	1	1904.04	36.33**
B:Orientation	2669.64	1	2669.64	50.94**
AxB	12.03	1	12.03	0.23
Within	6079.48	116	52.41	
Total	10665.19	119		

**Significant at .01 level

ANOVA results point out a fact that male and female sport persons differ significantly from each other (F=36.33, df= 1 & 116, p < .01). It is clear then the difference in the mean aggression measures might have not occurred by chance only. Male sport persons were significantly more aggressive than the female sport persons. The null hypothesis is rejected.

The other assumption, that the sportspersons having individual success orientation are significantly more aggressive got strong support from the results. Factor of success orientation obtained an F value of 50.94, which for 1 and 116df is significant at .01 levels. Taking into consideration obtained F value, and means obtained by broad groups – the one having individual success orientation and the other having group success orientation – it could be asserted that the Ss with individual success orientation had significantly more aggressive behavior than the Ss with group success orientation.

Interaction AxB was non significant (F= 0.23, df=1 and 116, $p > 0.05$). Gender and success orientation failed to function in collaboration with each other. Results also supported interactional hypothesis ($t = 9.30, df = 58, p < .01$).

Conclusion:

On the basis of the results the following conclusions were drawn:

- Male sport persons had significantly more aggression than the female sport persons.
- Sport persons having individual success orientation exhibited significantly more aggression than the sport persons having group success orientation.
- Male sport persons with individual success orientation exhibit significantly

more aggression than female sport persons having group success orientation.

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