Understanding the Difference of Social Intelligence Among the Handball and Kabaddi Players in Iraq

Merajuddin Faridi[1], Saif Ali Jaddoa[2]

[1]Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India
[2]Research Scholar, Department of Physical Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

Abstract

This study aimed to explore the social intelligence of the Handball and Kabaddi players in Iraq through a descriptive study design. The researcher used the social intelligence scale developed and standardized by Silvera in 2001. The scale covers the eight dimensions of social intelligence: patience, cooperation, level of trust, sensitivity, recognition of social environment, tact, sense of humor, and memory. The method of sampling in the research was random. The sample in this study amounted to 250 players from clubs and universities in Iraq. The researcher used the statistical program (SPSS), using statistical methods of descriptive statistics and t-test, for analyzing and interpreting the data. The study results conclude that there is no significant difference in the social intelligence of Handball and Kabaddi players in Iraq. They possess a similar kind of patience, cooperation, level of trust, sensitivity, recognition of social environment, tact, sense of humor, and memory. This could be due to identical socioeconomic, geopolitical, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Further study is required to explore Social intelligence and other factors like employment opportunities, socioeconomic status, variety of educational institutions, and playing opportunities for other sports players in Iraq.

Keywords: Social intelligence; players in Iraq; Handball in Iraq; Kabaddi in Iraq; social intelligence of players

Introduction

Social intelligence is a player's ability to understand and manage interpersonal relationships. It is distinct from a player's IQ or "book smarts." It includes an individual's ability to understand and act on other people's feelings, thoughts, and behaviors. This type of intelligence can take place "in the moment" of face-to-face conversations but also appears during times of deliberate thinking. It involves emotional intelligence and self-awareness. Examples of social intelligence include knowing when to talk or listen, what to say, and what to do. Timing is a big part of social intelligence. For example, someone imperceptive may tell a funny joke at the wrong time or need to show more interest when meeting someone new**(Albrecht, 2006a).**

Why does it matter?
Social intelligence helps players build relationships – and is essential to numerous aspects of a player's life. It allows an individual to form friendships and alliances. And it assists a person against being taken advantage of. People with social intelligence can "read" other people's faces and know what motivates them. Social intelligence builds over time and as a person ages. In this sense, it is similar to the character strength of perspective. Social intelligence allows us to function as humans on a group level. We are

social beings and rely on each other's cooperation. By understanding ourselves and other people, we can find ways to collaborate for mutual benefit. Strong leaders often possess social intelligence in abundance. To motivate people, leaders must form relationships and inspire others to want to do what needs to be done (**Albrecht, 2006b).**

Our contemporary world has witnessed a real revolution in the field of sports, recorded by the achievements and tournaments seen by the stadiums and halls of the world until the countries compete to organize international tournaments and prepare their athletes and allocate a lot of money for this field, as this field represents the most segment of societies to achieve the goals that transcend it. Research and studies have played a fundamental role in developing the sports movement through the studies that many researchers have done, including studies on sports training and athletic achievement. In recent times, the work that occupies the coaches and all those in the sports field is the studies that contribute to sports training and psychology(**Salman & Hussein**)(**Faridi et al., 2022**). Handball is among these fields that have attracted many researchers in psychology and sports training. Many researchers have tried to study the psychological aspects of Handball and Kabaddi in Iraq **(Faridi et al., 2022).** Still**,** the social intelligence of Handball and Kabaddi players has not been studied.The importance of research has emerged in exploring the new reality of these requirements by modern practical methods. Therefore the researchers wanted to study the social intelligence of the Handball and Kabaddi players in Iraq.

Methodology

A descriptive study lets us know the status of a phenomenon **(Wani&Faridi, 2022)**. Hence a descriptive study was designed to study the social intelligence of kabaddi and handball players in Iraq. The researcher used the social intelligence scale developed and standardized by Silvera in 2001. The scale covers the eight dimensions of social intelligence: patience, cooperation, level of trust, sensitivity, recognition of social environment, tact, sense of humor, and memory. The method of sampling in the research was random. The sample in this study amounted to 250 players from clubs and universities in Iraq. The players were contacted through coaches and assistant coaches in the clubs and university professors for the year 2021 in ALQadisiya and Basra Governorate through daily exercises in sports clubs for Kabaddi and handball. And through lectures during the attendance period for students in universities because in these universities, the days of attendance are limited due to the preventive measures from the Coronavirus pandemic. Before starting the research, the researcher was keen on extraneous changes that are believed to impact the study results to maintain the integrity of the design and the accuracy of the results.

The researcher used the statistical program (SPSS), using three statistical methods: descriptive statistics and t-test, for analyzing and interpreting the data.

Results and Discussion

The descriptive statistics of Social intelligence are depicted in table 1. An Independent sample t-test among handball and kabaddi players regarding social intelligence has been shown in table 2. The researcher has also attempted to draw a diagram in figure 1 regarding the mean levels of Social intelligence of handball and kabaddi players.

