

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GRIT BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE FENCERS OF MANIPUR

Prof. Jaowad Ali and Abdul Rahaman

ABSTRACT

Grit is defined as perseverance and passion for long-term goals. The purpose of the present investigation was to compare the level of grit between male and female national fencers of Manipur. Forty (40) fencers (male = 20, female = 20) who represented Manipur in the national fencing championship were recruited as the subjects. The age of the subjects ranged from 17 to 25 years. Grit Scale (GS) developed by Duckworth and Quinn (2009) was administered on the subjects for collecting data. The obtained data was analysed by computing 't' ratio. Results of the study revealed that significant difference was not found between male and female fencers of Manipur to their level of consistency of interest, perseverance of efforts, and ambitions towards the attainment of long-term goals dimensions of grit.

Key Words: *Fencing and Grit personality*

INTRODUCTION

The sport of fencing had its debut as an Olympic event in 1896. It has been a part of all Olympic Games since then. In 1896, competition was limited to the disciplines of foil and saber, which are identical weapons, although the saber is considerably lighter in weight. The epee discipline was added in 1900 to include heavier swords. Individual competitions are part of all Olympic Games, but the nature of the team competitions modified and in forthcoming 2012, Olympics at London, team

competitions have been modified as men's foil and saber, and women's foil and epee (Bird, 2011).

Grit is based on an individual's drive and desire for a particular long-term goal or achievement coupled with a powerful motivation. This perseverance of effort promotes the overcoming of obstacles or challenges that lay within a gritty individual's path to accomplish the task and serves as a driving force in the process of attaining a set long-term goal.

Grit is conceptualized as a stable trait that does not require immediate positive feedback. Individuals high in Grit are able to maintain their determination and motivation over long periods of time despite experiences with frequent failures and adversities. Their passion and commitment towards the long-term objectives are the overriding factors that provide the endurance required to “stay the course” amid challenges and setbacks.

In competitive sports beside physical and techno-tactical prowess, greater importance is assigned to psychological parameters (Duckworth, Peterson, Matthews & Kelly, 2007; Duckworth & Quinn, 2009; Maddi, Matthews, Kelly, Villarreal & White, 2012; Mangan, 2010; Singh & Jha, 2008). A host of researchers opined that a Grittier person is essentially focused on winning the long duration event such as marathon, not an event lasts in a short span of time. (Lopes, 1976; Senecal, Loughhead & Bloom, 2008; Veenhof, van Hasselt, Koke, Dekker, Bijlsma & van den Ende, 2006; Widmeyer & Ducharme, 1997).

As the fencing is a medium duration activity, hence the effort made to ascertain whether there existed any difference between male and female fencers on Grit trait. Furthermore, it was also explored that whether or not the Grittier Persons were equally focused on these set goals in the medium of goals activity such as fencing or not.

METHOD

Subjects

For the purpose of this study forty (40) fencers (male = 20, female = 20) who represented Manipur state in the national championships, were considered as subjects.

Tool

For measuring the grit of the subjects a questionnaire developed by Duckworth and Quinn (2009) was used. It is a five point likert type scale having 17 items. It is a popular tool being used by the psychologists for measuring the level of consistency of interest and perseverance of effort and ambition made by the subjects for realizing long-term achievement goals.

Procedure

The questionnaire was administered on the subjects during regular coaching camps held at Special Area of Games (SAG) and Youth Affair & Sports (YAS) Indoor Stadium, Khuman Lampak, Imphal (Manipur) in 2011, jointly organized by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Directorate of Youth Affairs and Sports, Manipur.

Data Analysis

T-ratio was computed to examine significant difference between two groups on the psychological dimensions of grit i.e. consistency of interest, perseverance of effort, and ambition.

RESULTS

Table-1
Differences between male and female fencers of Manipur on grit

Grit				
Experimental Groups	Mean	Standard Deviation	't' Value	P
Male	55.40	6.06	0.05	> .05
Female	58.75	4.55		

It may be observed from the above table that significant difference was not found bet-

ween male and female fencers on grit as the obtained value of 't' has been found 0.05 which is considerably lesser than the tabled value of 't' (2.02) at 0.05 level of confidence with 38 degree of freedom.

Figure-1
Difference of grit between male and female national level fencers of Manipur

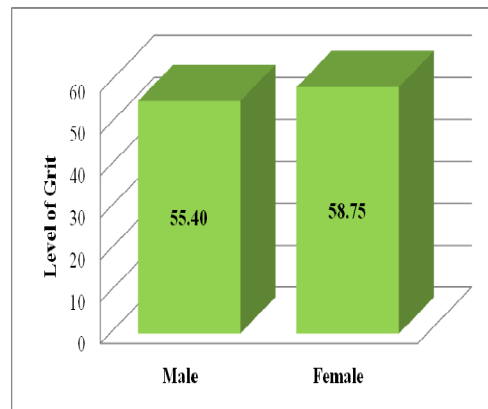


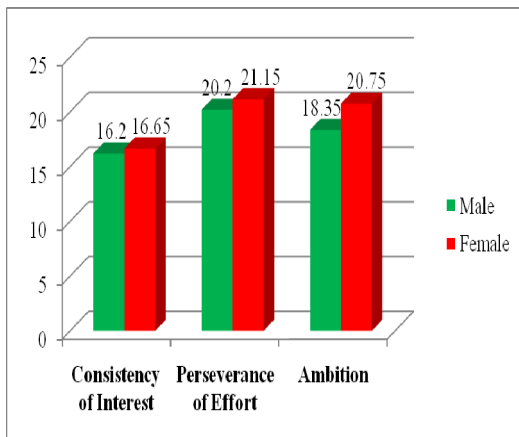
Table-2
Comparisons of grit dimensions between male and female fencers of Manipur

Dimensions of Grit	Male		Female		t-value	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Consistency of Interest	16.2	4.17	16.65	3.64	0.70	> .05
Perseverance of Effort	20.2	3.56	21.15	3.23	0.36	> .05
Ambition	18.35	2.83	20.75	1.97	0.03	> .05

It is evident from table-2 that significant differences were not found between male and female

fencers on Consistency of Interest, ($t = 0.70, p >.05$) Perseverance of Effort, ($t = 0.36, p >.05$) and Ambition ($t = 0.03, p >.05$). Female fencers scored slightly higher than male fencers on the dimension of consistency of interest, perseverance of effort and ambition, but the difference was found insignificant, statistically.

Figure-2
 Depicting difference on the dimensions of grit between male and female national fencers of Manipur



DISCUSSION

From the results of the study it has been evident that insignificant difference existed between male and female fencers of Manipur in regard to their level of grit.

The results of the study may be corroborated with the findings of Duckworth and Quinn (2009) who examined the development and validation of short grit scale and observed that no significant gender difference in grit scores. The findings of the present study have also been endorsed by Joseph (2009) who studied the role of grit in predicting performance in collegiate athletes and revealed that grit was insignificant predictors of performance.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the results obtained from the present empirical investigation it may be concluded that national level male and female fencers of Manipur did not differ significantly on their level of consistency of interest, perseverance of effort and ambition. The findings also suggest that the level of grit of male and female fencers falls in the analogous range which seemed to be necessary for getting success at highest level of competition to achieve a long-term goal in the arena of fencing sport.

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