

Lawn Ball: An Indian Survey

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Abstract

The study was conducted on 36 players who volunteered from 6 different states of India. The Questionnaire contained 34 questions under categories of facilities, coaches, benefits, selection, performance, promotion and publicity of the game (reliability 0.89 & Validity .82). Percentage of responses was calculated. For facilities West Bengal & Jharkhand had an opinion that on an average 83.33% had specialized lawn bowl players, equipments, play facilities and maximum utilization of facilities whereas Meghalaya, Assam, Bihar, Kerala had an opinion that on an average of 50% specialized players, grounds to practice, medical facilities, utilizing existing facility with latest gadgets. All the six states believed 0% qualifies coaches are available. On the factor of coaches' quality of players from six states had absolute opinion 100% & were extremely positive of the role, knowledge, efficiency, punctuality, helping nature of players. On the factor of benefits to the players monetary (state level), Jharkhand, Bihar, Kerala 50% are satisfied, off season camps organised 83.33% with satisfactory duration of camps but with very less 50% of financial aid from the government, incentives, prizes and honours with 66.66% competitions held regularly in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Meghalaya & Bihar with 100% lack of motivation for the game. On the factor of selection of the team Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal supported the opinion of politics, regional preferences and back ground of player involved 100% for the national team selection whereas Kerala and Meghalaya have opposite opinion. On the factor of performance of the team regarding commitment to performance, psychological preparedness & professionalism 100% players of the six states had agreement for it. Promotion & Publicity factor 83.33% from West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Bihar, Kerala & Meghalaya players agreeing whereas 16.66% players are not in agreement. The data indicates that in India the game of Lawn Bowls still requires support and governmental policies to make the game popular.

1. Introduction

Bowls historians believe that the game was developed from Egypt. One of their pastimes was to play skittles with round stones. The sport spread across the world and took a variety of forms, Bocce (Italian), Bolla (Saxon), Bolle (Danish), Boules (French) and Ula Miaka (Polynesian). World Bowls stretches over 6 continents and covers 52 member National Authorities in 46 Member Nations from Botswana to America via Fiji. The oldest lawn bowls site in play is in Southampton, England. Records show that the green has been in operation since 1299 A.D. During the reign of Richard II bowls were referred to as "gettre de pere" or "jetter de pierre," and describes throwing a stone, probably as round as possible. Bowls in India were introduced by the British expatriates. It was mainly for recreation and was considered as an alternative to golf. Bowls in India were introduced to the Royal Calcutta Golf Club around 1830 A.D. from there onwards it was exported to the other clubs whose patron were British namely Vast Tea Estates and Jute Hills in East India. As on today bowls are still an important part of RCGC's curriculum and have been the flag bearer of bowls in India. Initially, when the rail system was introduced in India, it gradually got number of bowlers as they were the staff and large number of Anglo-Indian community working for it. The railway hubs around the country all had very active clubs. Bowls was favourite in these clubs until the 1950's. Later with the exist of British and mass migration of the Anglo- Indian community to U.k., Australia, Canada etc. The noble discipline fell down. Most clubs were not able to maintain the facilities and called off the sport of bowls in

India. The bowls in India were revived and Bowling Federation of India was formed on 21st November 1985. The Federation got affiliated to The Indian Olympic Association followed by affiliation to the World Body in 1990. There is little knowledge of Bowls in India. The initiation of the game dates from 2007. Foreign coaches were invited to identify talent and coach them. State Championships and Nationals were conducted to increase the popularity of the game and attract more players from different states. The process continued from December 2008 to 2009 when Indian team represented at the Asia- Pacific Championships in 2009. 2010 Commonwealth Games was the turning point for the game of bowls. Due to the Games there are 3 greens in Delhi. This Complex comprised 4 synthetic floodlight greens with accommodation for spectators etc. In India after Commonwealth Games 2010 lawn bowls took a step forward to 34th National Games, Jharkhand where 8 states qualified for the Senior Nationals. The Senior Nationals were held in the month of August 2011 at Ranchi, states participated were Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Assam & Bihar

2. Procedure and Methods

A survey was conducted on the players of lawn bowl from 6 states of India. The study was conducted on 36 players who volunteered from west Bengal, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Assam Bihar & Kerala. The Questionnaire contained 34 questions which were divided under the heads of Facilities, Coaches, Benefits, Selection, Performance, and Promotion and Publicity of the game (reliability .89 & Validity .82). The data was collected during 34th National Games 2011. Ranchi. As the data collected is not in ratio and interval scale it is a nominal scale i.e. non parametric statistic is applied (T parallel option, cross volis/ manvetni the substitute of non parametric T- test is applied).

