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A STUDY ABOUT THE FACTORS THAT STRESSES AN UMPIRE AND THEIR DECISION MAKING SKILLS

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ABSTRACT

Decision making skills of an umpire determines the outcome of any contest that uplifts the quality of a sport as well the quality of a player. Though an umpire has sufficient skill sets to be regarded as the best man to judge a competition, many on field events disturbs him or shatters his focus at times, resulting in unpleasant outcomes. It is always important to identify the factors that affect the umpires to prevent the loss of quality of the sport and players. Thus, in this study, through a questionnaire, the factors that disturb or create a stress on the umpires are identified by recording the responses from 100 skilled umpires. The same has been presented in this article with suggestions and recommendation for the welfare of umpires as well as the sport.



KEYWORDS- decision making, disturbs, unpleasant, factors.

INTRODUCTION :

Competition provides stimulation and challenge as well as the opportunity to apply, test and further develop skills in a contest situation. Properly managed, competition should be seen by both participants and others as a healthy and desirable part of badminton. Competition is also a test of ability and potential, with the pursuit of excellence as desirable in badminton as in other forms of endeavor. All players should be encouraged to achieve, to do their best, and to develop their full sporting potential. Challenging competition is one element of this development process.

Officials and referees also have an important influence on the enjoyment of people in badminton and this affects their continued participation. Mental toughness can also give an edge like focusing on the match no matter what is happening around, keeping calm and cool in the court. Having mental toughness is having a high EQ (Emotional Quotient). Many incidents, good or bad, can happen during a match outside or inside the court.

Everyone experiences stressful events; however, the level of stress associated with a certain situation depends on individual perception (Singer, 1986). In general, stress can reduce creativity, productivity, and the ability to enjoy oneself (Smith, 1993), therefore, being able to overcome stress is definitely important for trying to attain a higher quality of life.

Stressful situations in sport may appear at any time, such as prior to a game (e.g., fear of failure), during

the match (e.g., booing from spectators), after competition. One of the official competitive sports at the Olympic Games is badminton. Through this study, the factors that directly and indirectly affect the fundamental tournament level umpires are identified and the same have been presented in this paper.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

For the purpose of the study was to identify the stress causing factors for the umpires of Tamilnadu state who officiate lower/fundamental level of badminton sport and steps that can minimize the distress, respectively.

HYPOTHESIS:

It is hypothesized that,

- 1) The officials are made to work/contribute more that it breaks them physically and mentally
- 2) The officials are not provided enough comfort while officiating the matches
- 3) The officials are not given sufficient break
- 4) Their decisions are always challenged by players or coaches or general public
- 5) The organizers do not care about them
- 6) The above mentioned depresses them and due to this their efficiency drops.

Assumptions

It is assumed that,

1. Impact of age and experience is equivalent to zero
2. Their personal life hardships are not taken into account
3. Their language proficiency, mannerism, attitude, personality, race, religion does not have any direct impact.

