HIDDEN SPORTS TALENT IN THE HARD AND URBAN AREA BOYS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Dr. Anil Kumar[1] and **Dr. Sanjay Sharma[2]**
[1]Assistant Professor Shaheed Bhagat Singh College Department of Physical Education & Sports Sciences. University of Delhi.
[2]Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hills, Shimla.

ABSTRACT:

Talent identification produce world class athletes through systemic talent identification programme using science and psychology. The concept of Talent Identification is not new to the field of sports and physical education but it has been used worldwide since 1970's but in India it was visualized since past two to three decades, which gained a high degree of momentum in hidden sports talent. The objectives of the present investigation were to explore and compare the hidden sports talent in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh and to scout the explored hidden sports talent on satisfactory, good and very good standards w. r. t. selected variables as per SAI norms. The sample of present investigation comprised of 360 school going boys of 14 years (age group) i.e.180 each from hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh. Anthropometric measurements i.e. height and weight and

motor ability variables viz. speed, explosive leg strength, explosive arm and shoulder strength, agility, flexibility, explosive leg strength and extensibility of hip muscles and endurance were selected as the criterion measures for talent identification and comparison. Data regarding anthropometric and motor ability variables was assessed using SAI National Sports Talent Contest Battery. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted statistically by using the method of frequencies and percentages. The results of the investigation showed that on the selected talent scouting criterion measures, majority of the hard as well as urban area boys of Himachal Pradesh were found to have only three of the criterion measures viz. standard height, weight and agility according to SAI norms. Moreover, among the hard and urban areas students, who were found to have criterion measures as per SAI norms, it was also revealed that the majority of the explored hidden sports talent w.r.t. selected variables was found to be at satisfactory standard as per SAI norms.

KEYWORDS: *Sports Talent, Talent Exploration, Hard Area, Urban Area, Sports Authority of India, National Sports Talent Contest Battery.*

INTRODUCTION

Sports are a worldwide phenomenon today. Considering the importance of sports competitions, one can say that it has become a social need of the present civilization, which must be met by the societies and the government. However, it is important to mention here that for a healthy and bumper yield for any crop, the farmer must select seeds or saplings of a very good quality and that can be done with the help of agricultural scientist after years of laboratory work. Similar is the case with sports also where in order to produce world class athletes, systemic Talent Identification programmes using science and psychology are to be devised. Although, the concept of Talent Identification is not new to the field of sports and physical education and it has been used worldwide since 1970's but in India it was visualized since past two to three decades, which gained a high degree of momentum in last decade only. The success rates of talent identification and development programmes have rarely been assessed and the validity of the models applied remains highly debated. These tests can give insight into areas such as self-confidence, self-esteem, personality or motivation

In the post-independence era, the government has made special efforts to preserve and nurture the awesome cultural heritage, by setting up a number of new incentives, and by enhancing media exposure at the national level, to circulate and popularise indigenous games. After independence, the Government of India has launched several programmes through Sports Authority of India which is actively engaged in implementing schemes to promote sports awareness and physical fitness and also encourage sports in the country. However, we are yet to achieve a place of pride in international sports. But we are much behind even among the Asian countries. This indicates that implementation of sports programmes in the country leaves for much space for progress. The sports talent identification drive in state is also not having a long history as the department of youth services and sports was created during early eighties only. The state government has not launched many programmes or policies to encourage sports in the state and the sportsmen of Himachal Pradesh is lagging far much behind from the other states of country in terms of sports facilities, infrastructure and even planned and scientific sports talent. Although, Himachal pradesh is having extensive and countless avenues for the promotion of sports but the energetic, physically and mentally tough and hard striving youth of the state is provided with scanty opportunities for the fulfillment of their natural urge for sports in a scientific and a planned manner. Sportsperson of this state have also won Padamshree and Arjuna Awards and a few have excelled themselves individually in various team games. Himachal Pradesh is having much space for implementation of planned and scientific sports talent research and search programmes. A conceptual framework that acknowledges both genetic and environmental influences and considers the dynamic and multidimensional nature of sport talent needs to be developed and set in action. Considering these entire aspects researcher visualised a research gap in the talent identification of rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh and hence, undertook the present research.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.To explore the hidden sports talent of the hard and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. selected variables as per SAI norms.
2.To compare the identified hidden sports talent of the hard and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. selected variables on very good, good satisfactory and standards as per SAI norms.