3. Results

On the factor of facilities 83.33% players from west Bengal and Jharkhand strongly agree on having specialized lawn ball players in their states where as Meghalaya & Kerala are neutral in their response with 50%. The facilities to play lawn balls at school level in west Bengal is 83.33%, Bihar is 100%, Jharkhand is 66.66%, decreasing to 50% positive response in Kerala. The availability of qualified coaches at school level only Jharkhand has 66.66% positive response rest all state disagrees. In response to standardized lawn ball grounds to practice the game west Bengal and Bihar agreed with 100% & 83.33% respectively whereas Assam and Jharkhand had same opinion with 66.66% and Meghalaya having 100% opposite response in this. On asked for qualified coach to train the state team only Jharkhand Meghalaya with 66.66% & 50% gave positive response rest all states were 100% negative. Meghalaya , Kerala & Bihar strongly agreed on having proper medical facilities whereas in Assam response was 100% opposite. The existing facilities with latest gadgets and equipments Jharkhand, Assam, Bihar strongly agreed whereas Meghalaya & Kerala were neutral with 50% response. The availability of stadiums in Bihar , Meghalaya & Jharkhand are 100% positive whereas west Bengal and Assam strongly disagreed. Utilization of facilities in all the six states strongly agreed with whatever facilities exist in their respective states are used to the fullest.

On the factor of coaches all the six states 100% agreed that the role of coach is important to determine the performance of the team with coaches having sufficient knowledge of the game. Jharkhand and Bihar strongly agreed that seminar/refreshers/clinics etc are being held regularly for updating the knowledge of the coaches/players. Meghalaya's response on this was 50% and west Bengal disagreed with 83.33%. Coaches are punctual and devoted in their jobs in Bihar, Kerala & Meghalaya whereas the response in Jharkhand is 66.66% decreasing to 33.33% in Assam and negative in west Bengal. Bihar, Kerala & Jharkhand strongly agreed on coaches appointed at state/ national level are deserving and efficient. On the other hand Assam disagreed with 66.66% and west Bengal with 100%. Former players are of great help to the youngsters during coaching is been agreed by all the states

On the factor of benefits the 50% players of Jharkhand and 66.66% players of Bihar agree that monetary benefits are given to the players are sufficient by the state associations whereas all other states strongly disagreed to it. Meghalaya, Assam, Jharkhand players responded positively with 100%, 83.33% & 66.66%

respectively on off season camps organised by the states and duration of coaching camps are satisfactory whereas team west Bengal strongly disagreed to both. Only 50% players from Jharkhand and Meghalaya think that the financial aids from the government are sufficient to run the game, rest all disagree with the same. Jharkhand, Assam & Meghalaya players think the incentives, prizes, honours given to them and coaches are sufficient with 83.33%, 100% & 66.66% decreasing to 50% response in Bihar & 33.33% in Kerala whereas west Bengal gave 0% positive response. On the competitions held regularly in the four state agreed reasonably whereas Assam & Kerala disagreed with 0% & 33.33% respectively. All the six states strongly agreed on lack of motivation in popularisation of the game.

On the factor of selection mainly all the states except Meghalaya think that politics is involved in the selection procedure during nationals and except west Bengal all other states response positively on regional preferences involved during selection procedure. Whereas Bihar, Meghalaya and Jharkhand think the players background is important to them to be in the team with 83.33% and 66.66% respectively.