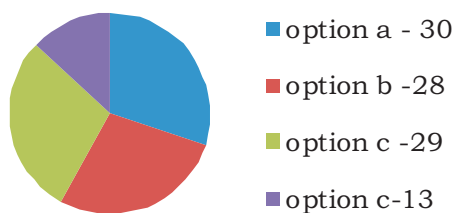
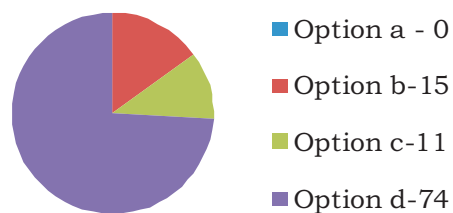
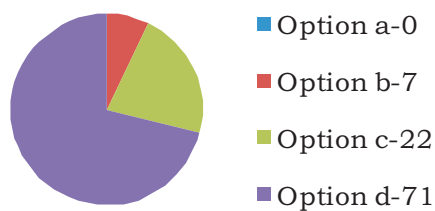
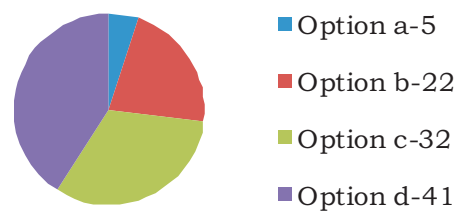
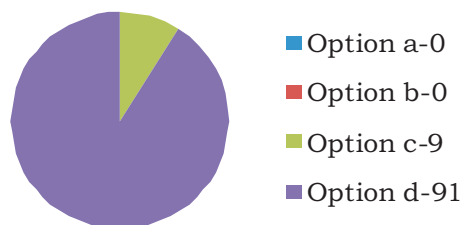
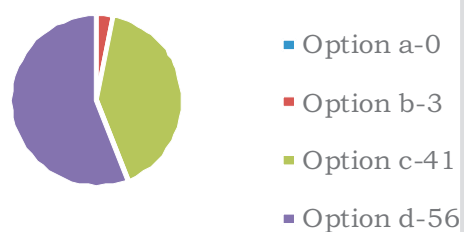
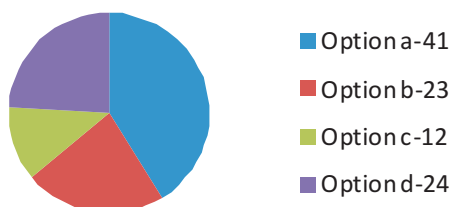
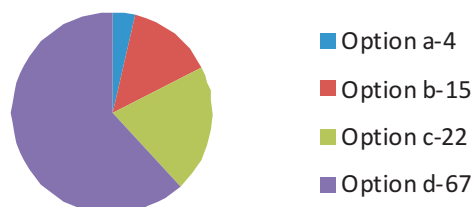
Method

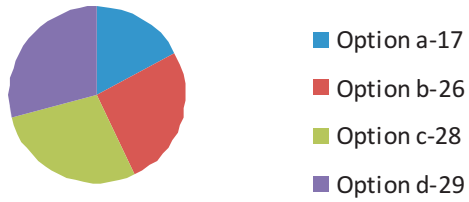
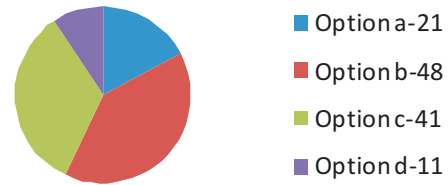
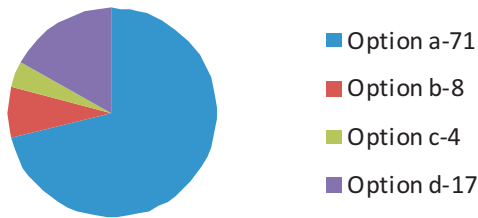
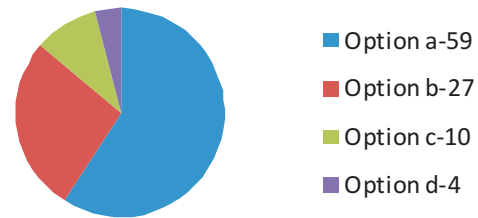
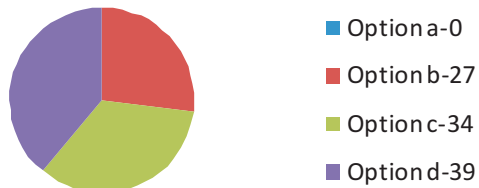
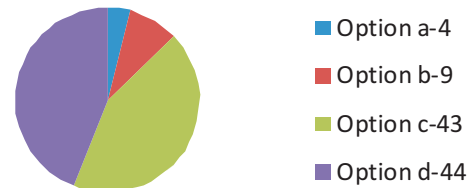
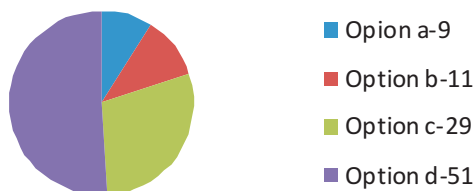
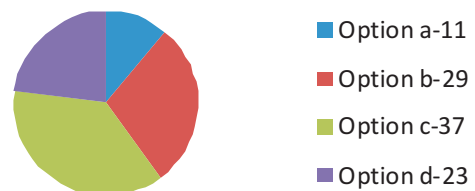
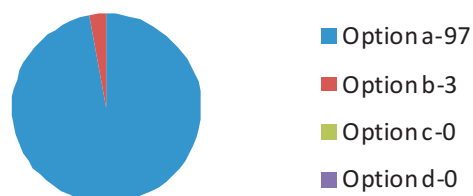
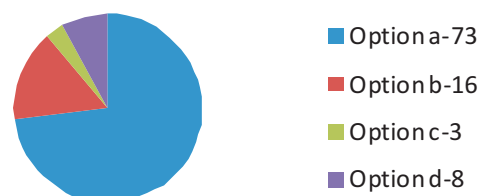
A set of questions were assembled to frame a questionnaire under supervision of reputed experts of the game, professors of sports University and other officials of the game. The same had been used as a tool to record the experiences of the subjects. Necessary steps were taken to make sure the questionnaire didn't hurt and harm the sentiments of the state badminton association or any of the badminton organizing committee/bodies under any instance. Based on the respondents' feedback the conclusions were made.

