Personality Profile on Nigerian Male Table Tennis Players

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Abstract

In this study, the personality profile of Nigeria male Table Tennis player was carried out with two instruments. A personal proforma and the Cattel 16PF form A. consisting of 187 items. The standard key of Cattel 16PF was used in scoring the test items. The sample subject involved in the study were 48 males comprising 24 Table Tennis players, and 24 non-athletes, which served as controlled with age range of 16 – 25 years with mean age of (20.5) years.The mean, standard deviation and the t-test statistical methods were used in analyzing the data. Table Tennis players differed from non-athletes on four measures of the 16PF namely: I, M, N and Q2. Table Tennis players were found to be tough-minded, conventional, self-motivated and temperamentally independent while non-athletes were found to be polished. The study therefore, concluded that significant differences existed between Table Tennis players and non-athletes on some personality characteristics.

Introduction

Personality variables have been identified as an important predictor in the performance of elite athletes. Thus, Ikulayo (1990) asserted that the aspects of personality which are of interest to sports psychology is the distinction between field dependent and field independent and also between introverts and extroverts in order to determine (i) their appropriate position placement in term of sport and (ii) their chance of winning and losing in dual, team and individual sports.

While Allport (1961) defined personality as the dynamic organization within the individual of those psycholo-physical systems that determine his characteristics behavior including his thought process.

However, there had been divergent views from various authors about the usefulness of personality tests as exploration of difference in behavior of sportsmen and women. Foster (1977) in a study of personality variables among successful and unsuccessful male high school athletes, concluded that the 16PF was effective in differentiating these two groups of athletes, although he did not list the different personality factors that showed differences between the groups studied. Similarly, O'Connor and Webb (1976) asserted that there is a general agreement that male athletes are more emotionally stable, aggressive, outgoing less anxious and were self-controlled when they are generally compared to set of norms. Mohammed (1981) used Cattle 16PF on sportsmen and non-sportsmen and found significant differences in personality profiles of the sportsmen and non-sportsmen.

Morgan, 1980 and Singer (1986) argued that athlete from various sub-groups possess different personality structures. Application of psychological methods to groups will probably be as ineffective as the prescription of medicine on group basis. Singer (1986) remarked further that each sport is unique and that each makes special demands on athletes as such psychological approaches associated with proficiency in each sport must be identified.

Zuckerman (1985) said the extrovert is someone with a strong need for excitement (i.e. sensation seeking) and that he is inclined to seek bodily sensation, activity and adventure and that he is one who reacts impulsively in what he describes as a non-conformist way and displays little anxiety. On the basis of the "typing", it is believed that ore extroverted people will be found amongst athletes. While Howard (1976), in a research work into the relationship between selected variables of personality and leisure activity preferences utilizing Multivariate statistical procedures. The personality research form basis on Murray's Need-Press Theory which measure 14 personality needs relevant to a wide variety of human functioning and the leisure activity preferences. As the researcher put it, the results give support to the notion that different leisure activities appear to attract person's with different needs. The implication is probably that variables of personality consideration increased the probability of correctly predicting leisure activity preferences.

Anshell (1990) said in most instances and especially at the elite level that studies indicated that success in football requires extensive tenacity to overcome the skill and effect of opponents, to tolerate injuries, and to maintain a vigorous conditioning programme for successful participation. This probably is due to the physical nature of the game. Therefore high quality players must maintain high self-confidence. Eh went furthermore to say specifically that "similarly, boxers and football athletes whose commitment to excellence and whose pin threshold are high, but whose tolerance for failure is low, the chance of being successful increased measurably" (p.20).

Dowd and Innes (1981) used the Cattel 16PF and found significant differences between squash and

Table Tennis players and between high and average level competitors. Their analysis showed differences at high-levels of participation which suggest that those who by special enthusiasm, drive and ability have moved to positions of success may be identifiable as having a common constellation of personality characteristics. While some personality studies distinguish clearly between sports personality traits and others not involved in sports for instance Rushall (1968: 1976) found no consistent personality change in tract and field, football and swimming over three years period of study. This probably imply that there might not be any personality trait differences between athletes across sport. Similarly, Amusa and Udoh (1993) found no significant differences in personality traits between athletes and non-athletes on measure of Cattel 16PF.

Purpose of Study
The purpose of this study therefore was to establish the personality characteristics of Nigerian Male Table Tennis Players.

Method
A total of 48 subjects comprising 24 male Table Tennis players and 24 non-players, non-athletes participated in the study. The athletes were drawn by means of a stratified random sampling techniques from the Teslim Balogun Hostel, Surulere, Lagos. All the subjects has presented either a state of the national level or the country at an international competition.