On the factor of performance, all the players of the six states strongly agreed that the team performance matters most to them and the players are prepared psychologically to compete in different tournament, west Bengal refused to this with 66.66%. On asked about professionalism will help to improve the standards of the game all gave positive signs

On the factor of promotion and publicity Assam, Meghalaya & Jharkhand agreed that the government gives sufficient support and promotion to the game of lawn ball along with the parents playing positive role 100% in its promotion. Media giving maximum coverage. A need of bowling clubs and academies is been felt and agreed by all the states. The encouragements from state association are must and a prime factor.

4. Conclusion

Besides the fact that west Bengal has the oldest site in India for lawn ball greens in royal club the latest standardized green is not available there. They still play on the grassy green with the old bowls whereas states like Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya and Kerala are equipped with latest gadgets and standardized bowling green. Players of all the six states make the best use of facilities available to them by their respective state bodies. Being a new sport in India it is developing all over. For the promotion and publicity of the game here in India media has played a major role during commonwealth games 2010 and during 34th national games 2011. The game is spreading all over India states like Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan have standardized bowling green with young talents joining the competitive sport.

References

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http://bowlsindia.com/index.htm

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Fig 1

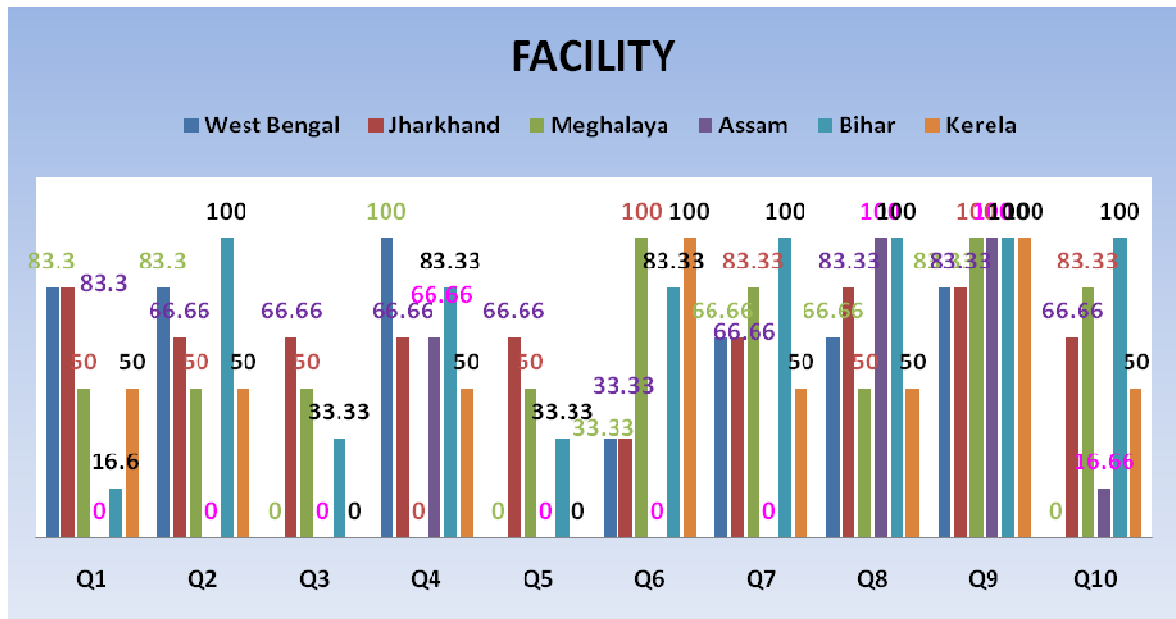


Table 1
 Percentage Response on Facilities for Lawn Bowls available in Selected States of India

Responses (in %)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	
W.B.	Yes	83.33	83.33	0	100	0	33.33	66.66	66.66	83.33	0
	No	16.6	16.6	100	0	100	66.66	33.33	33.33	16.66	100
JKHD	Yes	83.3	66.66	66.66	66.66	66.66	33.33	66.66	83.33	83.33	66.66
	No	16.6	33.33	33.33	33.33	33.33	66.66	33.33	16.33	16.66	33.33
MGH	Yes	50	50	16.66	0	50	100	83.33	50	100	83.33
	No	50	50	83.33	100	50	0	16.33	50	0	16.66
ASM	Yes	0	0	0	66.66	0	0	0	100	100	16.66
	No	100	100	100	33.33	100	100	100	0	0	83.33
BHR	Yes	16.6	100	33.33	83.33	33.33	83.33	100	100	100	100
	No	83.33	0	66.66	16.66	66.66	16.66	0	0	0	0
KRL	Yes	50	50	0	50	0	100	50	50	100	50
	No	50	50	100	50	100	0	50	50	0	50