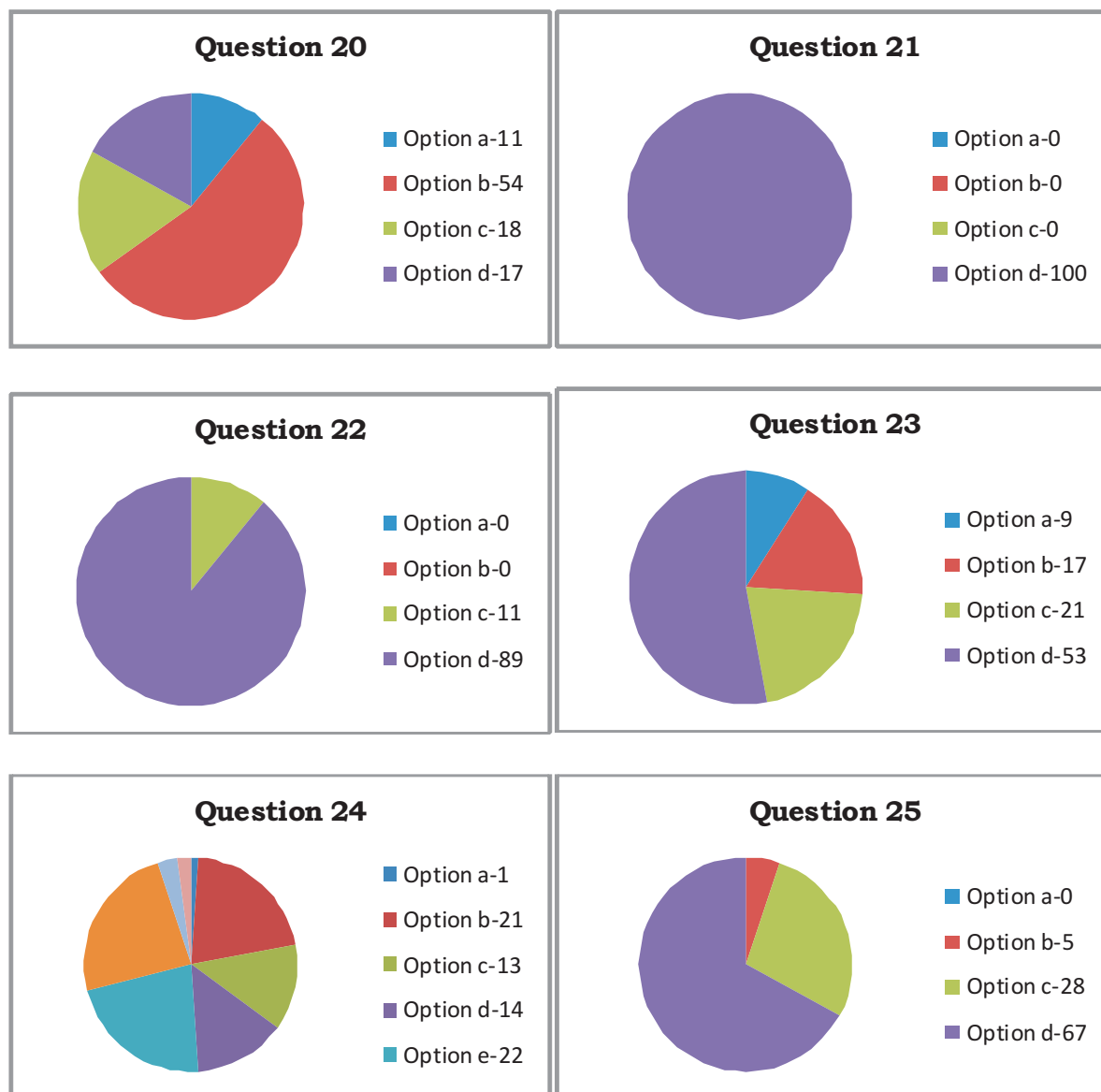
For the purpose of the study 100 badminton officials of whom, 20 are of referee cadre while the remaining 80 belong umpire cadre. All the officials are part of state Tamilnadu and are affiliated to the state badminton sport association. No discretions were shown/followed while selecting the participants. The respondents were asked to respond as per their will.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the study clearly indicated that, Question 4, all the subjects mentioned that they spend almost 60 hours for officiating in a week and as much as 42 hours are spent for travelling. The rest of the hours are divided for other purposes for their day to day activities. Most of the respondents didn't answer Question No.4 except for the travel time and officiating duration.

