A Study of Socioeconomic Status of Handball and Kabaddi Players in Iraq

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to know the socioeconomic status of the Handball and Kabaddi players of Iraq. The researcher used the socioeconomic status scale of (S.D. Kapoor and H. Koche,1997-1998).The sampling method,which amounted to 250 players from clubs and universities in Iraq,was random. The researcher used the statistical program (SPSS), using statistical methods such as descriptive statistics, and t-test, for analyzing and interpreting the Data. The study concludes that there is no significant difference in the socioeconomic status of Handball and Kabaddi players in Iraq. This could be due to similar Geographical, political, cultural, and religious factors. Both games' players have identical education, economic resources, and lifestyle. Further research is needed to explore the socioeconomic status and other factors like employment opportunities, variety of Educational institutions, and culture in Iraq.

Keywords: Socioeconomic status; Handball and Kabaddi Players; Handball players in Iraq; Kabaddi players in Iraq; Socioeconomic status of Players.

Introduction

The importance of socioeconomic conditions for sportspersons has been recognized for centuries.Whether we are talking about the mill towns of Victorian England, the sweatshopsof New York in the Gilded Age, or the slums of Mumbai in contemporary India, the poorin every society tend to have worse health and shorter lives than the wealthy. Even comparingsocieties and periods in which the leading causes of death are entirely different, the socioeconomic pattern in early mortality is almost always the same:

the poor die first. Socioeconomicinequalities in health are apparent at nearly every stage of the life course, from birth (neonataloutcomes, infant mortality) to working age (e.g., cardiovascular disease, accidents) and old age(functional disability). Lower socioeconomic status (SES) is correlated with increased risks ofnearly every major cause of premature mortality (**Glymour et al., 2014a) (Adler &Ostrove, 1999).**

Moreover, socioeconomic inequalities inhealth status are not just a threshold effect of poverty; there is a "gradient" in health across the SEShierarchy. The higher the household income, wealth, education, or occupationalranking, the lower the risks of morbidity and mortality. The gradient of health is observed almostthroughout the range of socioeconomic status so that the middle class has better health than thepoor, and the wealthy have better health than the middle class.Socioeconomic status is typically characterized along three dimensions: education,employment, and money. Significant health inequalities prevail along all three dimensions.The lower an individual's position in the occupational hierarchy of a workplace, the worsetheir health status, and the lower someone's educational attainment, the lower their health(**Glymour et al., 2014b); (Cutler et al., 2008).**

Socioeconomic status can cause psychological problems like stress, anxiety, and depression in the general public and sports persons, hampering their sports performance **(Faridi et al., 2022); Alwan et al., 2013).** Sports persons can have low self-confidence due to low socioeconomic status, which needs to be addressed **(Faridi et al., 2022)(Alaguraja& Yoga, 2019).**Considering the consequences of the socioeconomic status on the sportspersons, the researcherswanted to study the socioeconomic status of the Kabaddi and handball Players in Iraq.

Methodology

A descriptive study lets us knowthe status of a phenomenon **(Wani&Faridi, 2022)**. Hence a descriptive study was designed to studythe socioeconomic status of kabaddi and handball players in Iraq. The researcher used the socioeconomic status scale of (S.D. Kapoor and H. Koche,1997-1998), and the questionnaire vocabulary consisted of 12 items. 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 the game OfKabaddi 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 some extraneous changes that were believed to have an impact on the study resultsto maintain the integrity of the design and the accuracy of the results.

The researcher used the statistical program (SPSS),using statistical methods such as descriptive statisticsand t-testfor analyzing and interpreting the Data.

Results and Discussion

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

Table 1.

NO	Game			Statistic	Std. Error
1	Handball		Mean	4.82	.072
			Std. Deviation	.81	
			Minimum	2.80	
			Maximum	6.84	
			Skewness	-.014	.21
			Kurtosis	-.28	.43
2	Kabaddi		Mean	4.93	.086
			Std. Deviation	.97	
			Minimum	2.56	
			Maximum	7.13	
			Skewness	.061	.217
			Kurtosis	-.247	.430

Table 1 highlights the descriptive of the population for the variable socioeconomic status 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 socioeconomic status for the players of handball was found to be 4.82, with a standard deviation of 0.81.