HYPOTHESES

• It was hypothesised that the majority of the hidden sports talent in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. selected variables would not be as per SAI norms.
• It was hypothesised that the majority of the identified hidden sports talent in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh w. r. t. selected variables would be at satisfactory standard as per SAI norms.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was confined to school going boys (14 years age group) of hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh. The study was delimited to the hard and urban area schools of eight districts i.e. Chamba,

Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, lahul & Spiti, Mandi and Shimla of Himachal Pradesh. A total sample of 360 boys i.e. 180 hard boys and 180 urban boys was selected using random sampling technique. Hidden sports talent was confined to nine criterion measures viz; two anthropometric variables i.e. height and weight and seven motor ability variables i.e. speed, explosive leg strength, explosive arm and shoulder strength, agility, flexibility, explosive leg strength and extensibility of hip muscles and endurance.

Data regarding the hidden sports talent was collected using Sports Authority of India (SAI) Sports Talent Contest Battery. The test battery was formulated in consultation with the soviet experts and later adopted to Indian conditions. The collected data was statistically analysed and compared using Percentage method. In order to correct the sampling errors in the entire measurement process, the margin of error was calculated as 0.05 at 95% level of confidence.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Talent identification produce world class athletes through systemic talent identification programme using science and psychology. There is a huge sports talent in the rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh but it is in hidden form due to lack of infrastructural facilities and people awareness about in its internal strength, so there is need to explore these hidden sports talent. The present study regarding hidden sports talent of the hard and urban area boys of Himachal Pradesh has been presented in the in following tables as per SAI norms.

Table-1
Frequencies and Percentages of the Students of the Hard and Urban Areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. Anthropometric Variables Height and Weight as per Sports Authority of India Norms

Variable	Area	Criterion Measures as per SAI Norms		Criterion Measures not as per SAI Norms	
		Frequencies (F)	Percentage (%)	Frequencies (F)	Percentage (%)
Height	Hard (N=180)	122	67.78%	58	32.22%
	Urban (N=180)	127	70.56%	53	29.44%
Weight	Hard (N=180)	103	57.22%	77	42.78%
	Urban (N=180)	123	68.33%	57	31.67%

Source: Primary Data.

reveals the frequencies and precentage of anthropometric varibales i.e height and weight of the students among hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh boys as per SAI norms. In rural area among two third (67.78 percent) and a little more than two third (70.56 percent) of the students have height according to SAI norms. In case of weight more than half (57.22 percent) of the students from hard area and a little more than two third (68.33 percent) from urban area have weight according to SAI norms.

Hence the formulated hypothesis for the present investigation i.e. "the majority of the hidden sports talent in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. anthropometric variable height and wieght would not be as per SAI norms" is rejected.

Further, the students having height and weight standards as per SAI norms were classified into three groups, i.e. the students having very good, good and satisfactory levels of height and weight, the frequencies and percentage of these students are given in Table-2 as under.

Table-2
Comparison of Height Percentages and Frequencies of the Identified Hidden Sports Talent in the Hard and Urban Areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. Very Good, Good and Satisfactory Standards as per SAI Norms

Variable	Height				Weight			
Areas	Hard (N=122)		Urban (N=127)		Hard (N=103)		Urban (N=123)	
Standards	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
VG	4	3.28%	1	0.79%	1	0.97%	10	8.13%
G	39	31.97%	52	40.94%	22	21.36%	31	25.20%
S	79	64.75%	74	58.27%	80	77.67%	82	66.67%

Source: Primary Data

Table-2 shows that about two third of the students from hard (64.75 percent) and (58.27 percent) urban areas were identified to have standard height, majority of the students from hard (77.67 percent) and urban (66.67 percent) areas were identified to have standard weight found to have a height of satisfactory standard as per SAI norms. This figure shows the hidden sports talent identification in rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh.