Question 1**Question 2****Question 3****Question 5****Question 6****Question 7****Question 8****Question 9**

Question 10**Question 11****Question 12****Question 13****Question 14****Question 15****Question 16****Question 17****Question 18****Question 19**



From the above pie charts for the questions of the questionnaire, it is concluded that, 65% of the officials convey that they are made to work/contribute more and that it breaks them physically and mentally. Over 60% of the officials feel that they could be provided with sufficient comfort while officiating the matches. Over 70% of the officials feel that they are not given sufficient break in between matches and tournaments. Minimum of 50% feel their decisions are always challenged by players or coaches or general public. Only less than 4% feel that the organizers do not care about them. Lastly, less than 2% convey that the above mentioned depresses them and due to this their efficiency drops.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, from this study it can be noticed that majority of the officials require sufficient break between matches and tournaments. Majority of the officials have requested for comforts to help them be relaxed during matches. Over half of the officials have mentioned that there is always a human interference during matches and their decisions are challenged. Through the questionnaire, it is also elucidated that the human interference is one major factor that distracts them the most during a match. From certain questions, such as 21,22,23 it can be noticed that the sportsmanship and ethics of the officials are not at all disturbed at any instance except for a 2% undesirable negative response. Henceforth, it is concluded that, 1)Lack of sufficient time to rest/over working hours 2)Human interference 3)Comforts during work hours 4)Lack of assistance in handling the crowd/noise

5) Lack of coherence in organizing the tournaments by the organizing committee to be the major factors that affect an umpire. Though the mentioned factor disturbs the umpires, their impact on them doesn't get reflected in the decision making abilities of the umpires. Thus, it can be concluded that a very few percentage of, as small as 10% might experience stress that affects their decision making skills.

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