The mean of the variable socioeconomic status for the players of Kabaddi was found to be 4.93, with a standard deviation of 0.08.

**Table 2 shows the t-test for the socioeconomic status of handball and kabaddi player**

NO	Game	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	Sid (2tailed)	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
								Lower	Upper
1	Handball	125	4.82	.81	-1.02	248	.307	-.33	.10
2	Kabaddi	125	4.93	.97	-1.02		.307	-.33	.10

The output from table 2 indicates that the mean for handball is 4.82 and for Kabaddi is 4.93. 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 (0.30) 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 2 that the mean score of Kabaddi is greater than the mean scores of handball and found insignificant. It shows no significant difference in socioeconomic status between handball and kabaddi players.

Figure 1.

Graphical representation of socioeconomic status for handball and kabaddi players
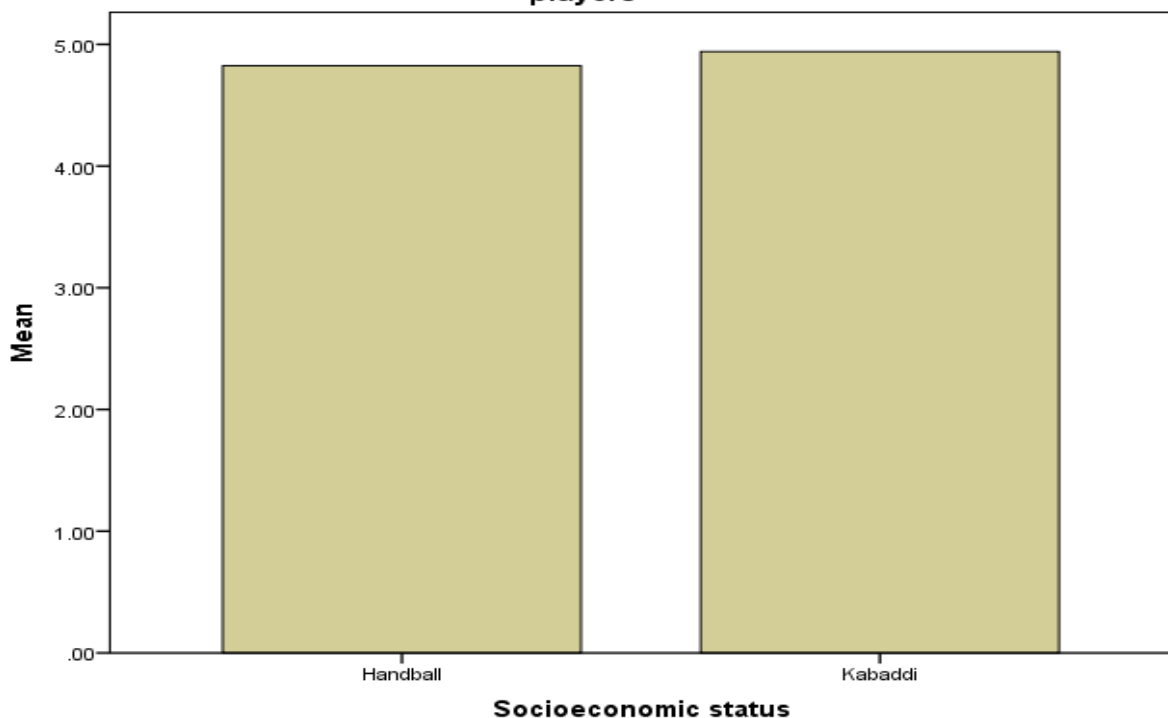
Conclusion

The study concludes that there is no significant difference in the socioeconomic status of Handball and Kabaddi players in Iraq. This could be due to similar Geographical, political, cultural,and religious factors. The players of both games have similar kinds of education, economic resources, and lifestyle. Further research is needed to explore the socioeconomic status and other factors like employment opportunities, variety of Educational institutions, and culture in Iraq.

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