

**CONSTRUCTION & STANDARDISATION OF A QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENDER  
DISCRIMINATIONS FACED BY WOMEN  
ATHLETES RELATED TO PARTICIPATION  
IN SPORTS IN INDIA**

**Dr. Roy John V**

Assistant Professor in Athletics, Govt. College of Physical Education,  
Kozhikode, Kerala, India

**Dr. K.P. Manoj**

Director of Physical Education & Sports, Kannur University, Kannur, Kerala & Dean,  
Faculty of Education, University of Calicut, Malapuram, Kerala, India.

**Abstract**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century has been marked by a widespread movement towards gender equality. Though, this has led to better opportunities for women, especially in industrialized countries, sometimes a shocking picture can be seen in a few developing countries where equality is still a far away goal. After a thorough study of surveys conducted on gender discriminations in various other fields and discussions made with experts, officials, and experienced sports persons, the investigator selected seven different dimensions concerned with gender discriminations regarding participation in sports and they are as follows:- (i) Public outlook towards participation of women in sports (ii) Feelings of family members towards participation of women (iii) Approach of sports organizers (iv) Attitude of officials (v) Attitude of peer groups (vi) Approach of teachers and coaches and (vii) Press and media.

Before the questions were made into an operational form, two trial runs were conducted among 50 athletes with intermittent discussions with experts, few items were eliminated and few items were modified for redrafting of the questionnaire. A second trial run was conducted among another 50 athletes, on the basis of second trial run and discussion with experts in this area, a final draft was made. The final draft of questionnaire contains 90 questions and was administered among 1100 National and International female athletes from 11 states in India.

**Key Words:** Questionnaire Construction, Gender Discrimination & Women Athletes.

**Introduction**

*"Men have always been afraid that women  
could get along without them."*

– Margaret Mead

Gender equality is an acute and persistent problem, especially in developing countries, as women always have had a lower status than men, but the extent of the gap between the sexes varies across cultures and time. Although, women have made tremendous strides towards equality in recent decades they still live in a society in which the worth of women is measured in their physical appearance and not in their intellectual contribution or talents. This gap between men and women can be seen in countless social arenas, such as, the workplace, the average household, educational institutions, sports and even in our nation's government. Even though this inequality is not a phenomenon that is rarely discussed but is in dire need of investigations, through studies and discussions and this will create an awareness of the situation that will undoubtedly assist in closing the gap between men and women.

### **Review of Related Literature**

Women suffer frequent discrimination in their access to, and practice of, both amateur and professional sport which are contrary to Council of Europe principles( From the report on Discrimination against women and girls in sport of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe dated 29 March 2005). Kelinske, Mayer & Chen (2001) studied the differences between 64 male and 53 female college students in their perception of various benefits of sports participation. Stanley (2000), in an equal pay lawsuit, in Stanley vs. University of Southern California, the head women's basketball coach sued the University of Southern California (USC) for sex discrimination and retaliatory discharges in connection with a salary dispute that alleged her salary was not comparable to that of head men's basketball coach George Raveling. Kinavey (1998) studied the struggle to achieve equal opportunity for women in collegiate sports since the passage of Title IX of the Educational Amendment Gender Equity in 1972. Fasting et. al., (1995) studied on participation in college sports and protection from sexual victimization. Some research does indicate that, female athlete suffer high rates of sexual victimization from authority, figures much higher in

sport than their nonathletic counterparts in education and at work place. Kahn (1991) found from review studies of racial and ethnic discrimination in professional sports and briefly examined gender differences in pay among professional tennis players. A study was carried out in rural and urban India by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, New Delhi on the attitudes of parents, teachers and coaches towards female participation in sports. The findings indicated that, policies are needed at the local level to support and protect women's participation in sport and in particular, efforts are required to remove misconceptions related to women's participation in sports and the impact of sport on women's health (Oglesby, 2006).