Note: No. of Subjects = 36 (6 from each continuum respectively)

Where: W.B. =West Bengal , MGH= Meghalaya, ASM= Assam, BHR= Bihar, KRL= Kerala

Fig:2

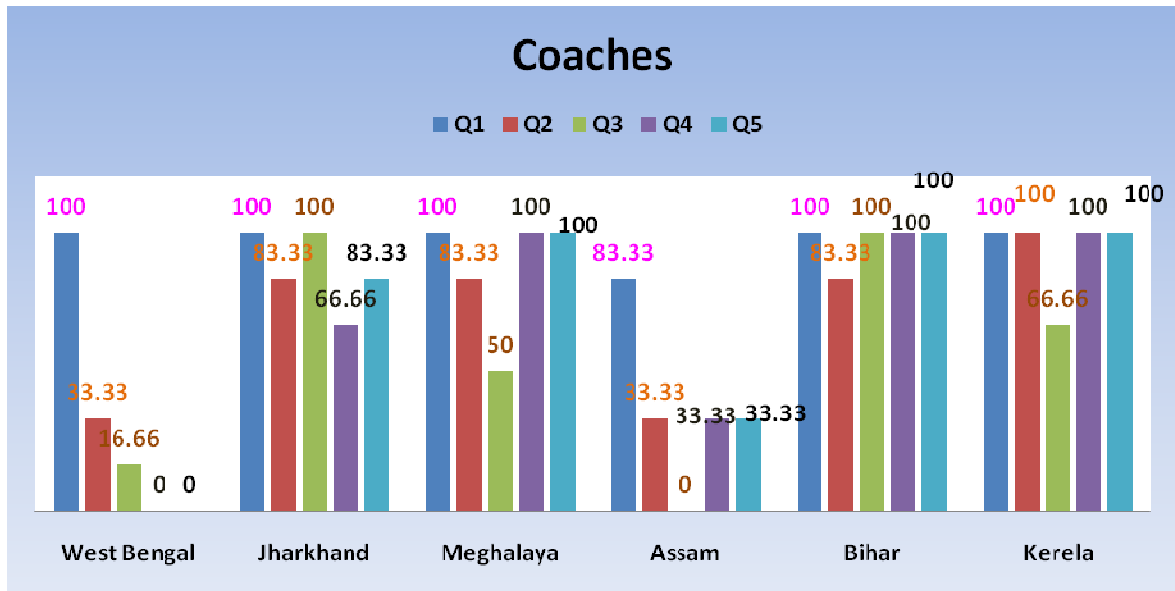


Table 2
 Percentage Response on Coaches for Lawn Bowls available in Selected States of India

Responses (in %)		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6
W.B.	Yes	100	33.3	16.66	0	0	100
	No	0	66.6	83.33	100	100	0
JKHD	Yes	100	83.33	100	66.66	83.33	100
	No	0	16.66	0	33.33	16.66	0
MGH	Yes	100	83.33	50	100	100	100
	No	0	16.66	50	0	0	0
ASM	Yes	83.33	33.33	0	33.33	33.33	100
	No	16.66	66.66	100	66.66	66.66	0
BHR	Yes	100	83.33	100	100	100	100
	No	0	16.66	0	0	0	0
KRL	Yes	100	100	66.66	100	100	100
	No	0	0	33.33	0	0	0

Note: No. of Subjects = 36 (6 from each continuum respectively)