Table 1

NO	Game		Statistic	Std. Error
1	Handball	Mean	1.37	.00768
		Std. Deviation	.085	
		Minimum	1.16	
		Maximum	1.58	
		Skewness	-.005	.217
		Kurtosis	-.25	.430
2	Kabaddi	Mean	1.36	.00800
		Std. Deviation	.089	
		Minimum	1.16	
		Maximum	1.59	
		Skewness	-.002	.21
		Kurtosis	-.348	.43

Table1 highlights the descriptive of the population for social intelligence among the handball and kabaddi players of Iraq. The first column of the table under the title game shows the name of the game i,e, Handball, and Kabaddi. The second column of the table shows the characteristics of the population in terms of mean, standard deviation, minimum, maximum, skewness, and kurtosis. Column third of the table shows the statistic of the characteristics, and column fourth indicates the standard error of the population. The present study was conducted on 165 participants. Out of the 165 participants who participated in the survey, 125 (75.75%) completed the scales used in the study, forming the final sample used in the analysis. The participants ranged in the age group of 18 - 28. The mean and standard deviation was computed for the sample (N= 125). The mean of the variable Social intelligence for the kabaddi players was 1.37with a standard deviation of 0.08.The mean of the variable socioeconomic status for the players of handball was found to be 1.36, with a standard deviation of 0.08.

Table 2 shows the t-test for the Social Intelligence of handball and kabaddi players

NO	Game	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	Df	Sig. (2tailed)	95%Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Upper	Lower
1	Handball	125	1.36	.089	-.18	248	.85	-.02	.01
2	Kabaddi	125	1.37	08.	-.18		.85	-.02	.01

The output from table 2 indicates that the mean for handball is 1.36and for Kabaddi is 1.37. looking at the standard deviation column, we can see that they are not exactly equal, but they are close enough to assume equal variances.Because the p-value (0.85) for our independent samples t-test is greater than the standard significance level of 0.05 (p > 0.05), we cannot reject the null hypothesis. Our sample data support the claim that the population means are equal. It is quite evident from table 4.3.3 that the mean score of Kabaddi is greater than the mean scores of handball and found insignificant. It shows no significant difference in social intelligence between handball and kabaddi players.

Figure 1

Graphical representation of social intelligence for handball and kabaddi players
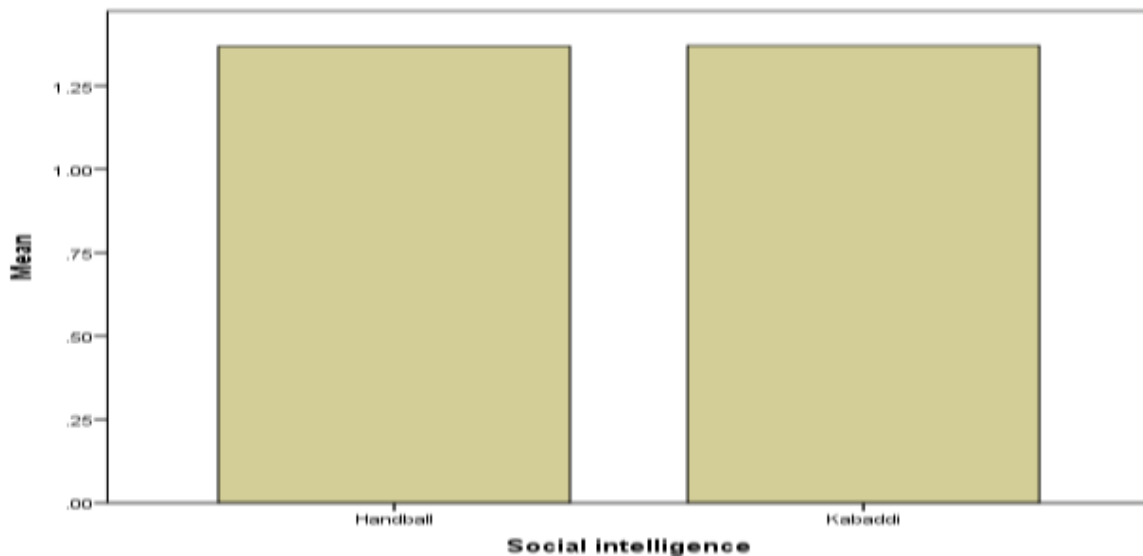
Figure 1 depicts the mean levels of social intelligence for handball and kabaddi players. The analysis and interpretation of the graphical depiction show that kabaddi players possessed higher levels of social intelligence than handball players but were not significantly different.

Conclusion

the study concludes that there is no significant difference in the social intelligence of Handball and Kabaddi players. They possess a similar kind of patience, cooperation, level of trust, sensitivity, recognition of social environment, tact, sense of humor, and memory. This could be due to identical socioeconomic, geopolitical, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Further study is required to explore Social intelligence and other factors like employment opportunities, socioeconomic status, variety of educational institutions, and playing opportunities for the players of other sports in Iraq.

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