

# A study of relative degree of importance of characteristics related to sportsmanship according to students, teachers & general public



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Sports psychology has emerged as a special field of study with a sound research foundation. Scholars have explored the field extensively and research workers. Many different aspects and related issues have been studied with the result that a vast literature and research reports are now available. In the whole process athletes play a crucial role. Their effective performance depends upon many factors. It was thought by the investigator that effective performance of athletes depend upon certain important characteristics that they possess as judged by interested groups of people. A group of 15 common characteristics were identified. Among interested groups of people were considered students, teachers and public. Method of pair comparison was used. Accordingly, 105 pairs of 15 characteristics were prepared. The groups judged each pair and identified the member of a pair relatively more importance. For each group a proportion metrics and a metrics based on standard normal deviate were prepared. This made it possible to rank order the set of 15 characteristics. Three groups were compared as to the relative degree of importance of characteristics according to them. Relevant conclusions were drawn

**Keywords:** Characteristics of Sportsman, Sportsmanship, Relative degree of importance

### Introduction

Sports psychology during recent years has emerged as a separate field of study with a sound foundation of research. Researchers in this field are interested in how Athletes psychological makeup and characteristics influence performance. They want to find out what makes a sports person effective in his/her performance. From this point of view, it is clear that more effective performer could be differentiated from a less effective performer in terms of psychological characteristics. An athlete is expected to be mentally prepared if he/she is going to be effective performer. Thus mental preparedness seems to be a key component in differentiating effective from less effective in terms of psychological characteristics.

The present study is based on the investigators conviction that athlete in different sports and games do differ from one another in terms of psychological characteristics that they possess. Moreover different group of people interested in sports and games do possess certain fixed notions about effective performance of the players. Moreover people do give their good or bad comments while watching games and sports. Some of the comments like "he/she should be more careful", "he/she should be more attentive", "they lack confidence", "they are unable to comprehend the situation in front of them" clearly show that people try to differentiate effective, relatively

successful from less effective, and less successful. Some of these observations and personal interest led the investigator to study whether different groups of people have a common base for judging effectiveness.

### Aim of Study

- (1) The study aims at knowing whether different groups of people interested in games and sports have a common base for judging effectiveness of athletes.
- (2) The secondary objective is to list out relatively most important characteristics that are emphasized by different groups of people under study.

**Hypothesis**

- (1) Interested groups of people understudy will show very little agreement as to the characteristics that are presumably related to effective performance.
- (2) Judging performance in terms of evaluation of characteristics may be an effective way of assessment of performance.

**Variables**

Independent Variable – Three Groups (Teacher, Students & General Public)

Dependent Variable – Relative Degree of Importance of Characteristics.

**Tools**

The tool prepared for the research purpose. Initially a wide range of contact of people was made to make a sufficiently comprehensive list of characteristics that could be used for assessing athlete. In this way a list of 50 characteristics was made. These 50 characteristics were given to a group of 10 competent persons to judge the degree of importance of these 50 characteristics. Three points were given as most less and least. Only those characteristics which were referred as most important for effective performance were considered and from them only 15 relevant characteristics were considered in the present study. These characteristics are sportsmanship, physical fitness, tolerance, willpower, leadership quality, self Confidence, strict disciplinary, sound mental health, keen observation, time management, sense of responsibility, competitive spirit, sensitivity to change, quick decision making, and team spirit.

**Sample**

Since the emphasis was placed extent of agreement upon between different groups of people interested in games and sports by the investigator, three groups of people were identified. They were student group, teachers group and a group constituted of general public. Student group of 30 students was randomly considered from among those with explicitly stated that they were deeply interested in games and sports. These students came from university and schools. In case of university students they were from post graduate classes and in case of school students they came from XIth and XIIth standards. In all a group of 30 students constituted a student group. A group of 30 teachers was also similarly considered. Post-graduate teachers and higher secondary school teachers constituted a random sample of 30 teachers selected from among those who clearly expressed their interest in games and sports. A group of general public of 30 people was considered by directly asking people about their interest in games and sports. They came from business class, traders, shopkeepers and others interested in games and sports. Total sample constituted of individuals with 30 belonging to each of the three groups specified above.

**Results and Discussion**

Characteristics	Teachers	Students	G.P.	D1	D2	D3
	R1	R2	R3	(R1-R2) <sup>2</sup>	(R1-R3) <sup>2</sup>	(R2-R3) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Sportsmanship</b>	12	6	8	36	16	4
<b>Physical fitness</b>	5	4	9.5	1	20.25	30.25
<b>Tolerance</b>	4	3	4	1	0	1
<b>Willpower</b>	2.5	2	6	0.25	12.25	16
<b>Leadership Quality</b>	6	8	2	4	16	36
<b>Self Confidence</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0
<b>Strict Disciplinary</b>	13	9	11	16	4	4
<b>Sound Mental Health</b>	14	11	7	9	49	16
<b>Keen Observation</b>	8	13	15	25	49	4
<b>Time Management</b>	2.5	5	5	6.25	6.25	0
<b>Sense of Responsibility</b>	7	10	9.5	9	6.25	0.25
<b>Competative Spirit</b>	11	7	3	16	64	16
<b>Sensitivity to Change</b>	15	14	13	1	4	1
<b>Quick Decision Making</b>	9	12	12	9	9	0
<b>Team Spirit</b>	10	15	14	25	16	1

In order to find the extent of agreement as to the degree of importance of each characteristics between groups, rank difference correlations are calculated.

**Table No. 2**

**Table showing extent of agreement as to the relative importance of characteristics:**

T.F.S.	T.G.P.	S.G.P.
0.7	0.5	0.7

As can be seen from table 2 the value of the correlation between teachers and students is 0.7, that between student and general public the value of r is also 0.7 and that between teachers and general public the value of the correlation is 0.5. All these correlation are positive and sufficiently high indicating that the relative degree of importance of the characteristics are more or less the same. The first five characteristics in order of their merit in case of students, teachers and general public are shown below:

It could be seen from the list of first five characteristics in case of students, teachers and general public that the type of characteristics emphasised by them is more or less comparable.

So far as students and teachers are concerned the same set of five characteristics is emphasised. In case of general public two different characteristics viz. Competative spirit and leadership

quality are emphasised among others which are similar to those emphasised by students and teachers.

The implication of the finding is that the characteristics identified by the three groups should be considered during training the athletes or sportsmen.

**Conclusion:**

- (1) The analysis of the data show that there is a sufficiently high degree of agreement as regards the relative degree of importance of characteristics needed for effective performance on the part of students, teachers and general public.
- (2) Methods of pair-comparison seems to be quite adequate for the study of a set of attributes in terms of their relative degree of importance.

<u>Students</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>General Public</u>
Self confidence	Self confidence	Self confidence
Will-power	Will-power(2.5)	Leadership quality
Tolerance	Time management(2.5)	Competitive spirit
Physical fitness	Tolerance	Tolerance
Time management	Physical fitness	Time management

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