# Sport psychology and how it can better athlete performance

### Dr. Susanta Kumar Das\*

Assistant Professor, Baliapal College of Physical Education, Po- Baliapal, Dist-Balasore, Odisha, PIN – 756026

Abstract - This article details the different roles that sport psychology may play in enhancing athletic performance, which may then result in the growth of the sport in the nation. Resolution of the athlete's emotional conflict, mental preparation, discipline in team building, etc. are a few of the functions mentioned in the article. The country's sports psychologists also face issues like lack of use by sports groups, a meagre budget for sports, and a lack of understanding of the functions of the sports psychologist. The paper concluded that sport psychology should be used as a method of scientific instruction to improve athletic performance.

Keywords - Sport psychology, athlete, athlete performance

#### INTRODUCTION

Throughout recent many years, sport brain research has been progressively noticeable as a field of study and a reasonable application. Scarcely any individuals who contend in serious sports question the meaning of intellectually planning for an athletic rivalry and the need of keeping up with that specific outlook all through a cutthroat challenge. In spite of the likely advantages of utilizing a certified game clinician, a new report has tracked down that numerous competitors, mentors, and athletic chairmen are as yet troubled about doing as such. Ignorance of the cycle and the components by which these psychological capacities influence execution seems, by all accounts, to be one of the primary drivers of this wavering. In opposition to the "harder sciences" of game physiology and natural chemistry, where competitors can see the substantial outcomes in themselves or different competitors (e.g., the person in question lifted loads, created bigger muscles, and is presently more grounded/quicker subsequently), sport brain research gives off an impression of being deterring an enormous number of competitors from looking for these essential administrations. The motivation behind this exposition is to give the peruser a strong comprehension of how further developing mental abilities adds to further developed execution in rivalries. This worldview is planned to help close the "information hole" that numerous competitors and mentors are right now communicating, as well as to assist with donning brain research experts offer their fundamental administrations to explicit competitors and groups.

Sport brain research is as yet a youthful science by and large, with scholastic projects, extraordinary to the field, and expert administrative bodies as of late shaping in numbers that were significant, as of late as the 1960s. From that point forward, both as a useful undertaking and as a scholastic objective, sport brain science has quickly expanded in prevalence on a worldwide level. We have made considerable progress in this period in how we might interpret the connection between sports execution and mental abilities, with a solid group of exploration supporting its commonsense use in the field of execution upgrade. Understanding games brain research is fundamental accomplishing the most ideal presentation and enjoys many benefits, for example, aiding the assessment of the similarity among sports and people as well as positions in a group, helping competitors and mentors in valuing their assets and turning out to be more mindful of regions where improvement might be justified, and helping competitors and mentors in pained connections in recognizing the foundation of the issue and fostering an answer. It can bring about persuaded and serious way of behaving, which is gainful for the two competitors and sports specialists in the everyday issues and vocation arranging, self-administration, and relational abilities. Almost hundred years of exploration practically speaking and game brain science has brought about continuous endeavors by scholastics and experts to get more familiar with the psychosocial factors that add to better games execution. Many variables have been analyzed with an end goal to more readily figure out the turn of events and upkeep of execution greatness, going from internal elements like person, accomplishment inspiration, and self-viability to external elements like games execution and group attachment. The advancement of methodologies to help guides in the psychological administration of their associations may likewise fall under the domain of game analysts. The most effective ways to fortify group union and responsibility can be found with the guide of analysts; these techniques might incorporate building up the group chief's positive impact, encouraging competitors' autonomy, and further developing dynamic cycles as well as cooperation among competitors during contest. As of now, the utilization of a multidisciplinary approach truly decides how sports execution may be enhanced. Does this wide methodology make another space where mentors and analysts can team up to foster the most ideal workplace, explicit abilities, and resolve any potential struggles that might emerge inside the gathering?

#### WHAT IS SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY?

The mind is the last unexplored territory in sports science; all other systems have been heavily utilised to enhance athletic achievements. The science of human movement known as kinesiology has been heavily utilised to enhance the movements of the players. Even the blood of the athlete has been sampled, and his or her biorhythms have been charted. He continued by saying that, when considering an athlete's overall contribution, only the mind appears to have been overlooked. He did define sports psychology, though. As athletes and the context of athletic competition are addressed by psychology. The science provides an explanation for our actions in the field of sports.

