

## A study of association between superstitious rituals and locus of control among intervarsity male players

Sunita Bisht<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Sanjit Sardar<sup>2</sup>, Ajay Kumar Pandey<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Research Scholar, Department of Physical Education, GGV Bilaspur (C.G), India

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Physical Education, GGV Bilaspur (C.G), India

Received September 16, 2016; Accepted October 12, 2016; Published October 25, 2016

### Abstract

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between Superstitious Rituals and Locus of Control among Intersvarsity Male Players. **Samples:** 100 Intersvarsity male players age ranged between 18-25 years were randomly selected to take part in the study. **Methodology:** The Superstitious Ritual Questionnaire (SRQ) developed by Bleak & Frederick (1998) was used to measure superstitious ritual of the subjects and Rotter's Locus of Control scale prepared by Dr. Anand Kumar & Dr. Satyendar Nath Srivastav (1985) was used to measure the locus of control of the subjects. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to investigate the relationship. **Result:** Results indicated a positive significant relationship between Superstitious Rituals and Locus of Control among Intersvarsity Male Players.

**Key words:** Superstitious Rituals, Locus of Control, relationship

### 1. Introduction

Superstitious in sport has been defined as "actions which are repetitive, formal, sequential, and distinct from technical performance and which the athletes believe to be powerful in controlling luck or other external factors" (Bleak & Frederick, 1998). "A universal truth about superstitious is that it emerges as a result of uncertainty to circumstances that are inherently random or uncontrollable" (Vyse, 1997, p. 201). Many athletes who subscribe to superstitious rituals believe them to be effective for performance (Lobmeyer & Wasserman, 1986). (Neil. et. al. 1981) found in their study the duration of competition in sport increased superstitious behavior in ice hockey players. The types of superstitious rituals vary among track and field athletes, football players, basketball players, and gymnasts (Bleak & Frederick, 1998). Men and women have been found to differ on the emphasis of "appearance" rituals, with women emphasizing these more (Burhmann., et. al., 1982). A research indicated a difference between gender and usage of superstitious behavior with women more likely than men to utilize superstitious beliefs and behaviors (Burhmann & Zaugg, 1981; Conklin, 1919; Gregory, 1973).

Locus of control (LOC) is the degree to which people report a sense of personal control. Locus of control has been dichotomized as internal or external (Rotter, 1966). An internal LOC believes an event occurs as a product of his/her own behavior. External LOC believes that an event is the product of chance, luck, or the influence of other people. In a related vein, personal control has been defined as an individual's belief that events and outcomes in one's life result from one's own actions (Ross & Mirowsky, 2002). Van. R., et al. (1991) concluded the more psychology students believed their actions allowed them to take some control over chance events, the more likely they were to exhibit superstitious behavior. In the study of Peterson, in 1978, found a positive relationship between an external locus of control and belief in self-oriented superstitions.

#### 1.1 Objective of the study

The purpose of this study was to examine the possible relationships between superstitious rituals and locus of control among intervarsity male players.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Samples

For this study total 100 Intersarsity male players belonging to the age ranged between 18 to 25 years, who have participated in All India Inter-University Tournament 2015-16, were selected as a subjects.

### 2.2 Variables

- Superstitious rituals
- Locus of control

### 2.3 Tools

Following tools were used for the administration in the relation of superstitious rituals and Locus of Control between the intersarsity players.

- The Superstitious Ritual Questionnaire (SRQ) developed by Bleak & Frederick (1998) was used to measure superstitious ritual of the subjects.
- Rotter's Locus of Control scale prepared by Dr. Anand Kumar & Dr. Satyendar Nath Srivastav (1985) was used to measure the locus of control of the subjects.

### 2.4 Statistical Techniques

In order to find out the relationship of selected psychological variables between inter university male players, descriptive statistic and Pearson correlation coefficient was employed. The level of significance was set at 0.05 levels.

## 3. Result and Findings of the study

To find out the relationship of superstitious rituals and locus of control, Pearson's product moment correlation was used.

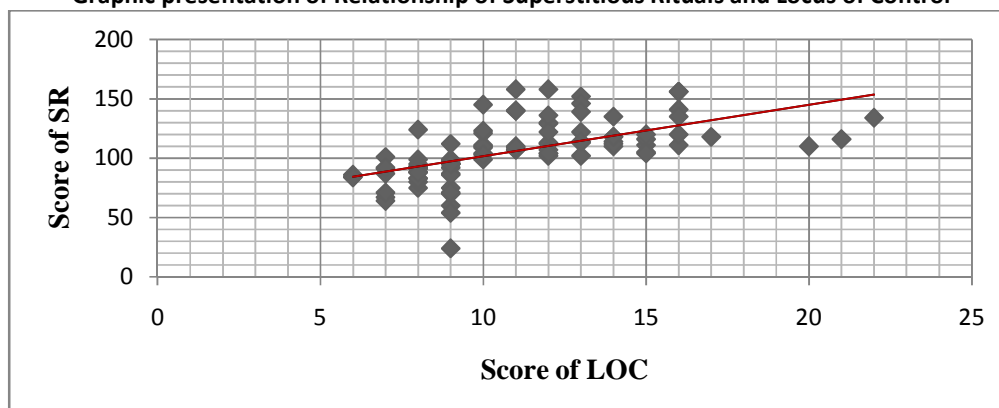
**Table 1**  
**Relationship of Superstitious Rituals and Locus of Control**