## **Methodology**

### **Selection of Subjects**

One thousand one hundred athletes from 11 states in India were selected as subjects. The sample selected for this study included national and international athletes who participated in the (1) Junior National Athletics championship 2008 at Bangalore, Karnataka. (2) All India Inter University Athletics Championship 2008-09 organised by MG University Kottayam, at Cochin. (3) South Zone and All India Inter University Women Volleyball Championship 2008-09 held at Kannur University, Kerala. (4) All India Inter University Fencing Championship 2008-09 held at Kannur University, Kerala. (5) All India Inter University Athletics Championship 2009-10 held at Madras, Tamil Nadu. (6) All India Inter University Women Cricket Championship 2009-10 held at Calicut University at Thrissur (7) All India Inter University women Badminton Championship 2009-10 held at Mangalore University, Karnataka. (8) Junior National Athletics championship 2009 held at Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. (9) Kerala State women Handball Coaching camp 2009 held at Trichur, Kerala. (10) Open National Senior Athletics Championship 2010 held at Cochin, Kerala. (11)

Indian Grand Prix and Asian Grand Prix Athletics Championship 2010 held at Bangalore, Karnataka.(12) Indian Grand Prix and Asian Grand Prix Athletics Championship 2010 held at Chennai.(13) Indian Grand Prix and Asian Grand Prix Athletics Championship 2010 held at Pune, Maharashtra.(14)All Star Asian Athletics Championship 2010 held at New Delhi, India.

TABLE 1  
**STATE WISE BREAK UP OF THE SUBJECTS  
SELECTED FOR THE STUDY**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of the State</b>	<b>Inter University / National International level Athletes</b>
<b>1</b>	Madhya Pradesh	100 (80 A*)
<b>2</b>	Haryana	100 (85 A*)
<b>3</b>	West Bengal	100 (83 A*)
<b>4</b>	Punjab	100 (86 A*)
<b>5</b>	Maharashtra	100 (79 A*)
<b>6</b>	Rajasthan	100 (81 A*)
<b>7</b>	Uttar Pradesh	100 (82 A*)
<b>8</b>	Karnataka	100 (76 A*)
<b>9</b>	Bihar	100 (82 A*)
<b>10</b>	Tamil Nadu	100 (78 A*)
<b>11</b>	Kerala	100 (72 A*)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1100</b>

\* Active sports women

### **Description of The Tool Constructed**

As there was no standardised questionnaire on gender discriminations faced by the athletes related to participation in sports. (DFAPS), the questionnaire was constructed and standardised in order to collect data regarding the gender discriminations faced by athletes in India related to the participations in sports. The construction of the present questionnaire is explained below.

**Selection of Items** - The first stage in the construction of the questionnaire was the selection of suitable items and for this purpose, the scholar reviewed relevant materials like books, journals, thesis and several other publications to get a proper insight for the preparation of the questionnaire. After a thorough study of surveys conducted on gender discriminations in various other fields and the discussions made with experts, officials and experienced sports persons. Seven different dimensions concerned with gender discriminations regarding participation in sports were selected and are as follows. (i) Public outlook towards participation of women in sports (ii) Feelings of family members towards participation of women (iii) Approach of sports organizers (iv) Attitude of officials (v) Attitude of peer groups (vi) Approach of teachers and coaches & (vii) Press and media.

Based on the above said seven dimensions, the scholar constructed the preliminary draft with 90 items with two alternative response **yes/no**.

**Expert validation** - The preliminary draft so constructed was given to 15 experts in the field of Physical Education and sports, Gender studies and Psychology for their criticism and suggestions. They were requested (a) to indicate which dimension each item belongs (b) to point out ambiguous items (c) suggest necessary modifications, if any in the items.

**First Trial Run** - Simultaneously the first draft so prepared was administered to fifty randomly selected subjects, in order to know whether the meaning of all questions on the questionnaire was clear and was adequate to obtain the desired information.

**Rewriting** - Thereafter the questionnaire was edited and modified on the basis of suggestions made by the experts and subjects. Accordingly, twelve items were modified and forty - one items were removed from the preliminary draft based on their suggestions.

**Second Trial Run** - After incorporating the suggestions and re-writings in the questionnaire, the questionnaire was again administered on randomly selected fifty subjects other than those selected earlier and were asked for suggestions, if any.