According to Singer (1980), psychology has always been a significant component in sports. This understanding is rather new in this region of the world, and most of the time it is not even incorporated into the athletes' training.

Ikulayo (1990) asserts that sports psychology is a subfield of sports science that applies the study of psychology to athletes in competitive settings. According to her, it can also be described as an effort to observe people in sporting contexts in order to analyse, characterise, modify, or forecast behaviour using a variety of psychological techniques.

Similar to this, Vipene (2005) described sport psychology as a field of study that examines the psychological components of athletic performance. An athlete's behaviour in the setting of competitive sports is attempted to be explained and predicted in this context. The study of sports psychology does come to an end when an athlete leaves the playing field. It spreads to the competitor's personal life as well as the playing field, which will ultimately have an impact on how well they do in sports. It is therefore vital to apply this sports science to competitors. There have been instances where psychologists and psychiatrists have treated athletes, though. The goal has been to improve the athlete.

#### HISTORY OF SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

Sports brain science is a generally late area of brain research. The main research facility for this sort of study were laid out during the 1920s and 1930s. Right

on time during the 1930s, the main American lab was shut, and research didn't continue until the 1960s, when there was a resurgence of interest in the field.

Sport brain science in Europe created by and large on the grounds that to Germany. The primary research center for sports brain science was established in Berlin in the mid 1920s by Dr. Carl Diem. Robert Werner Schulte laid out the Deutsche Hochschule für Leibesübungen (School of Actual Training) in Berlin, Germany, in 1920, which assisted with featuring the starting points of game brain research. The examination place assessed competitors' athletic ability, and Schulte distributed Body and Brain in Game in 1921. At organizations of actual culture in Moscow and Leningrad, sport brain science studies began as soon as 1925. Around 1930, official game brain science divisions were laid out.

Early investigations of engine conduct, social assistance, and propensity arrangement in sport brain research were directed alone in North America. During the 1890s, E. W. Sacred writing did a scope of social examinations, estimating things like the speed of sprinters' responses and the precision of a symphony director's twirly doo. The main perceived sport brain science study was done in 1898 by American analyst Norman Triplett, notwithstanding Sacred writing's previous trials. Cycling fans were bound to cycle quicker when they had a pacemaker or an opponent, as per Norman Triplett's examination, which filled in as the establishment for the writing on friendly brain research and social help.

### **ROLES OF A SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST**

Today, it is more normal for sports analysts to act as customary mentors for the two groups and individual players. Sports clinicians have various assignments, yet their fundamental spotlight is on showing competitors mental strength so they can perform better and learn quicker.

Contingent upon their experience and qualifications, sports clinicians show various subjects. The critical obligations of an applied games clinician — somebody who works with competitors to foster their psychological abilities — are recorded beneath.

### (1) Assist Competitors with adapting to Execution Fears

Players can find support from a games clinician to move past feelings of trepidation including general execution tension, anxiety toward fizzling, and anxiety toward shame. This is average of competitors who are exceptionally dedicated yet exorbitantly reluctant about their capacities and who take a stab at flawlessness.

(2) Assist Competitors with working on Mental Abilities for Execution

The most widely recognized errand of a games clinician is to give mental procedures for improved execution. Working with a psychological distraction expert can work on your fixation, serenity, force, and confidence in your athletic execution. Competitors benefit from these psychological abilities in numerous aspects of their lives, including execution.

# (3) Assist athlete with intellectually planning for Contest

A games therapist's customary obligations likewise frequently incorporate assisting athletes with intellectually getting ready for training and rivalry. Various of the recently referenced mental abilities are available here, yet they are utilized in unambiguous circumstances on the athletic field.

### (4) Assist Competitors with returning After Injury

Numerous competitors might find it hard to get back to play after a physical issue, contingent upon the sort of injury. Long after an actual injury has recuperated, competitors much of the time actually bear "mental scars." Harmed competitors might find it more straightforward to deal with the hardships of recovering their pre-injury execution levels with the assistance of a games clinician.

## (5) Assist Competitor With creating Pregame Schedule

A games clinician's obligations incorporate assisting competitors with fostering the psychological methods they use during pregame or prerace schedules to intellectually get ready. By putting more accentuation on the cycle than the results, competitors can foster their certainty before contest in a more proactive way.