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	p-value	r-value
superstitious rituals	100	105.43	23.824	0.000	0.599**
locus of control	100	10.91	3.297		

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed) (df98=0.195).

Above table shows the mean value of superstitious rituals is 105.43 and the mean value of locus of control is 10.91. The Calculated r-value (0.599) is greater than tabulated r-value (0.195), it concluded that, there is a statistically significant relationship between superstitious rituals with locus of control ( $p < 0.05$ ). Thus null hypothesis is rejected.

Figure 1  
Graphic presentation of Relationship of Superstitious Rituals and Locus of Control



#### 4. Discussion of the findings

It was clearly seen in above statistical analysis that the superstitious rituals and locus of control has significantly correlated. It concluded that the players that who believes in superstitious rituals they have external locus of control. They believe their victory is by luck or through some external cause. This finding is supported by Peterson (1978), he found a positive relationship between an external locus of control and belief in self-oriented superstitions. Another study done by Todd and Brown (2003) found track and field athletes with an external locus of control were more likely to utilize superstitious behaviors.

#### 5. Conclusion

On the basis of data analysis and data interpretation null hypothesis was rejected. It is concluded that there is a positive significant relationship between superstitious rituals and locus of control.

#### 6. References

- [1]. Bleak, J. L., & Frederick, C. M. (1998). Superstitious behavior in sport: Levels of effectiveness and determinants of use in three collegiate sports. *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 21; 1-15.
- [2]. Todd, M., & Brown, C. (2003). Characteristics associated with superstitious behavior in track and field athletes: Are there NCAA divisional level differences? *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 26; 168-187.
- [3]. Buhrmann, H. G., & Zaugg, M. K. (1981). Superstitions among basketball players: An investigation of various forms of superstitious beliefs and behavior among competitive basketballers at the junior high school to university level. *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 4; 163-174.
- [4]. Buhrmann, H. G., Brown B., & Zaugg, M. K. (1982). Superstitious beliefs and behavior: A comparison of male and female basketball players. *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 5; 75-185.
- [5]. Conklin, E. S., (1919). Superstitious belief and practice among college students. *American Journal of Psychology*, 30; 83-102.
- [6]. Gregory, J. C. (1973). Superstitions among male and female intercollegiate athletes and non-athletes of the University of Western Ontario, 1971-1972. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Western Ontario, Canada.
- [7]. Groth-Marnat, G., & Pegden, J. (1998). Personality correlates of paranormal belief: locus of control and sensation seeking. *Social Behavior and Personality*, 2; 291-296.
- [8]. Kumar A. and Shukla P.S. (1998). Psychological Consistencies within the Personality of High and Low Achieving Hockey Players, Paper Presented in the International Congress of Psychology. Montreal, Canada.
- [9]. Lobmeyer, D., & Wasserman, E.A. (1986). Preliminaries to free throw shooting: superstitious behavior? *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 9; 70-78.

- [10]. Neil, G., Anderson, B. & Sheppard, W. (1981). Superstitions among male and female athletes at various levels of involvement. *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 4(3); 137-148.
- [11]. Peterson, C. (1978). Locus of control and belief in self-oriented superstitions. *Journal of Social Psychology*, 105; 305-306.
- [12]. Ross, C. E., & Mirowsky, J. (2002). Age and the gender gap in the sense of personal control. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 65; 125-145.
- [13]. Rotter, J. B. (1966). Generalized expectancies for internal versus external control for Reinforcement. *Psychological Monographs*, 80; 609.
- [14]. Todd, M., & Brown, C. (2003). Characteristics associated with superstitious behavior in track and field athletes: Are there NCAA divisional level differences? *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 26; 168-187.
- [15]. Van Raalte, J. L., et.al. (1991). Chance orientation and superstitious behavior on the putting green. *Journal of Sport Behavior*, 14; 41-50.
- [16]. Vyse, S. A., (1997). *Believing in magic*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

---

**Corresponding Author:**

Sunita Bisht,  
Research Scholar,  
Department of Physical Education,  
G.G.V Bilaspur (C.G), India