**Final Writing** -On the basis of the suggestions received, the final draft was completed after incorporating all the suggestions and recommendations and finally all the questions were arranged randomly before administering the questionnaire for the collection of data. The final questionnaire contained 49 items covering seven dimensions. The number of items from each dimension with a sample item is given in Table 2.

TABLE 2

**NUMBER OF ITEMS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE DISCRIMINATIONS  
FACED BY THE ATHLETES IN  
INDIA RELATED TO PARTICIPATION IN  
SPORTS WITH A SAMPLE ITEM**

<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>No. of items in the preliminary draft</b>	<b>No. of items modified</b>	<b>No. of Items deleted</b>	<b>No of items in the final draft</b>	<b>Sample item</b>
<b>Public outlook towards participation of women in sports</b>	14	1	7	7	Do you feel any gender discrimination in public's attitude towards the female participation in sports?
<b>Feelings of family members towards participation of women</b>	12	2	5	7	Did any of your family members deny your opportunity to participate in sports at various levels?
<b>Approach of sports organizers</b>	13	2	6	7	Do you feel that the male athletes are given more incentives for participating in sports competitions?

<b>Attitude of officials</b>	14	3	7	7	Is there any discrimination in the behaviour/attitude of officials towards female athlete?
<b>Attitude of peer groups</b>	12	2	5	7	Do you feel that the peer group shows gender discrimination in appreciating the winners?
<b>Approach of teachers and coaches</b>	13	1	6	7	Do you feel that the peer group shows gender discrimination in appreciating the winners?
<b>Press and media</b>	12	1	5	7	Do you think that press and media are providing more space and time for male than the female?
<b>Total</b>	90	12	41	49	

**Validity of the Questionnaire** - The final draft of the questionnaire was developed based on the expert suggestions and opinion. This expert validation ensures the face validity and content validity of the present questionnaire.

**Reliability** - Reliability refers to the consistency or accuracy of scores. For estimating the reliability the split half method was used, in which a test is divided into two halves. The scores of the odd numbered items were added up and were used as 'X' variable while the scores of the even numbered items were used as 'Y' variable. The scores of 'X' variables at 'Y' variable were used to calculate the co-efficient of correlation by calculating the Karl Pearson's Product Moment Co-efficient.

For establishing the reliability of the questionnaire, it was administered to a sample consisting of 50 women athletes selected purposively from Calicut university inter-collegiate athletic meet. Based on the data obtained, the reliability coefficient was calculated. The

reliability co-efficient was 0.84. This being the reliability for half test, the reliability for the whole test was calculated by using the Spearman- Brown prophecy formula.

$$\text{i.e., } R = \frac{2r}{1+r}$$

R = Reliability of the whole test

r = Reliability of the half test

$$R = \frac{2 \times 0.81}{1 + 0.81} = 0.90$$

The co-efficient of reliability is comparatively high, indicating that the questionnaire is a reliable instrument.

The constructed and standardised questionnaire on the various discriminations faced by Indian athletes in and outside the field. Kindly record your opinion by a tick mark.

### **1: General Information**

Name of the Athlete	:	
Area of specialization	:	
Present status	:	Active/Inactive
Major achievements in sports	:	1. 2. 3.
Place/Locality	:	Urban/Rural
District	:	
State	:	
Caste	:	Hindu/Muslim/Christian/others



Telephone No. :

E-Mail :

**DISCRIMINATION RELATED TO PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS**

**I. PUBLIC OUT LOOK TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF GIRLS IN SPORTS**

1	Do you feel any gender discrimination in public's attitude towards the female participation in sports?	Yes	No
2	Do you feel that the attitude of public is discouraging female athletes from participating in sports?	Yes	No
3	Do you feel that the public suspect the moral side of you as a female athlete?	Yes	No
4	Do the public think that the female participation in sports is not good for their culture?	Yes	No
5	Do you feel that the audience encourages male athlete than the female in competitions?	Yes	No
6	Do you feel that is there any gender discrimination in giving reception/ recognition by the local authorities?	Yes	No
7	Did the public feel that females should remain as household instead of participating in sports?	Yes	No