Where: W.B. =West Bengal, MGH= Meghalaya, ASM= Assam, BHR= Bihar, KRL= Kerala

Fig 3

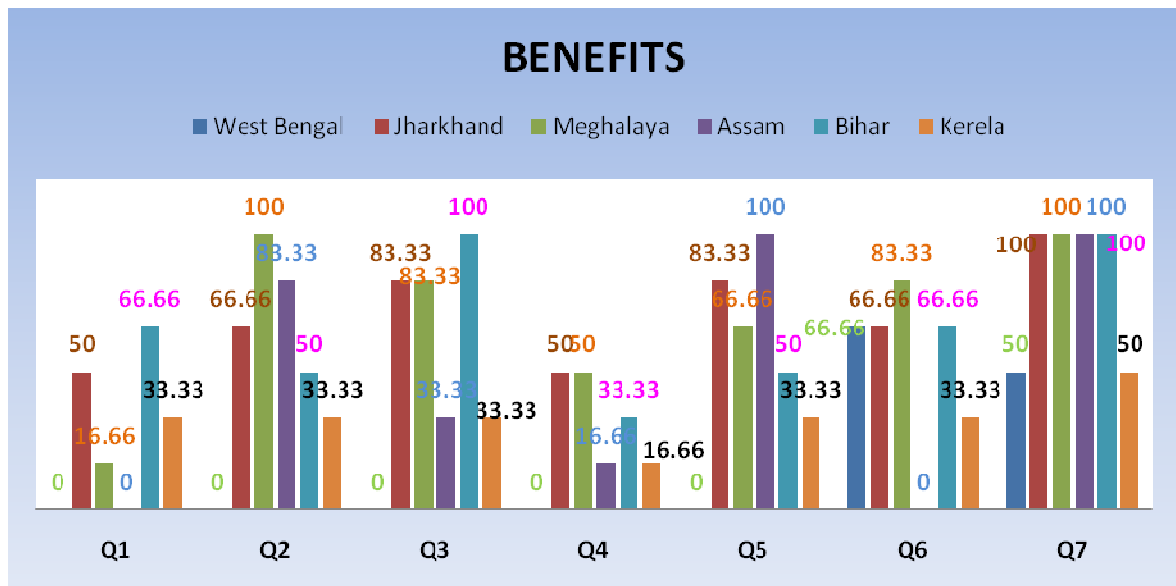


Table 3
 Percentage Response on Benefits for Lawn Bowls available in Selected States of India

Responses (in %)		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
W.B.	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	66.66	50
	No	100	100	100	100	100	33.33	50
JKHD	Yes	50	66.66	83.33	50	83.33	66.66	100
	No	50	33.33	16.66	50	16.66	33.33	0
MGH	Yes	16.66	100	83.33	50	66.66	83.33	100
	No	83.33	0	16.66	50	33.33	16.66	0
ASM	Yes	0	83.33	33.33	16.66	100	0	100
	No	100	16.66	66.66	83.33	0	100	0
BHR	Yes	66.6	50	100	33.33	50	66.66	100
	No	33.33	50	0	66.66	50	33.33	0
KRL	Yes	33.33	33.33	33.33	16.66	33.33	33.33	100
	No	66.66	66.66	66.66	83.33	66.66	66.66	0

Note: No. of Subjects = 36 (6 from each continuum respectively)

