



## Sports Sense of Community among Adolescent Athletes in India

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### Article Info

### Abstract

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McMillan & Chavis (1986) defined “Sense of community is a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members’ needs will be met through their commitment to be together”. The aim of the study was to measure the status of sports sense of community among adolescent athletes in India. A population of 215 Indian adolescent athletes, 126 male and 89 females voluntarily participated in this study. To measure sports sense of community among adolescent sports persons, “Sport Sense of Community in Adolescence Questionnaire” (SSCAQ) constructed by Silvia, et al.,(2017) was used. The mean scores indicate that, the participants scores were ranged between 75.02 to 80.2 percentages of the maximum possible score in all five variables of SSCAQ. Moreover, the dimension of athlete’s emotional connection with peers was lowest among international athletes and high among state/ inters collegiate athletes. All other variables, no differences were observed at gender, sport and level of participation

### Introduction

The sense of community (*SoC*) is one among the earliest themes of concern within the community psychology field, and it is also one of the core concepts. The concept of a SOC comes from expounding of a sense of community and place by western scholars. The concept of a sense of community was first proposed by Sarason (1974), who believes that it is a feeling formed during the interaction between humans and the environment specific. In other words, it is a feeling similar to others, a

recognized interdependence, a kind of giving others what they need in order to maintain this dependence, willingness and trust. The core idea of this definition includes that individual cannot exist without the organization network, especially when people perceive the existence of their own community.

The most used theories in the field of community psychology are from the work of McMillan and Chavis (1986). They quipped, the sense of community (SOC) as “an emotion that members have of belonging, a feeling that

members matter to each other and to the group, and a mutual belief that members' needs will be met through matter to each other and to the group, and a mutual belief that members' requirements will be met through their commitment to be together". They also opined that SOC develops by the interaction of 4 fundamentals: membership, influence, needs fulfilment, and a mutual emotional connection. Membership may be referred to as the broad feeling that one belongs as part of group. "Sense of Community (SoC) may be referred to the cohesive and motivational force that acts within a community, promote wellbeing, and the subjective perception of a social network as a form of support" (McMillan, 2011).

Schimmel, K.S. (2003) propose that sports can bring people from different backgrounds together to build a common community, in which people embrace some common interests have given birth to a sense of community. The sense of community here is the sense of community of sports, which is a kind of reflection of sports members to the community".

"Sports administration researchers have conclude that the sense of community partition by incorporating the idea with adapted measures from different fields —mostly, the educational. The scales from the instruction and community psychology research are for sure not based on the sport experience. Subsequently, the advancement of a sport specific scale ought to give more insight for sport administrators. Accordingly, measures not grounded in sport would distance significant highlights of game that define community, and the genuine effect of feeling of community may not be completely captured" (Stacy, Shannon and Matthew, 2013). SOC refers to the basic human phenomenon of shared experience, and it has been under study in a diversity of context, at this point it has been tried in Indian sports condition. The purpose of the study was to measure the status of sport sense of community in adolescence athletes in India

## Materials and Method

### Participants

Sample of 215 Indian adolescent athletes, 126 male and 89 female's voluntary participated in this study. The sample comprised of athletes who fall between the age 15 and 25 who participated at least in international and national

level sport competitions with minimum 5 years of training age and practiced at least eight hours per week. Participants of sample (M) age = 19.96, SD = 2.01 with total years of practice M = 15.9, (SD = 10.54). In sport wise, there were 43 athletes, 71 basketball and 101 football players. Among them 8 participated at international level, 91 at national/inter university and 116 played state/Inter collegiate level. Participants completed a self-report online Google forms comprising demographic information (age, gender, level of participation, duration of practice in year and hours of training per week) and the latest edition of the SSCAQ.

### Instrumentation

To assess sports sense of community among adolescent sports persons, "Sport Sense of Community in Adolescence Questionnaire" (SSCAQ) constructed by Silvia, et al., (2017) was used. Final version of the SSCAQ assuming a 5-factor structure: Satisfaction of Needs (QN: 1-4); Emotional connection with peers ECP (QN: 5-8) =; OI (QN 9-11) = Opportunities for influence; ECC (QN:12-15) = Emotional connection in the community; SB (QN:16-19) = Sense of belonging. The 5 factors, 19- point hierarchical model has given convincingly good fit to the data of the validation sample. All path coefficients leading from latent variables to manifest variables (SSCAQ items) were significant. The responses were recorded in 5-point Likert scale.