## (6) Assist Competitors With creating Preshot Schedules

Preshot schedules are one more run of the mill obligation of a games clinician. Here, competitors practice a specific engine expertise, similar to a field objective kick, free toss, or golf stroke, by utilizing their psyches to do as such.

### (7) Assist Competitors With further developing Practice Effectiveness

One more typical undertaking for a games clinician is to help competitors in working on the productivity or standard of their preparation. Numerous competitors, remembering those vieing for school, lack the capacity to deal with training. The basics of engine learning and execution can be perceived by mentors, who can then assist these competitors with taking full advantage of their training time.

## THE ROLE OF SPORT PSYCHOLOGY IN SPORTS PERFORMANCE

Enhancement Some of the roles that sports psychology can play in enhancing performance are listed below. The accomplishment of the country's sporting objectives depends in large part on sports psychology.

- 1. Since the athlete's entire personality is on display on the field, controlling the athlete's behaviour is one of the sports psychologist's main duties. This could be used to boost performance by changing negative attitudes.
- 2. The emotional conflict between a player's needs and personality, which pushes him to make decisions that will determine whether he succeeds or fails on the field, is addressed by the sports psychologist. They must be respected as distinct persons while also being acknowledged for their differences, therefore it is necessary to discern between one person's requirements and those of another from a different background.
- 3. A sports psychologist takes part in crisis response, according to Ikulayo (1990 and 2003). Crisis is regarded as a major problem with emotional reactions that limit or obstruct an athlete's ability to perform at a high level. applying a variety of psychological concepts before, during, and after competitions to ensure that athletes perform as well as they can under pressure. The sports psychologist the player in avoiding trying circumstances, thoughts that prevent selfdoubt, bad visualization, and self-limiting statements that could impair athletic performance.
- 4. The psychologist also emphasises mental preparation, which, according to Adedeji (1987), involves our knowledge of the factors that significantly affect athletes. These include their social status, where they live, their financial situation, their religious background, how well they are tolerated physically, their moral upbringing, and the prevailing social norms.
- 5. The sports psychologist also works with the athlete to improve their performance so that errors can be fixed as they learn new techniques.
- 6. Testing and observing behaviour while building a team is one approach to do this. Sports psychology also enhances communication between authorities and sportsmen. For this, athletes may need to communicate with one another. This job is The importance important. communication in our households, businesses, and other settings should be emphasised. Just because you expect

someone to know something doesn't mean they do. It is important to let the person know what needs to be done to keep things civil. Once a rapport has been built through communication, a treatment plan that is unique to each patient can be developed. If an athlete lacks confidence, simply talking to them as part of treatment may help them regain it.

- Motivating the athlete to develop pain management skills. According to Adedeji (1987), athletes should grasp what pain is and how it relates to athletic improvement in order to have a positive mental attitude about it.
- 8. The sports psychologist will motivate athletes by utilising his or her comprehension of behaviour in people. In this context, motivation does not refer to material possessions like money, a house, a car, etc. Instead, it means motivating an athlete to train by utilising a variety of training methods, giving them feedback on their development, and involving them in the training plan.
- Stress management is a vital area where the sport psychologist can enhance athletic performance. In athletes, stress management skills are developed. There are numerous strategies for managing stress that can be applied.
- 10. Discipline is consciously taught to the athletes. Extremely high self-esteem can be developed through the discipline of being a sportsperson or athlete, which is thought to enhance performance, boost confidence, and make the athlete happy to feel active in sports. Athletes who feel good about themselves are more likely to be motivated and effective.

Sports psychology is said to teach people how to be upbeat, helpful, and sensitive. These skills were referred to as self-worth-enhancing skills by Lyons (2004). In all of these important areas and many more, the sports psychologist contributes to the development of sports and helps athletes perform at their best.

# DETERMINANTS OF SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY THERAPY

Numerous issues can arise during sporting competitions, which could then have an impact on an athlete's performance output. These issues are caused by the following things.

