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**EFFECT OF PARENTAL BEHAVIOUR ON SCHOOLGOING STUDENT ATHLETES PARTICIPATION IN PREFERRED CHOICE OF SPORT****Balwant Salunke<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Shamsher Singh<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of Physical Education, Mandsaur University, Mandsaur (M.P.)<sup>2</sup>Professor, Department of Physical Education, Mandsaur University, Mandsaur (M.P.)**ABSTRACT:**

The present study aimed to assess the effect of parental behaviour on student-athletes participation in preferred choice of sport. To conduct the study 1336 student athletes between 14 to 18 age group bracket were selected which includes 716 boys and 620 girls. The sample was selected through random sampling method. To evaluate parental behaviour of the selected subjects, a self-constructed Sports Selection and Socialization Questionnaire were used by the researcher. This questionnaire is highly reliable and valid. It was found that 40.9% of student-athletes take part in sports of their choice while according to responses 59.1% of student-athletes do not take part in sports of their choice or liking. It is shown that school-going athletes more often than not do not take part in a sport of their choice. The calculated  $\chi^2=44.56$ ,  $p<.01$  also proves that the majority of school-going student-athletes do not take part in a sport of their choice. It was also observed that parental behaviour of student-athletes with their preferred choice of sport was better as compared to parental behaviour of student-athletes with their non-preferred choice of sport but the result is statistically not significant. It was concluded that parental behaviour to some extent affects student-athletes preference for game selection.

**KEYWORDS:** Parental behaviour, student-athletes, preferred choice of sport.**INTRODUCTION**

Parent behaviour is a complex process that starts from birth and then the behaviour of parents for the wellbeing of their child. A recent attitude of parents towards sports and social changes see the increased involvement of parents in various activities of children be it sports, activities in schools or extracurricular (Lareau, 2003) Parents need overall development of the child and not just academic excellence in the modern world. They also feel that sports can provide a platform for their child to develop leadership qualities and sound personality characteristics. Hence due to several issues, parental involvement saw a substantial increase during the last two decades (Wheeler, 2012, Wheeler and Green, 2018) Parents are the crucial cog in the participation of their children in sports. Be it choosing a sport or orienting children towards sports experience, parents have an overwhelming influence. Parental behaviour enables children to weigh their capabilities, and competence and thereby set achievement motives at a reasonable level. Hence the psycho-social process of sports experience is dependent on the parent's attitude as well as their behaviour (Fredricks and Eccles, 2005). The decision to take part in sports and games lies with the children themselves but this decision is dependent upon

their family member's attitudes and expectations. Anderson et al. (2003) reported in a study that the emotional experience of child athletes in sports is based on their parental behaviour.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

**Byrne (1993)** conducted a study on sports choices and participation in sports by children as a function of family roles. They found that 32% of children feel that they are forced into sports and games by their parents. **Fredrick and Eccles (2005)** reported that the behaviour of parents may lead children to choose the sport they like and which is suitable for them. They concluded that parental behaviour and belief affect the sports experience of their child. The influence of family on volleyball participation in girls was examined by **Gitonga et al. (2011)**. They found that female volleyballers in Africa are motivated and influenced by their family members to pursue volleyball. **Binboga et al. (2013)** found that junior volleyball players' choice of this sport and continued participation is based on their liking for this sport. **Meyler (2018)** investigated the role of parental behaviour on the sport of choice of their children and their specialization. They found that parents' previous engagement in a particular sport was not found to be necessarily influential on the sports choice of their child. **Rintaugu et al. (2020)** explored the factors responsible for participation in volleyball. They found that the participation motives as recorded in multiple response patterns were enjoyment in sport (100%), the influence of parents/family members to participate in volleyball (70%), the influence of peer group and friends (83.09%), the influence of mass media to participate (92.96%), teachers influence (77.46%) and popularity / social status of volleyball (92.96%) respectively.

### AIMS & OBJECTIVE

The present study aimed to assess the effect of parental behaviour on student-athletes participation in preferred choice of sport.

### HYPOTHESIS

It was hypothesized that the parental behaviour will significantly influence student-athletes participation in their preferred choice of sport.

### Methodology

The following methodological steps were taken to conduct the present study.

### Sample

To conduct the study 1336 student athletes between 14 to 18 age group bracket were selected which includes 716 boys and 620 girls. The sample was selected through random sampling method from students of class VIII to class XII with study area being Indore district.

### Tools:

#### Sports Selection and Socialization :

To fulfil the purpose of this study, a self-constructed Sports Selection and Socialization Questionnaire were used by the researcher. This questionnaire assesses parental behaviour and the impact of significant others on game selection and achievements of male and female players between 13 to 19 years of age. The questionnaire covers the liking of a sportsperson in a chosen sport, parental support and behaviour, significant others, body type, and financial constraints respectively. Since parental behaviour is influenced by their socio-economic status, these areas are included in this questionnaire. Part one this questionnaire. This questionnaire also includes a statement to assess the preferred and actual choice of the sport by the subjects. This inventory is highly reliable and valid with higher the score better the parental behaviour is the direction of the scoring.

### Procedure:

The filled Sports Selection and Socialization Questionnaire obtained from 1336 student-athletes comprising 716 boys and 620 girls were scored and tabulated. The result is shown in table 1 and 2 respectively.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The response of players to the statement "You are participating in a game of your choice is shown in table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Analysing the response to the statement**  
**"You are participating in a game of your choice"**

You are participating in a game of your choice	Frequency	Percentage
No	790	59.1
Yes	546	40.9
Total	1336	100.0

$$* \chi^2(df=1) = 44.56, p < .01; * \chi^2(df=1) = 35.48$$

A perusal of table 1 shows that 40.9% of student-athletes take part in sports of their choice while according to responses 59.1% of student-athletes do not take part in sports of their choice or liking. It is shown that school-going athletes more often than not do not take part in a sport of their choice. The calculated  $\chi^2=44.56, p < .01$  also proves that the majority of school-going student-athletes do not take part in a sport of their choice.

The parental behaviour of student-athletes is compared between preferred and non-preferred groups. The preferred group comprise student-athletes participating in their choice of the sport while the student-athletes of non-preferred groups are not participating in their own choice of sport. The result is shown in table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Comparison of Parental Behaviour based on Choice of Sports**

Choice of Sports	Parental Behaviour			Mean Diff.	t
	N	M	SD		
Preferred	546	9.16	2.52	0.18	1.41, p>.05
Non-preferred	790	8.97	2.30		

The mean score on parental behaviour for preferred groups was 9.16 and the standard deviation was 2.52. The mean score on parental behaviour for the non-preferred group was 8.97 and the standard deviation was 2.30. Although the calculated  $t=1.41$  which did not get the support of statistical criteria denotes it was observed that parental behaviour of student-athletes with their preferred choice of sport was better as compared to parental behaviour of student-athletes with their non-preferred choice of sport.

In the present study, it was observed that the majority of student-athletes do not always take part in the sport of their choice. This may be due to several reasons such as parental behaviour as well as significant others. Hence it is not always the case where parents forced their children which they like most. The available resources also play a part in it. It was also noticeable that the parental behaviour as perceived by student-athletes taking part in preferred sports is better as compared to student-athletes taking part in non-preferred sports. This opinion of student-athlete is quite normal.

## CONCLUSION

Based on results it can be concluded that parental behaviour does have an impact on the game selection of student-athletes and socioeconomic status also have a role in game selection.

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