### Results and Discussion

The descriptive statistics of the selected variables of the study presented in Table 1 shows that, the means of the SSCQ variables, Satisfaction of needs was 3.983 (SD = 0.854), it was 79.66% of the maximum score, likewise in Emotional connection with peers was 3.751 (SD = 0.815) was the lowest percentage of maximum score 75.02, Opportunities for influence was 3.901 (SD = 0.834), Emotional connection in the community was 3.751 (SD = 0.815) and Sense of belonging was 4.010 (SD = 0.921) with the highest mean score which was equal to 80.2% of the maximum possible score. The mean scores indicate that the participants mean scores were ranged between 75.02 to 80.2 percentages of the maximum possible score in all the selected variables.



**Table 1.**  
**Descriptive statistics SSCQ variables of participants with different level of participation**

Variables	International	National/ Inter University	State/ Inter Collegiate	Total Mean	SD
Satisfaction of needs	3.500	4.044	3.968	3.983	0.854
Emotional connection with peers	3.000	3.717	3.830	3.751	0.815
Opportunities for influence	3.792	3.927	3.888	3.901	0.834
Emotional connection in the community	3.813	3.761	3.886	3.751	0.815
Sense of belonging	3.969	3.956	4.056	4.010	0.921

Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) was performed in order to find out the differences between gender, sports, the level of participation and type of association they belong to. The results show that, only in the grouping variable,

level of participation having significant the overall effect between groups  $F(18, 196) = 2.679$ ,  $p < .001$ ; Wilk's  $\Lambda = 0.873$  and partial  $\eta^2 = .093$  score indicates a medium effect.

**Table 2. Level of participation - tests of between-subjects effects**

Variables	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Satisfaction of needs	3.004	2	1.502	2.200	0.114	0.026
Emotional connection with peers	7.725	2	3.863	5.983	0.003*	0.069
Opportunities for influence	1.197	2	0.599	0.783	0.459	0.010
Emotional connection in the community	4.014	2	2.007	2.789	0.064	0.033
Sense of belonging	5.128	2	2.564	3.180	0.044*	0.038

\*Significant at 0.05 level

See from above table that level of participation has a statistically significant effect on selected sports sense of community variables, in Emotional connection with peers ( $F(2, 212) =$

$5.983$ ;  $p < .003$ ) partial  $\eta^2 = .069$  with medium effect size and Sense of belonging ( $F(2, 212) = 3.180$ ;  $p < .044$ ) with partial  $\eta^2 = .038$  shows only a small effect.

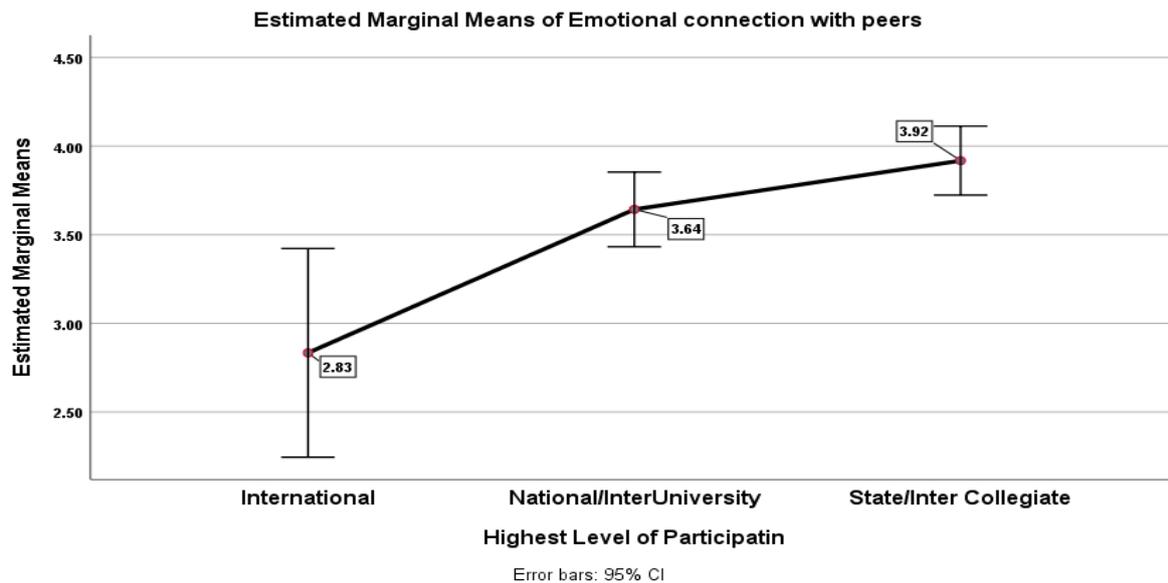
**Table 3. Bonferroni - Multiple Comparisons of Dependent Variable Emotional connection with peers**

Level of Participation		Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
International 3.000	National/Inter University	-.717*	0.288	0.041
	State/Inter Collegiate	-.830*	0.286	0.012
National/Inter University 3.717	International	.717*	0.288	0.041
	State/Inter Collegiate	-0.113	0.109	0.914
State/Inter Collegiate 3.830	International	.830*	0.286	0.012
	National/Inter University	0.113	0.109	0.914

\*Significant at 0.05 level

The results show that there is a significant difference that exists between international and national/ inter-university participants ( $MD = -.717$ ), between international with State/Inter university-level participants ( $MD = -.830$ ) in

emotional connection with peers. But in the case of the variable sense of belonging, the post-hoc test does not show any groups with significant differences.