Hence, the formulated hypothesis for the present investigation i.e. "the majority of the identified hidden sports talent in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. anthropometric variable height and weight would be at satisfactory standard as per SAI norms" is accepted.

Table-3
Frequencies and Percentages of the Students of the Hard and Urban Areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. Motor Ability Variables viz. Speed; Explosive Leg Strength; Explosive Arm and Shoulder Strength; Agility; Flexibility; Explosive Leg Strength and Extensibility of Hip and; Endurance as per Sports Authority of India Norms

Variable	Area	Criterion Measures as per SAI Norms		Criterion Measures not as per SAI Norms	
		Frequencies (F)	Percentage (%)	Frequencies (F)	Percentage (%)
Speed	Hard (N=180)	86	47.78%	94	52.22%
	Urban (N=180)	50	27.78%	130	72.22%
Ex. Leg Sth.	Hard (N=180)	30	16.67%	150	83.33%
	Urban (N=180)	40	22.22%	140	77.78%
Ex. Arm and Shoulder Sht.	Hard (N=180)	54	30.00%	126	70.00%
	Urban (N=180)	74	41.11%	106	58.89%
Agility	Hard (N=180)	114	63.33%	66	36.67%
	Urban (N=180)	104	57.78%	76	42.22%
Flexibility	Hard (N=180)	61	33.89%	119	66.11%
	Urban (N=180)	36	20%	144	80%
Ex. Leg Sth. and Ext. of Hip	Hard (N=180)	38	21.11%	142	78.89%
	Urban (N=180)	30	16.67%	150	83.33%
Endurance	Hard (N=180)	47	26.11%	133	73.89%
	Urban (N=180)	55	30.56%	125	69.44%

Source: Primary Data.

Table-3 shows frequencies and percentages of the identified students of the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh as per SAI norms w.r.t. Motor Ability Variables viz. Speed; Explosive Leg Strength; Explosive Arm and Shoulder Strength; Agility; Flexibility; Explosive Leg Strength and Extensibility of Hip muscle and; Endurance. It reveals that majority of students of hard and urban areas have their frequency and percentage

w.r.t. Motor Ability Variables i.e. Speed; Explosive Leg Strength; Explosive Arm and Shoulder Strength; Flexibility; Explosive Leg Strength and Extensibility of Hip muscle and; Endurance fall below than SAI norms. However, in case of Motor ability variable i.e. Agility more than half of the students (63.33& 57.78 percent) each from hard and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh were found to have standard agility according to the Sports Authority of India norms.

Hence, the formulated hypothesis in the present investigation w.r.t. motor ability variable speed; explosive leg strength; explosive arm and shoulder strength; flexibility; explosive leg strength and extensibility of hip muscle and; endurance i.e."the majority of the hidden sports talent in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh would not be as per SAI norms" is rejected, however, in case of Agility it is accepted.

Further the students having above motor ability measures as per SAI norms were classified into three groups, i.e. the students having very good, good and satisfactory levels of selected motor ability measures, the frequencies and percentage of these students are given in Table-4 as under.

Table-4
Frequencies and Percentage of the Identified Hidden Sports Talent in the Hard and Urban Areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. Motor Ability Variables on Satisfactory, Good and Very Good Standards as per SAI Norms

Variable	Area	VG		G		S	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
Speed	Hard(N=86)	4	4.65 %	3	3.49 %	79	91.86%
	Urban (N=50)	4	8%	4	8%	42	84%
Ex. Leg Sth.	Hard(N=30)	2	6.67%	8	26.66%	20	66.67%
	Urban (N=40)	2	5%	8	20%	30	75%
Ex. Arm and Shoulder Sth.	Hard(N=54)	4	7.41%	15	27.78%	35	64.81%
	Urban (N=74)	4	5.41%	28	37.84%	42	56.75%
Agility	Hard(N=114)	35	30.70%	37	32.46%	42	36.84%
	Urban (N=104)	32	30.77%	29	27.88%	42	41.35%
Flexibility	Hard(N=61)	4	6.56%	12	19.67%	45	73.77%
	Urban (N=36)	0	0%	7	19.44%	29	80.56%
Ex. Leg Sth. and Ext. of Hip	Hard(N=38)	1	2.64%	9	23.68%	28	73.68%
	Urban (N=30)	0	0%	2	6.67%	28	93.33%
Endurance	Hard(N=47)	0	0%	8	17.03%	39	82.97%
	Urban (N=55)	5	9.09%	13	23.64%	37	67.27%

