

The Influence of Socio-Economic Status on Locus of Control of Sportsmen

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Abstract – The purpose of the present investigation was to assess the influence of socio-economic status on locus of control of sportsmen. Research method is ex-facto research and to achieve this purpose 200 sportsmen were selected randomly as subject. Their age ranged from 20 to 25 years. They were administered by two questionnaires i.e., socio-economic status scale constructed by Bharadwaj and Chowan and another scale i.e., locus of control constructed by Rompal, 1989. The data pertaining to the variable in this study was examined by using 'r' test (person correlation). The calculate value is 0.124 and the table value being at 0.005. The significant positive correlation was found between socio-economic status with locus of control of the sportsmen. It is concluded that higher SES would facilitate to possess the internal locus of control, where as lower SES leads to possess the external locus of control among the personality of the sportsmen.

INTRODUCTION

The application of psychological principles to the improvement of performance on sports has received greater attention in these days. There are certain accepted psychological principles, which have to be applied. So that the athletes and players are able to show their best performance and consist for failure. Coaches, physical educationists and sports scientists have always expressed a great need to know more about socio psychological factors which are helpful in improving the behavioral and the motor skills of the player.

It is important to know about the role of SES factors on locus of control. It is also strongly believed that participation in sports is likely to influence the personality and mental health of the sportsmen. The construct of locus of control is being increasingly emphasized in personality functioning (Lefeaurt, 1978, Phares, 1976). Since it appears to be related to or influence several classes of behaviour locus of control has been found to be predictive of different social behaviour, learning, performance more or less achievement related activities.

The construct of locus of control was originally derived from Rotter's (1954) small learning theory. However, Rotter's (1966) later modification of the construct has been the focus of research interest in recent years. The dictum made in locus of control

theory was between external and internal control, thus The construct locus of control distributes individual according to the degree, to which they accept personal responsibility for what happen to them in contrast to made in locus of control theory was between external and internal control, thus, their attribution of responsibility forces outside their control. At one extreme we those who fail to perceive any causal relationship between their action and the reinforcement that follow such people tend to hold responsible either luck, star, fate or chance for both that failure and success. They seldom believe on their capabilities or shortcoming and ultimately such people believe that they have littler or no control over the occurrence of reinforcement. Thus, people with external locus of control perceive no causal relationship between action and reinforcement. All the other extreme, are the persons who feel that they are responsible for all happenings in their life and other factors like fate, chance, luck or star have little or nothing to do in their life. Such internal controllers perceive their behaviour as a major determinant of the reinforcement received in any situation. They are usually bubbling with self-confidence (Psychology of sports Indian perspective Jitendra Mohan N. K. Chada and Sultana Akhtar).

There are two major theories related to locus of control that give the rational explanation of the development of locus of control and its operation. The self-efficacy theory propounded by Bondur

addresses peoples feelings of competences regarding an activity. This theory studies how people perceive their own ability to act successfully in the world.

If people feel they will be successful at an activity, they express successfulness i.e., they put more active, persistent, efforts into that activity and are more likely to succeed, and one more theory that is learned helplessness explains the long exposure to the helpless situation that makes people to perceive their own outcomes to be uncontrollable. It is because learned helpless people do feel that they have control over outside events. They act passive and persist less in activities learned helpless people resemble those in their external locus of control. They do not perceive a contingency between their efforts and their outcomes. The learned helplessness construct has been used as a model for depression.

Socioeconomic culture differences is produced by environment, whether it is past or present, family constitutes the most important part of the environment. The influences of family income and social status, customs and traditions have a great role to play in determining the types of personality of an individual. His attitudes belief systems towards life as well as towards games and sports.

Socioeconomic status appears to be the resultant of the position of an individual in a society by virtue of a complex. Fusion of both of them, and its status or ranking of an individual given by the society where he lives. In terms of his material belongings and cultural possessions along with the degree of respect, power and influences he wields. The study carried out by M. V. Ujjal Rani (1996) states that effects of social economic disadvantages on locus of control, the result revealed when economic factors disregarded the socially disadvantage groups is significantly more externally oriented than social non disadvantage groups.

PROBLEM:

To assess the influence of socioeconomic status on locus of control of sportsmen

HYPOTHESIS:

- 1) The higher socioeconomic status leads to internal locus of control whereas, lower level of socio economic status leads to external locus of control among the sportsmen.
- 2) There would be no influence SES on locus of control of sportsmen.

OBJECTIVES:

To know the nature of socioeconomic status with locus of control of the sportsmen.

METHODOLOGY:

In the present study a total of 200 samples have been taken, out of which 50 sportsmen of high SES and remaining 50 from lower SES has been selected from the 100 sportsmen. The sample age ranging from 20 to 25 years. Both scales SES and locus of control were administered to collect the relevant data in order to make a detail analysis of the study.

SIMPLE SIZE

Higher SES	Lower SES	Total
50	50	100

TOOLS:

The socioeconomic scale constructed by Dr. Rajeeva Lochan, Bhargadwaj and locus of control constructed by Rompal (1989) were used.

STATISTICAL TOOLS:

Keeping in view the "t" test was applied to test data to assess the influence of SES on locus control of sportsperson.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT

It is a well-known fact that attributing success or failure in the process of learning is greatly influenced by the reward and punishment sequence. If an individual achieves success or failure according to his expectation in many situations for a longer period. This will result in the development of the internal locus of control. The development of internal locus of control once developed firmly then an individual becomes confident in his way of achievement of success.

On the other hand student socio and economic status also play an important role in determining the internal or external locus of control because the very exposure to the higher or lower socio and economic status will mould and re mould the style of perception and attribution of its members.

The hypothesis that there is a significant difference in locus of control of high and low SES sportsmen is

formulated on the rationale that the sportsmen of low SES is suppressed by socio-cultural deprivation, low social dignity, maladjustment, lack of opportunities, frustrations, orthodox conservatism, helplessness and disappointment. And these factors might contribute for his acceptance of the influence of external conditions or external locus of control.

Table-2

Table Showing the Mean, SD and 't' values of Locus of Control of High and Low SES Sportsmen

Variables	High SES	Low SES
Mean	48.18	54.58
SD	4.87	3.36
t-value	12.23* *	

** Significant at 0.01 level

It becomes clear from the above table that, On locus of control, the sportsmen of high and low SES have scored the mean scores of 48.18 and 54.58 respectively. The higher mean scores of low SES sportsmen indicate that they are having external locus of control and the low mean score of high SES sportsmen indicate that they are having internal locus of control. The obtained 't' value for these two groups is 12.13 which is highly significant at 0.01 level. The significant difference in 't' value shows that there is a significant difference of locus of control between high and low SES sportsmen. Thus, the hypothesis that there is a significant difference of locus of control between low and high SES sportsmen is confirmed. This is because, the sportsmen of high SES are rich in social and sport experiences, and having high quality education and training, scientific knowledge and exposure to the mass media make them to believe in their own potentials. And this self-confidence helps them to take intelligent decision on various occasions. The influence of all these factors helps him to believe in internal locus of control. Hence, the above-mentioned hypothesis is accepted.

CONCLUSION:

Belief and attributive behavior of the sportsmen is very important factor that is determined by the various factor like social, economic and psychological background of them. If they have good social and economic status and provided healthy psychological environment in the family as well as in society, they are likely to grow with scientifically and more critical mind and a emotionally intelligent individuals. Socio-economic condition of sportsperson would plays detrimental factors in personality of sportsperson. Hence, government and responsible authorities should think positively to influence their socio-psychological background in order to develop personality of sportsperson.

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