



## A Comparative Assessment of Basic Human Virtues in Elite Players

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### Abstract

The aim of the present study is to compare basic human virtues between elite male players and non-players. To conduct the study, 100 elite male players (Ave. age 20.47 yrs) were selected. The criterion for selection of elite male players was participation in national level sports event and those who finished in first four positions of that particular event. To fulfill the objectives of the present study, another set of 100 non player males studying in various colleges (Ave. age 21.73 yrs) were also selected. To assess basic human virtues of the selected player and non-player males, four dimensional basic human virtues inventory prepared by Agashe and Helode (2012) was adopted. The results indicate that basic human virtues did not differ significantly between elite male players and non-players. It was concluded that elite male players also exhibit same magnitude of human virtues as that of non-player males.

**Key words:** Human virtues, elite male players, non-player males etc.

### 1. Introduction

Virtue is moral excellence. A virtue is a positive trait or quality deemed to be morally good and thus is valued as a foundation of principle and good moral being. Personal virtues are characteristics valued as promoting collective and individual greatness. Justice, good judgment, personal toughness and self-control are four core human qualities for formation of strong character. The four virtues i.e. prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance are cardinal virtues and all the other virtues like acceptance, idealism, openness, patience, reliability, respect, responsibility, self-discipline, temperance, tolerance, truthfulness, understanding, Wisdom, zeal etc find their roots in four cardinal virtues.

According to World Health Organisation (2003) sports provide wide range of physical, mental and social benefits. Studies conducted by various researchers like Salokum and Toricola (1985), Singh, et al. (1987) Rathe (2009), Bostania and Saiirib (2011), Mehrparvar and Mazaheri (2012), Mittal (2014), Zaffer and Rajpal (2017) reported the psychological benefits such conscientious, more trustworthy, self-perception, happiness, Stress tolerance and self-assertiveness, ability to solve psychological problems, frustration tolerance, self-assurance, higher potential to survive with the environment of participation in sports. It has been advocated that participation in sports is a good medium for ideal personality but the second school of thought provides negative side of participation in sports that too at highest level. In modern sport so much emphasis is put on winning or improving level of performance. This leads to incidences like doping, betting etc. Sometimes sportspersons also indulge in practices which are against the nature of sportsman spirit. Reports of doping case of Maria Sharapova or betting scam in cricket, fixing of a soccer match makes the researcher to ponder that whether elite male players still possess same magnitude of basic human virtues despite modern day competitive sports in which so much emphasis is given to winning. Hence in order to assess basic human virtues in elite male players, the present study was planned.

#### 1.1 Hypothesis

It was hypothesized that elite male players will possess the same magnitude of basic human virtues as compared to non-player males.

### 2. Methodology

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

## 2.1 Sampling

To conduct the study, 100 elite male players (Ave. age 20.47 yrs) were selected. The criterion for selection of elite male players was participation in national level sports event and those who finished in first four positions of those events. To fulfill the objectives of the present study, another set of 100 non player males studying in various colleges (Ave. age 21.73 yrs) were also selected. The selection of subjects was done under purposive sampling method.

## 2.2 Tools:

### Basic Human Virtues Inventory:

To assess basic human virtues of the selected subjects, four dimensional basic human virtues inventory prepared by Agashe and Helode (2012) was adopted. This Hindi Inventory comprises in all 40 items in which 10 items each for tapping four cardinal virtues i.e. prudence, fortitude, justice and temperance respectively. This inventory is highly reliable and valid.

## 2.3 Procedure

After obtaining written consent to participate in the present study without any pressures, 200 male subjects were selected. Basic Human Virtues Inventory prepared by Agashe and Helode (2012) was administered to selected subjects as per their convenience. After scoring of the responses according to author's manual, obtained data was tabulated according to their respective groups. To compare basic human virtues between elite male players and non-player males, independent sample 't' test was used. Result depicted in table 1.

## 3. Result and Discussion

**Table 1**  
**Comparison of Basic Human Virtues of Elite Male Players and Non-player Males**

Groups	Basic Human Virtues		Mean Diff.	't'
	Mean	S.D.		
Elite Male Players (N=100)	28.52	2.42	0.64	1.64, p>.05
Non Player Males (N=100)	27.88	3.04		

Results presented in table 1 indicate that basic human virtues present in elite male players (M=28.52) and non-player males (M=27.88) are almost same.

The calculated  $t=1.64$  which did not meet the criteria for statistical significance also reaffirms the above finding.

The result shows that elite male players possess same magnitude of basic human virtues as that of non-player males. This shows that elite male players maintain their moral values even while performing at highest level and getting so much accolades. The results are consistent with principles of Wooden and Jamison (1997) in which they opined that ability takes a person to achieve their goals but to remain there a person needs to have a character

## 4. Conclusion

It was concluded that elite male players also exhibit same magnitude of human virtues as that of non-player males.

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