Where: W.B. =West Bengal , MGH= Meghalaya, ASM= Assam, BHR= Bihar, KRL= Kerala

Fig 4

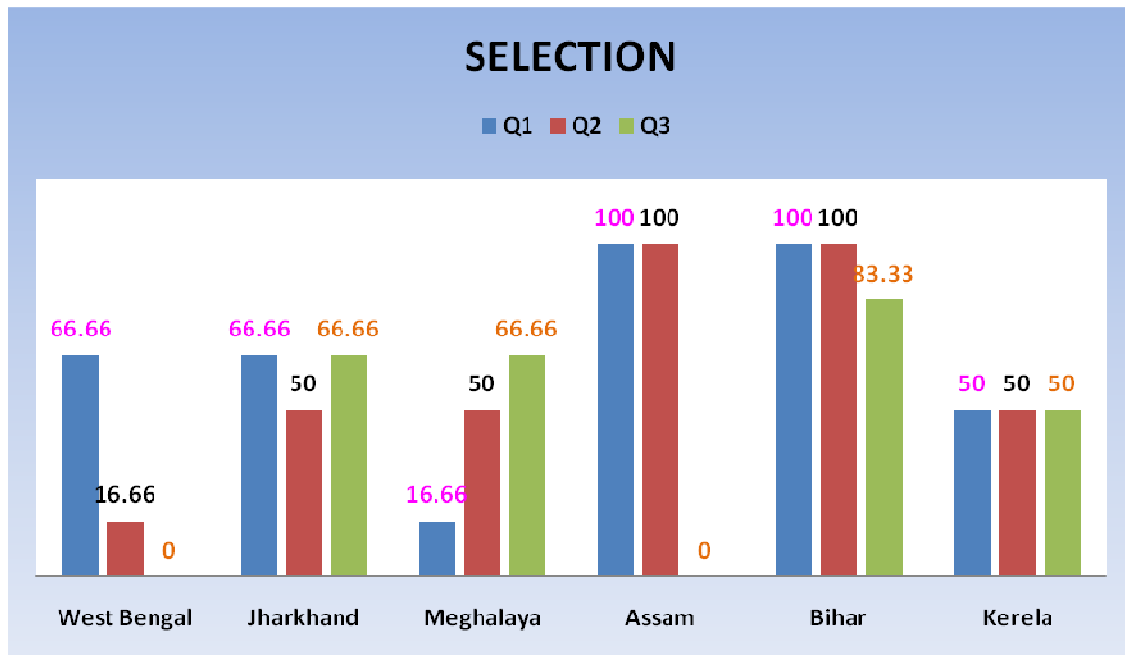


Table 4
 Percentage Response on Selection for Lawn Bowls available in Selected States of India

Responses (in %)		Q1	Q2	Q3
W.B.	Yes	66.66	16.66	0
	No	33.33	83.33	100
JKHD	Yes	66.66	50	66.66
	No	33.33	50	33.33
MGH	Yes	16.66	50	66.66
	No	83.33	50	33.33
ASM	Yes	100	100	0
	No	0	0	100
BHR	Yes	100	100	83.33
	No	0	0	16.66
KRL	Yes	50	50	50
	No	50	50	50

Note: No. of Subjects = 36 (6 from each continuum respectively)