**Figure 1. Estimated marginal means of SSOC variable Emotional connection with peers**

### Discussion

Sense of Community (SoC) alludes to the cohesive and inspirational power acting inside a community, advancing wellbeing, and the abstract impression of a social network as a type of support (McMillan, 2011). In research about sport SoC, the element of impact is specific for the reference bunch: for the debilitated competitors of Goodwin and associates (for example Goodwin et al., 2009), this measurement alluded to the subject of a more grounded self. For the school competitors of Warner and partners (e.g., Warner, et al., 2013), this measurement could be viewed as the chance to take leadership jobs. Since youth has been displayed to profit in myriad ways from an expanded feeling of local area, sport is frequently advocated to enhance personal and local area advancement (Warner and Dixon, 2011). Game develops a sense of having a place and makes bonds past the games field. Inside a team, everyone has a particular task to carry out and is perceived and regarded for that sports training also helps to develop discipline in an individual. In the current examination, the element of competitor's passionate association with peers was most reduced in worldwide competitors and high among state/intercollegiate competitors. For any remaining factors, no distinctions were seen in sex, game and level of interest. The mean scores show that the members' scores were run between 75.02 to 80.2 rates of the most extreme conceivable score in every one of the five

factors in SSCAQ. Peer group connections give a special setting where competitor gain proficiency with critical social-emotional skills, such as empathy, cooperation, and problem-solving strategies, but in athletes in national camps, chances for this context may be lesser in comparison to other groups. The requirement for relatedness is by all accounts happy with a feeling of having a place and imparted passionate association with peers. "Another vital component concerns the emotional association locally. In traditional creation, this dimension alludes to the emotional attachment among the community inmates. In the event that the solid association among peers was affirmed as a fundamental point for teenager competitors. Competitors who experience a solid SoC will be more fulfilled and internally motivated to proceed with the game" (Silvia, 2017). "Sport naturally makes a sense of community and belonging and in doing so propel the game administration and improve the game insight for members" (Kuhn, 1996). "As per the recent discovery, people in this life stage might be more receptive to managerial thought and administration openings. Consequently, these variables helped outline their SOC by establishing a climate that led to these competitors feeling of belonging and attachment" (Warner and Dixon, 2011). In spite of these outcomes, recent researches has demonstrated that companion support is especially imperative during different stages of life" (Hirsch, 1980), which the participants

would have been going through as they enter a college atmosphere and likely started living all alone for the first time. Consequently, this may clarify the significance of the members put on social spaces for building SOC, where this fundamental friend support was found. Through understanding the distinctive highlights of a sports community, this study enhances current belief about community building and the way sport is viewed. From a hypothetical point of view, the information upheld that gender differences exist in how SOC is formed. Subsequently, Pretty and McCarthy's (1991) proposal (i.e., contest would conceivably make SOC for men, while it would take away from SOC for ladies) was upheld (Warner and Dixon, 2011). The outcomes got from this investigation additionally shows that no sex contrasts exist among competitors in India. The gender contrasts that were uncovered in different examinations should fill in as an auspice for future request on SOC inside different Indian athletic settings. The gender contrasts with respect to rivalry that was noted (Warner and Dixon, 2011) should be additionally investigated by sport heads and specialists who desire to see more people receive the rewards of encountering SOC by means of game.

### Conclusion

This research provides initial results on the perspectives of Indian athletic fraternity in the sports sense of community, and the dimension of the build that evolved from the study seems appealing for future advancements in the academic conceptualization of sports SoC in adolescence. This study provided the initial steps in understanding the level of Sport Sense of Community and when Sense of Community develops in a sport circumstance; though, the results cannot be generalized past the sample represented in the study. Upcoming research must confirm the study's outcome through further broadband designs. It's further recommended that more research be conducted in various sports context to discover the definite characteristics of Sport Sense of Community that might be present in that scenario. Studies like this would permit for comparison among different sport contexts and would possibly disclose several strange characteristics of sports that affect community. This information would

potentially support sport managers in designing and maintaining sport communities.

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