



An Appraisal of Performance Failure among All India Hockey Players

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Abstract:

The aim of the present study was to investigate fear of failure in the sport domain among young all India hockey players and to explore their perceptions of the consequences of failure. The study examined fear of failure among 28 male North Zone Hockey players (age 17–26 years).

The Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI) designed by Conroy, Willow & Metzler (2002) was used to collect the data. Descriptive statistics was used to statistical treatment and interpretation of the data. Results revealed that most of all India Intersarsity hockey players had higher level of fear of devaluing one's self-estimate (FDSE), fear of experiencing shame and embarrassment (FSE), fear of important other losing interest (FIOLI). The subjects reported moderate level of fear of having an uncertain future (FUF) and least levels of fear of upsetting important others (FUIO).

Key words: Fear of failure, Performance, all India Intersarsity hockey players

Introduction

Fear of failure has long been viewed as an important influence on achievement behaviour. Murray (1938) noted that in avoidance, the need to avoid failure was a salient need among college-aged men. Classic achievement motivation theorists posited the motive to avoid failure construct to describe dispositional tendencies to behave in ways that reduce the likelihood of experiencing failure (McClelland et al. 1953).

Fear of experiencing shame and embarrassment, fear of devaluing one's self-esteem (personal diminishment, poor ability, lack of control), fear of having an uncertain future, fear of important others losing interest, and fear of upsetting important others are the most painful human experiences and significantly influence achievement behaviours of the individuals. Few researches have been conducted to assess the level of fear of failure in different sports. Sagar and Stoeber (2009) investigated how aspects of perfectionism in athletes (N=388) related to the fear of failure and how perfectionism and fears of failure predicted positive and negative effects after imagined success and failure in sports competitions. Results showed that perfectionistic personal standards showed a negative relationship with fear of experiencing shame and embarrassment and a positive relationship with success.

The concept of fear of failure has been studied primarily in academic settings, but it has greatly been neglected in the sport domain. The effects of fear of failure reported in the academic domain include increased cheating in academic tasks (Monte & Fish 1989) and greater anxiety, perceptions of low control, unstable self-esteem, pessimism, and self-handicapping (Martin & Marsh 2003). They also include adopting avoidance achievement goals (Elliot & Church 1997), decreased subjective wellbeing, poorer grades (Elliot & Sheldon 1997), decreased intrinsic motivation, and decreased quality of engagement in achievement situations/pursuits (Elliot & Harackiewicz 1996;

Elliot & Sheldon 1997). In sports, limited research has shown fear of failure to be associated with burnout among umpires (Rainey 1995), youth dropout, barriers to sport participation (Orlick 1974), drug abuse by athletes (Anshel 1991), and athletic stress (Gould, Horn, & Spreeman 1983).

Fear of failure (FF) is an intrinsically interesting phenomenon to many people. In popular advertisements, celebrity athletes have described how their fears of failing helped them to achieve at the high level that they did. Conversely, there are many lesser-known stories of individuals who have been paralyzed by their fears of failure and were never able to attain their full potential in a chosen area. Popular fascination has helped fear of failure become a buzzword in psychology but such notoriety has come at the expense of theoretical clarity. This theoretical ambiguity stimulated the present effort to develop a multidimensional measure of FF. Initially, Atkinson (1966) defined fear of failure or the motive to avoid failure, as a “disposition to avoid failure and/or a capacity for experiencing shame or humiliation as a consequence of failure. Although shame is mentioned explicitly in the definition of the motive to avoid failure, it has been common practice to operationalize fear of failure as a form of performance anxiety (Atkinson and Litwin 1960; quoted in Smith and Smoll 1990).

Methodology

Sample

The sample of the present study was drawn from all India intervarsity hockey tournament held at GNDU Amritsar (Punjab) in March, 2013. For the purpose of the study 28 male hockey players were randomly selected from the tournament. Their age ranged between 17-26 years.

Procedure

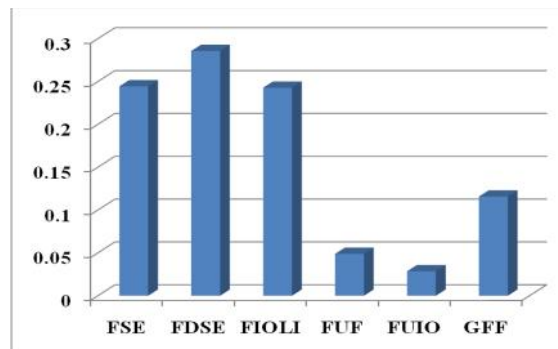
Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory developed by Conroy, Willow & Metzler (2002) was used to conduct the performance failure appraisal of the subjects. It consists of 25 items and has six dimensions. The subjects were explicitly explained the method to respond each item of the questionnaire. The obtained data were treated using descriptive statistical technique for drawing meaningful inferences.

Results

Table I: Descriptive analysis of fear of failure among all India Intersarsity Hockey players

Scale	Mean	Sd	Percentile
FSE	0.244429	0.415148	60
FDSE	0.285714	0.568112	60
FIOLI	0.242857	0.366595	60
FUF	0.048929	0.554739	50
FUIO	0.028571	0.501004	50
GFF	0.115857	0.274818	55

FSE = Fear of experiencing shame and embarrassment, FDSE = Fear of devaluing one's self-estimate, FIOLI = Fear of important other losing interest, FUF = Fear of having an uncertain future, FUIO = Fear of upsetting important others, GFF = General fear of failure.



It is evident from the above Table I that most of the all India Hockey Players (60%) experienced high level of fear of devaluing one's self-estimate (FDSE), followed by (60%) fear of experiencing shame & embarrassment (FSE), sixty percent (60%) fear of important other losing interest (FIOLI), fifty percent (50%) players have shown moderate level of fear of having an uncertain future (FUF) and (50%) fear of upsetting important others (FUIO), whereas (55%) players have reported general fear of failure.

Discussion

The obtained results have clearly suggested that most of the All India Intervarsity Hockey Players (60%) have a tendency of high level of fear of devaluing one's self-esteem, sixty percent (60%) players have fear of experiencing shame & embarrassment, (60%) players have reported fear of important other losing interest, (50%) players have shown moderate level of fear of having an uncertain future, and (55%) players have shown general fear of failure. Our results are in line with the findings of Sagar, Boardley & Kavussanu (2011) who concluded that fear of failure and sport experience positively predicted antisocial behaviour in university sport and the strength of these predictions did not differ between males and females.

The above items of the fear of failure scale are the most painful human experiences and significantly influence achievement behavior of the individuals. Researchers in this study found that FDSE variable is the most dominant one as compared to other variables of fear of failure in the All India Hockey Players.

Conclusion:

Based on the results of the present investigation it may be inferred that fear of failure and sport experience positively

predicted antisocial behaviour among the Hockey players of All India intervarsities.

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