Where: W.B. =West Bengal , MGH= Meghalaya, ASM= Assam, BHR= Bihar, KRL= Kerala

Fig 5

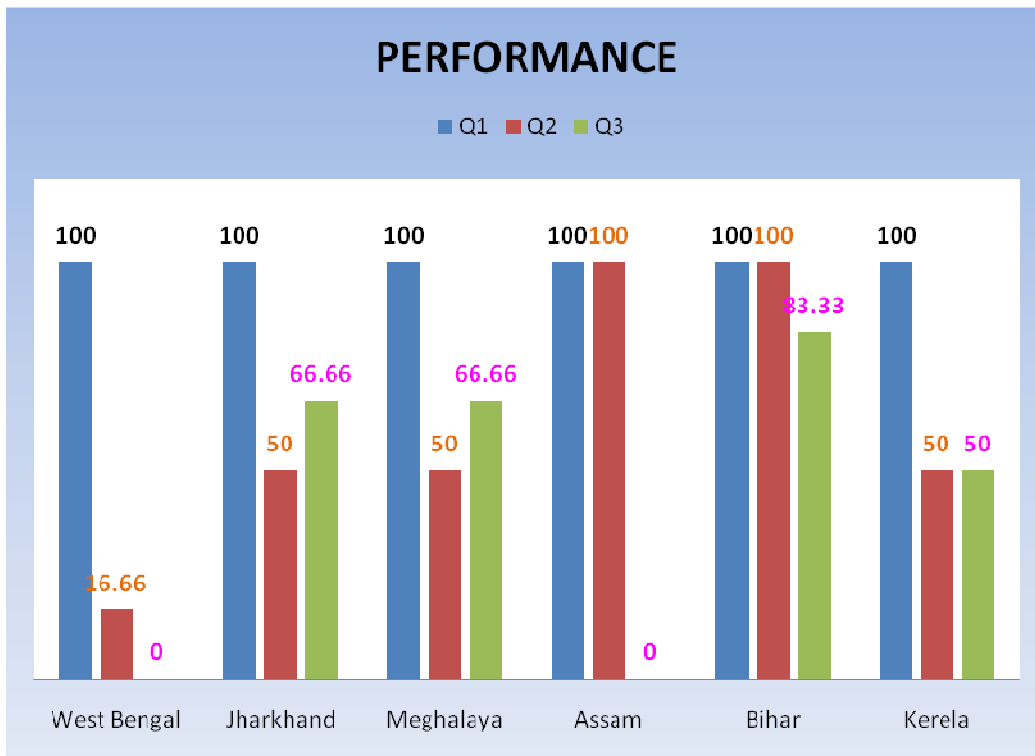


Table 5
 Percentage Response on Performance for Lawn Bowls available in Selected States of India

Responses (in %)		Q1	Q2	Q3
W.B.	Yes	100	16.66	0
	No	0	83.33	100
JKHD	Yes	100	50	66.66
	No	0	50	33.33
MGH	Yes	100	50	66.66
	No	0	50	33.33
ASM	Yes	100	100	0
	No	0	0	100
BHR	Yes	100	100	83.33
	No	0	0	16.66
KRL	Yes	100	50	50
	No	0	50	50

Note: No. of Subjects = 36 (6 from each continuum respectively)

Where: W.B. =West Bengal , MGH= Meghalaya, ASM= Assam, BHR= Bihar, KRL= Kerala

Fig 6

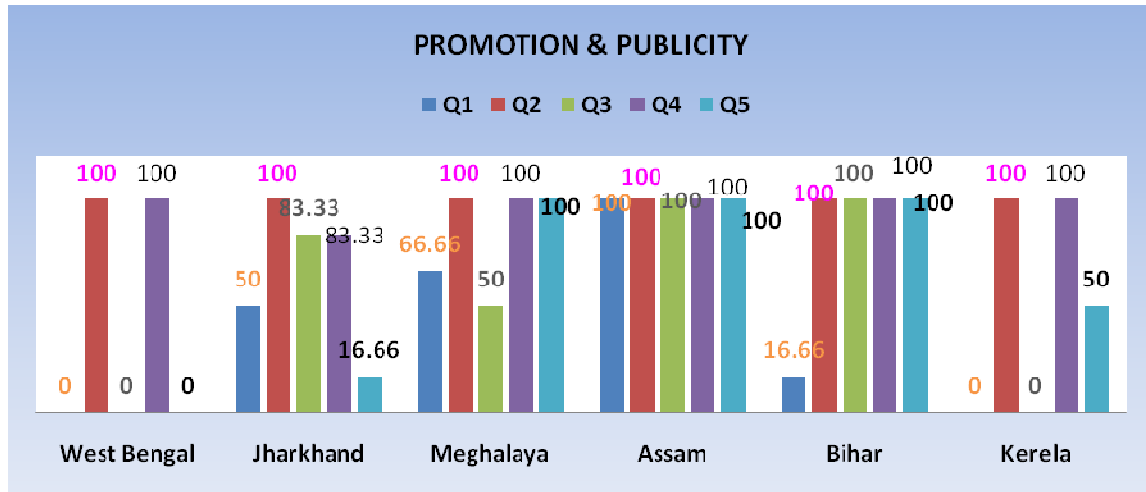


Table 6

Percentage Response on Promotion & Publicity for Lawn Bowls available in Selected States of India

Responses (in %)		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
W.B.	Yes	0	100	0	100	0
	No	100	0	100	0	100
JKHD	Yes	50	100	83.33	83.33	16.66
	No	50	0	16.66	16.66	83.33
MGH	Yes	66.66	100	50	100	100
	No	33.33	0	50	0	0
ASM	Yes	100	100	100	100	100
	No	0	0	0	0	0
BHR	Yes	16.6	100	100	100	100
	No	83.33	0	0	0	0
KRL	Yes	0	100	0	100	50
	No	100	0	100	0	50

Note: No. of Subjects = 36 (6 from each continuum respectively) Where: W.B. = West Bengal, MGH = Meghalaya, ASM = Assam, BHR = Bihar, KRL = Kerala

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