Source: Primary Data

Table-4 shows frequencies and percentages of the identified students of the rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh various standards of SAI norms viz. Very Good, Good and Satisfactory standards w.r.t. Motor Ability Variables. It reveals that majority of students of rural and urban areas have their frequency and percentage w.r.t. Motor Ability Variables i.e. Speed; Explosive Leg Strength; Explosive Arm and Shoulder Strength; Flexibility; Explosive Leg Strength and Extensibility of Hip muscle and; Endurance at satisfactory standard under SAI norms. However, in case of Motor ability variable i.e. Agility more than half of the students (55.71 percent) from rural and (41.35 percent) urban areas in Himachal Pradesh were found to also have standard agility at satisfactory level according to the Sports Authority of India norms.

Hence, the formulated hypothesis in the present investigation w.r.t. motor ability variable speed; explosive leg strength; explosive arm and shoulder strength; agility; flexibility; explosive leg strength and extensibility of hip muscle and; endurance i.e. "majority of the identified hidden sports talent in the rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. selected variables would be at satisfactory standard as per SAI norms" is accepted.

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The explored percentages of the identified hidden sports talent of the hard and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh and their respective comparisons w.r.t. selected anthropometric and motor ability variables as per SAI norms given below:

1. In anthropometric variables the majority of the identified students of hard and urban areas were to have standard height and weight, which having a height of satisfactory standard as per SAI norms. while, the comparative analysis of 'height' and 'weight' of the hard and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh on very good, good and satisfactory standards as per SAI norms revealed that majority of the subjects were scouted under the satisfactory standard of height as per SAI norms, the standard height and weight was in the order of urban area students followed by hard area students.

2. From the above findings, in all motor ability variables that among the identified students in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh a majority of the students were found to have a standard speed; explosive leg strength; explosive arms and shoulder strength; flexibility; explosive leg strength and extensibility of hip muscle and; endurance below as per SAI norms except agility. However, in case of agility more than half of the students in the hard and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh were found to have a standard agility according to SAI norms. While, the comparative analysis of motor ability variables of the hard and urban areas in Himachal Pradesh on very good, good and satisfactory standards as per SAI norms revealed that majority of the subjects were scouted under the satisfactory standard as per SAI norms.

The above discussion reveals that Himachal Pradesh is lagging far much behind from the other states of country in terms of sports facilities, infrastructure and even planned and scientific sports. Although, Himachal Pradesh is having extensive and countless avenues for the promotion of sports but the energetic, physically and mentally tough and hard striving youth of the state is provided with scanty opportunities for the fulfillment of their natural urge for sports in a scientific and a planned manner. The present research would be helpful in identifying and channelising the neglected and hidden sports talent in Himachal Pradesh and also provide a platform for such children to get channelised and contribute for their development and nation as well. It would contribute greatly in enhancing the standard of sports by picking up talented children from rural and urban, areas of Himachal Pradesh. The present study also will be greatly helpful to physical education teachers, coaches and all those who are associated with the training and coaching in games and sports in a sort of guidance for screening players and athletes for different events and achieving a high level of performance.

REFERENCES

1.Baur, J., Talent Identification and Development in Sport: An Interim Evaluation, Unpublished translation, Australian Institute of Sport, Belconnen, 1986, pp1-26.
2.Bompa, T O., Talent identification, Science Periodical on Research and technology in Sports, Ottawa, Feb 1985, p1.
3.Sports Authority of India, Scouting and Nurturing of sports Talent, 1995-96, pp1-6
4.Sports Authority of India, National Sports Talent Contest Schemes (Goyal Stationers: Delhi, 1992).
5.www.himachal.nic.in/yss/History.htm, Department of Youth Services and Sports URL, retrieved on 5th September, 2014.