It was therefore, hypothesized that there will be no significant differences in personality characteristics between Table Tennis players and the non-athletes who were similarly drawn by means of stratified random sampling from Lagos.

The age range of all subjects was 16 – 25 years (means 20.5). The players and non-players were all matched in sex, age and educational qualifications.

Instruments
Two instruments were used for data collection:
a. **Biographical Data Questionnaire**
    An eleven item instrument mainly for the collection of personal data proforma of subjects educational qualification, occupation, length and level of period of participation in sports among others, developed by the researcher.
b. **Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (16PF)**
    Constructed by Cattel (1980) for subjects aged 16 years and above to measure 16 different personality factors. It has parallel form A. B. C. and D out of which form A containing 187 items was used.

Procedure
The two instruments were administered on the subjects individually by the investigations. The instructions on the test forms were followed by the subjects in completing the forms.
The order of administration was as follows:
1. Biographical Data Questionnaire
2. Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire

Scoring of Test
The test was scored with the standard key provided by the publisher of the test. The data were analyzed using the mean, standard deviation and the t-test statistical methods.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores for Subjects

Measures	Table Tennis Players No. 24		Non-Athletes No. 24	
	X	SD	X	SD
A	6.21	2.08	5.93	1.72
B	4.70	1.85	4.33	1.74
C	5.42	1.78	4.86	1.67
E	5.98	2.06	5.20	1.67
F	3.62	1.38	3.68	1.37
G	6.63	1.47	6.58	1.56
H	6.04	1.30	5.27	1.62
I	4.72	1.58	6.38	1.14
L	6.75	1.02	6.37	1.81
M	6.00	1.56	4.93	1.03
N	6.33	2.18	7.80	1.92
O	5.38	1.58	6.16	1.58
Q_1	5.54	1.44	5.47	1.75
Q_2	5.21	1.03	5.06	1.29
Q_3	6.04	1.57	5.91	1.87
Q_4	4.92	1.82	5.11	1.51

Result on Table 1 indicates that male Table Tennis players scored higher than the non-Table Tennis players/non-athletes on 10 measures on the 16PF. While non-Table Tennis players/non-athletes scored higher on 6 measures of the instrument. Thus the result showed Table Tennis players to be more outgoing, emotionally stable, suspiciousness, imaginative, experimenting and self-controlled. On the other hand non-athletes were found to be more "Happy-Go-Lucky", venturesome, tender-minded, astute, appreciative and self-sufficient.

Table 2:   Summary of t-test comparing Mean Score of Table Tennis Players and Non-Athletes

Measures	Table Tennis Players No. 24		Non-Athletes No. 24		
	X	SD	X	SD	t
A	6.21	2.08	5.93	1.72	0.48
B	4.70	1.85	4.33	1.74	0.45
C	5.42	1.78	4.86	1.67	1.12
E	5.98	2.06	5.20	1.67	1.32
F	3.62	1.38	3.68	1.37	-0.13
G	6.63	1.47	6.58	1.56	0.11
H	6.04	1.30	5.27	1.62	1.75
I	4.72	1.58	6.38	1.14	3.38*
L	6.75	1.02	6.37	1.81	0.90
M	6.00	1.56	4.93	1.03	2.89*
N	6.33	2.18	7.80	1.92	2.49*
O	5.38	1.58	6.16	1.58	1.73
Q_1	5.54	1.44	5.47	1.75	0.15
Q_2	5.21	1.03	5.06	1.29	3.48*
Q_3	6.04	1.57	5.91	1.87	0.26
Q_4	4.92	1.82	5.11	1.51	0.40

No = 48

*   Significant at $P < 0.5$

No.   =   48

df   =   46

t – critical 2.01

Table 2 shows that significant differences occurred between Table Tennis players and non-athletes on factors, I, M, N, and Q_2. Showing that Table Tennis player were tough-minded, conventional, self-motivated, conserved with essentials. They tend to be naturally warm and thus have a genuine liking for people. They were

furthermore found to be temperamentally independent while non-athletes on the other hand were found to be polished.

The finds of the study is in agreement with those of (Foster, 1977; Mohammed, 1981; Dowd and Innes, 1981). While on the other hand contradicts the work of Rushall (1968; 1976) and Amusa and Udoh, 1993 who found no significant differences in the personality characteristics of athletes and non-athletes.

Conclusion

The study therefore concluded that there are significant differences between male Table Tennis players and non-athletes on some measures of personality characteristics.

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