**II. FEELINGS OF FAMILY TOWARDS PARTICIPATION OF GIRLS IN SPORTS**

1	Are you discouraged by any of your family members from participating in selection trials?	Yes	No
2	Did any of your family members deny your opportunity to participate in sports at various levels?	Yes	No
3	Did your family members discourage you from participating in sports training?	Yes	No
4	Did your parents give more pocket money to your brother/s (for food, uniform, practice shoes etc....)?	Yes	No
5	Do your family members feel that money spent for girls in sports is a waste?	Yes	No
6	Do your family members think that female participation in sports is a shame to their family?	Yes	No
7	Do your parents believe that participation of females in sports will create troubles in their future life?	Yes	No

### III APPROACH OF SPORTS ORGANIZERS

1	Do you feel that the male athletes are given better food than the female athletes?	Yes	No
2	Do you feel that the female athletes are given lesser prize money compared to their counterparts?	Yes	No
3	Do you feel that the male athletes are given more incentives for participating in competitions?	Yes	No
4	Do you feel that the male athletes are given better sports equipments than the female?	Yes	No
5	Do you feel that the male athletes are given better transportation facilities than the female for participating in sports competitions?	Yes	No
6	Do you feel that the sports organizers are including only few events for female athletes?	Yes	No
7	Do you feel that the male athletes are given better accommodation than the female athletes?	Yes	No

### IV. ATTITUDE OF OFFICIALS

1	Do you feel that the officials are providing better atmosphere for the male athletes during competitions?	Yes	No
2	Do you feel that the officials are showing favouritism to the male athletes during competition?	Yes	No
3	Do you feel that the officials set special restrictions for female athletes during competition?	Yes	No
4	Do you feel that the officials are always rough to the female athletes?	Yes	No
5	Do you feel that the officials are ignoring/underestimating female athletes?	Yes	No
6	Is there any discrimination in the behaviour/attitude of officials towards female athlete?	Yes	No
7	Do you feel that officials are not giving due importance for the complaints of female athletes?	Yes	No

### V. ATTITUDE OF PEER GROUPS

1	Do your friends have negative attitude towards the female participation in sports?	Yes	No
2	Do you feel that there is gender discrimination in the peer group, in encouraging athletes while practicing in sports?	Yes	No

3	Are they suspicious of the moral side of female athletes?	Yes	No
4	Had any of your friends left you only because you are an athlete?	Yes	No
5	Have you ever faced any misbehaviour from your friends because you are a female athlete?	Yes	No
6	Do you feel that there is gender discrimination among the peer group in encouraging the participants during competition?	Yes	No
7	Do you feel that the peer group shows gender discrimination in appreciating the winners?	Yes	No

#### VI APPROACH OF TEACHERS AND COACHES

1	Do you feel that the attitudes of teachers are not in favour of female participation in sports?	Yes	No
2	Do you feel that the attitude of coaches is not in favour of the participation of female in sports?	Yes	No
3	Do you feel that the teachers are showing more affection towards the male athletes?	Yes	No
4	Is there any gender discrimination in allotting sports fund to the students through the teachers and coaches?	Yes	No
5	Is there any gender discrimination in providing sports equipments to the students for practice?	Yes	No
6	Do you think that the coaches are giving more time and attention to male athletes for training?	Yes	No
7	Do you think that there is gender discrimination in providing refreshment to the athletes by the teachers/coaches?	Yes	No

#### VII. PRESS AND MEDIA

1	Do you feel that the media is giving more attention towards the male athletes?	Yes	No
2	Have you missed any sports incentive like award, job or prize money, etc. in which you were eligible, due to lack of enough publicity by media?	Yes	No
3	Did you feel that the media is not giving enough publicity to the medals or awards won by female athletes?	Yes	No
4	Do you feel that you missed an award given by media because you are a female athlete?	Yes	No

5	Do you think that press and media are providing more space and time for male than the female?	Yes	No
6	Do you feel that there is gender discrimination in selecting and publishing/telecasting photos by medias?	Yes	No
7	Do you feel that press/medias are giving news and pictures of male on the front page and female news and pictures are only on inside pages?	Yes	No

“You can tell the condition of a nation by  
looking at the status of its women”

– Jawaharlal Nehru

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