



ISSN Print: 2664-7559
ISSN Online: 2664-7567
IJSHPE 2023; 5(2): 115-117
www.physicaleducationjournal.in
Received: 20-09-2023
Accepted: 03-10-2023

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An analysis of altruistic behavior among female interuniversity baseball, softball and cricket players

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26647559.2023.v5.i2b.109>

Abstract

The purpose of the study was to find out the differences in psychological parameter, specifically altruistic behavior, among female baseball, softball, and cricket players. The survey method, using a questionnaire on emotional intelligence (Hyde *et al.*, 2001), was employed to collect data for this research. Data were collected from ninety (N=90) female players in three groups: Group A (Baseball, $n_1=30$), Group B (Softball, $n_2=30$), and Group C (Cricket, $n_3=30$), aged between 18-28 years. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0 was used for analysis. The differences in the means of each group for the selected parameter were tested for significance using One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). A significance level of 5% ($p<0.05$) was considered. The analysis revealed statistically significant differences in altruistic behavior among female baseball, softball, and cricket players.

Keywords: Altruistic Behavior among, ANOVA, Baseball, Softball, Cricket

Introduction

In the realm of sports psychology, understanding the interplay between emotional intelligence (EI) and altruistic behavior is crucial for optimizing individual and team performance. Emotional intelligence, as conceptualized by Hyde *et al.* (2001), encompasses the ability to recognize, understand, and manage one's own emotions, as well as those of others. This construct has been increasingly recognized as a fundamental aspect of athletic success, influencing athletes' resilience, motivation, and decision-making abilities^{[1],[3]}. Moreover, the relationship between emotional intelligence and altruistic behavior, a sub-variable within the Emotional Intelligence (EI) framework, presents an intriguing avenue for exploration within the context of sports. Altruistic behavior, characterized by selfless actions aimed at benefiting others, can manifest in various forms during sports competitions, such as helping teammates, displaying sportsmanship towards opponents, or contributing to the community through sports-related initiatives^[4]. Investigating how emotional intelligence relates to altruistic behavior in sports like baseball, softball, cricket, and other individual and team games not only enhances our understanding of athlete dynamics but also offers practical insights for fostering positive team cultures, enhancing performance, and promoting prosocial behaviors both on and off the field. This research aims to delve into the nuanced relationship between emotional intelligence, altruistic behavior, and sports performance across different sporting contexts.

Material and Methods

The survey method, using the procedure of a questionnaire on emotional intelligence (Hyde *et al.*, 2001), was applied to collect the appropriate data for this research. The researcher collected data from ninety (N=90) female baseball, softball, and cricket players of Punjab as subjects between the ages of 18-28 years.

- Group-A: Baseball ($n_1=30$)
- Group-B: Softball ($n_2=30$)
- Group-C: Cricket ($n_3=30$)

Statistical Technique

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0 was used for data analysis. The difference in the mean of each group for the selected variable was tested for significance using One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). In all analysis, the 5% critical level ($p<0.05$) was considered to indicate statistical significance.

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Results

Table 1(a): Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) results with regard to Altruistic behavior among female Baseball, Softball & Cricket players.

Source of variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F-ratio	Sig.
Between Groups	14.46	2	7.23	2.695	0.073
Within Groups	233.53	87	2.68		
Total	248.00	89			

*Significant at $F_{0.05}$ (3.101)

It is evident from table 1 (a) that the results of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) among three groups of female Baseball, Softball and Cricket players with regard to the sub-parameter altruistic behavior of emotional intelligence found to be statistically partially significant ($P > 0.05$). Since the obtained “F” ratio 2.695 (0.073) was found statistically partially significant. The results of post-hoc test have been presented in Table 1(b) below.

Table 1(b): Analysis of Least Significant Difference (LSD) post hoc test with regard to Altruistic behavior among female Baseball, Softball & Cricket players.

Group (A)	Group (B)	Mean Difference (A-B)	Sig.
Baseball (Mean=7.40)	Softball	0.83333	.052
	Cricket	0.03333	.937
Softball (Mean=8.23)	Baseball	0.83333	.052
	Cricket	0.86667*	0.044
Cricket (Mean=7.36)	Baseball	0.03333	0.937
	Softball	0.86667*	0.044

*Significant at $F_{0.05}$ (3.101)

A glance at Table 1(b) showed that the mean value of Baseball female players were 7.40 whereas Softball female players had mean value as 8.23 and the mean difference between both the groups was found 0.83333. The p-value sig .005 shows that the Softball female players had demonstrated better on altruistic behavior than their counterpart’s Baseball female players significantly. The mean value of Baseball female players were 7.40 whereas Cricket female players had mean value as 7.36. The mean difference between Baseball and cricket female players was found 0.03333. The p-value sig 0.937 showed that the Baseball female players had demonstrated better on altruistic behavior than their counterpart’s Cricket female players insignificantly. The mean value of Softball female players were 8.23 whereas Cricket female players had mean value as 7.36. The mean difference between Softball and Cricket female players was found 0.86667*. The p-value sig 0.044 shows that the Softball female players had demonstrated significantly better on altruistic behavior than their counterpart’s Cricket female players. The graphical representation of responses has been exhibited in Figure 1.

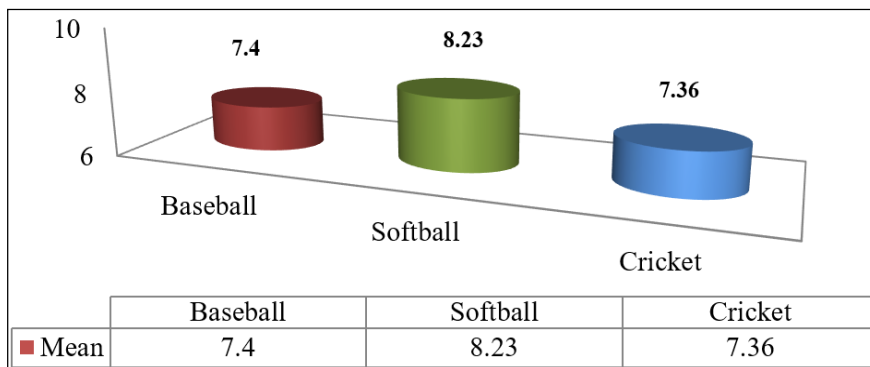


Fig 1: Graphical Representation of mean scores with regard to Altruistic behavior among female Baseball, Softball & Cricket players.

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