- a. Personal factors
- b. Motivational factors
- c. Environmental factors

### a. Personal Factors:

The competitor's character is one more name for the individual viewpoint. The impacts of various sorts of character factors on execution (e.g., extraversion-contemplation, forcefulness, autonomy, authority, and

assurance, and so forth) in sport have been concentrated by analysts because of their well established interest in character factors. Others investigated whether there were character contrasts among competitors and non-competitors. A few scientists looked to respond to whether or not sport impacts character. The undertaking of laying out the mental qualifications between top competitors and their less fruitful companions was taken on by even more investigations. One of the questions was whether it would have the option to conjecture a competitor's exhibition in light of character qualities. As indicated by Vealey (2000), character is "the unmistakable combination of mental qualities and inclinations that recognize and look like people." As per Anshel (1997), character alludes to attributes that an individual have across time. There is a consistency to a singular's way of behaving on the grounds that characteristics are durable and stable, which incline an individual toward reliably act in some ways in the overwhelming majority of circumstances. As per Fisher and Futther (1997), character attributes are connected with inclinations, and mental manners, or unavoidable approaches to connecting with individuals and circumstances, might be more valuable in concentrating on competitors' mental qualities. The Sort A disposition is related with the character qualities of predominance, attribute uneasiness, and inward locus of control. Early investigations predominantly checked out at the association between character qualities and athletic execution. Specialists took a gander at issues such "Are there contrasts among competitors and non-competitors?" Could the characters of athletes in various games at any point be utilized to separate them from each other? Do more gifted competitors in a similar game have different character types than less talented ones? Are there specific character qualities that can estimate a sportsperson's prosperity? The aftereffects of the exploration have offered clashing responses to every one of these issues, as per Wuest and Bucher Individual competitors' mentalities. knowledge, close to home states, interests, and amiability are instances of character attributes. His actual ability and level of aptitude are pertinent. Neuromuscular exercises and the ability to deal with pressure and weariness are additionally involved. At the point when every one of these parts is appropriately settled, it is feasible to control them to accomplish remarkable results; by the by, assuming that they are ignored, hardships are sure to emerge.

#### CONCLUSION

This paper concludes that sports psychology is essential and should be used in the scientific training of athletes for performance enhancement due to the incalculable contributions that psychology has made to sports. Therefore, it matters for the growth of sports.

- 1. Anderson, A.G., Hodge, K.B., Lavallee, D., & Martin, S.B. (2014). New Zealand athletes' attitudes towards seeking sport psychology consultation. New Zealand Journal of Psychology, 33, 129-136.
- 2. Anderson, M.B. (2015). *Doing sport psychology*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.
- 3. Corrigan, P. (2014). How stigma interferes with mental health care. *American Psychologist*, 59, 614-625.
- Crocker, R.E., Kowalski, K.C., & Graham, T.R. (2012). Emotional control and intervention. In J. M. Silva & D. E. Stevens (Eds.), Psychological foundations of sport (pp. 155-176). Toronto, Canada: Allyn & Bacon.
- 5. Gardner, F.L. ( 2011). Applied sport psychology in professional sports: The team psychologist. *Professional Psychology:* Research and Practice, 1, 34-39.
- Mainar, S.D., Curry, L.A., Sommers-Flanagan, J., & Walsh, J.A. (2011). Student-athlete preferences in seeking help when confronted with sport performance problems. Sport Psychologist, 15, 205-233.
- 7. Martin, S.B. (2015). High school and college athletes' attitudes toward sport psychology consulting. *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*, 17, 127-139.
- 8. Martin, S.B., Akers, A., Jackson, A.W., Wrisberg, C.A., Nelson, L., Leslie, P.J., & Leidig, L. (2010). Male and female athletes' and non-athletes' expectations about sport psychology consulting. *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*, 13, 18-39.
- 9. Martin, S.B., Kellmann, M., Lavallee, D., & Page, S.J. (2012). The development and psychometric evaluation of the Sport Psychology Attitudes-Revised form: A multiple group investigation. *Sport Psychologist*, 16, 272-290.
- 10. Pain, M.A., & Harwood, C.G. (2014). Knowledge and perceptions of sport psychology within English soccer. *Journal of Sport Sciences*, 22, 813-826.
- 11. Zakrajsek, R.A., & Zizzi, S.J. (2017). Factors influencing track and swimming coaches' intentions to use sport psychology services. *Athletic Insight*, 19, 1-21.
- 12. Zatsiorsky, V.M., & Kraemer, W.J. (2016). Science and practice of strength training (2nd ed.). Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

#### **Corresponding Author**

### Dr. Susanta Kumar Das\*

Assistant Professor, Baliapal College of Physical Education, Po- Baliapal, Dist-Balasore, Odisha, PIN – 756026