



# Impact of gender difference on performance failure appraisal among inter collegiate volleyball players

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## ABSTRACT

Besides studies on psychological characteristics are evidencing that sports are differed significantly in terms of level, gender, type of sports and living conditions. Within the presumption, the present study has been taken on examine the influence of performance failure appraisal on volleyball players. The Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI) is a multidimensional measure of cognitive-motivational-relational appraisals associated with fear of failure (FF). To achieve this purpose, as subjects, male and female volleyball players were selected randomly from Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. Besides, as the main purpose of findings the influence of performance failure appraisal on volleyball players performance. In such a way as samples, for this study sixty volleyball players were selected. From the subjects (male = 30 and female = 30). The age of the subjects ranged from 18-25 years. They were hailed from various socio-economic conditions. Selected subjects were completed the Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI). It consists of 25 questions that has been divided into six subscales. The collected data were statistically analyzed by using independent 't' test. From the results of this study showed significance difference between men and women volleyball players on Performance Failure Appraisal

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## Introduction

A volleyball player who experiences anxiety may worry about the uncertainty of not being placed in the starting line-up, serving or spiking out, getting blocked, playing a different position or being negatively evaluated by important others. Any or all of these factors may have serious consequences. Hence, sport psychologists need to examine the stress process and individual differences in reactions to anxiety to provide coaches and athletes with a clearer understanding of the anxiety response (Alexander and Krane, 1996; Cox, 1994). In team sports players are classified into offensive and defensive position. Such type of classification mostly because of pressure from the coaches' direction and are very few only chosen from their own way. In general, players attitude are not identical instead vary from one another either in chosen sport or chosen the playing ability within the team sports are concerned. Some of the team games are highly aggressive in nature. Whereas some other games are less aggressive in nature, likewise player's positional play with in the sport also differed from one another.

Conroy, Poczwadowski, and Henschen (2001) used inductive content analysis to define a non-exclusive universe of aversive consequences of failure that would provide the basis for FF. The five aversive consequences of failing that have been replicated across samples and over time include (a) experiencing shame and embarrassment, (b) devaluing one's self-estimate, (c) having an uncertain future, (d) important others losing interest, and (e) upsetting important others (Conroy, 2001; Conroy, Metzler, and Hofer, 2003; Conroy, Willow, and Metzler, 2002). By measuring the strength of an individual's beliefs in each of these aversive consequences of failing, one can infer the individual's tendency to associate failure with existential threats,

and to subsequently experience FF. The strength of beliefs in the five consequences of failing noted above are strongly related to scores on trait anxiety and trait performance anxiety measures (Conroy, 2001; Conroy et al., 2002). Furthermore, these beliefs are sufficiently inter correlated that a higher-order factor representing general FF can be modeled (Conroy et al., 2002, 2003). To summarize, FF represents a dispositional tendency to experience apprehension and anxiety in evaluative situations because individuals have learned that failure is associated with aversive consequences.

## Methodology

To achieve the purpose of the present study, male and female volleyball players were selected randomly as subjects from Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. Besides, as the main purpose of the study was influence of performance failure appraisal on volleyball players performance. In such a way as samples, for this study sixty volleyball players were selected. From the subjects (male = 30 and female = 30). The age of the subjects ranged from 18-25 years. They were hailed from various socio-economic conditions.

## Procedure:

The researcher explained the purposes and procedures of the study. Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI) was given to all the subjects. The data will be collected before the competition. After collection of this inventory, the researcher measured the scores by using PFAI manual.

## Instruments

The Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI; Conroy, 2001; Conroy et al, 2002) was used to assess fear of failure. This 25-item measure yields scores for five first order

beliefs about aversive consequences of failing and one higher-order factor representing general FF. The lower-order scales (and sample items) include (a) Fears of Experiencing Shame and Embarrassment (“When I am failing, I worry about what others think about me”), (b) Fears of Devaluing One’s Self- estimate (“When I am failing, I am afraid that I might not have enough talent.”), (c) Fears of Having an Uncertain Future (“When I am failing, it upsets my ‘plan’ for the future”), (d) Fears of Important Others Losing Interest (“When I am not succeeding, people are less interested in me”), and (e) Fears of Upsetting Important Others (“When I am failing, important others are disappointed”) and General Fear (GF). Participants were asked to think of how often they believed each statement was true in their significant motor performances. Responses were made on a scale ranging from do not believe at all ( $\_ / 2$ ) to believe 100% of the time ( $\_ / 2$ ). PFAI scores have demonstrated sound psychometric properties, including factorial invariance across groups and over time, internal consistency, external validity, and predictive validity. Scores have also exhibited evidence of differential stability (i.e., test-retest reliability  $\_ / 0.80$ ), and latent mean stability (Conroy et al., 2003).

**Table – I Summary of mean and independent ‘t’ test for fear of experiencing and performance failure appraisal of men and women volleyball players**

S. No	Variables	N		Mean	Std. Dev	t-value
1	FSE	30	Men	30.17	27.62	3.86*
		30	Women	58.50	29.16	
2	FDSE	30	Men	32.00	26.87	3.62*
		30	Women	13.33	8.74	
3	FUF	30	Men	41.00	18.35	5.21*
		30	Women	18.83	14.37	
4	FIOLI	30	Men	53.50	26.26	4.48*
		30	Women	26.00	20.98	
5	FUIO	30	Men	44.00	23.76	2.60*
		30	Women	27.17	26.28	
6	GF	30	Men	32.50	19.15	5.11*
		30	Women	12.17	10.40	

Statistical Techniques; Independent ‘t’ tests were used to find out the significant difference between men and women volleyball players

Table - I indicates the obtained ‘t’ values on variables for the performance failure appraisal on men and women volleyball players: 3.86 (FSE), 3.62 (FDSE), 5.21(FUF), 4.48 (FIOLI), 2.60 (FUIO), and 5.11 (GF). The obtained t- values to be significant at 0.05 levels for degree of freedom 1, 58 the required critical value was 2.05. Thus the observed t - values on variables were found to be higher than the required critical value. It was concluded that the men and women volleyball players produced significant improvement. Thus the formulated hypothesis No.1 related to this accepted.

#### Discussion of findings

Fear of failure has been conceptualized as a relatively stable cognitive plan that increases the likelihood of negative self-appraisals when a competitor is faced with competitive evaluation or contest situations (Conroy, 2004). As such, it is logical that individuals high in fear of failure would experience

cognitive anxiety before a competitive situation. From the result of study indicates that there was a significant difference between men and women volleyball players on performance failure appraisal. The result shows men were better on Fear of Experiencing and Embarrassment (FSE), Fear of devaluing one’s Self Estimate (FDSE) and General Fear (GFF) as compared to women. In the remaining variables women showed better on Fear of Experiencing and Embarrassment ( FSE) , Fear of Devaluing one’s Self Estimate (FDSE) and General Fear (GF) as compared to men.

#### Conclusions

Based on the results of this study the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. Male volleyball players are exhibited as higher on Fear of Experiencing and Embarrassment (FSE) , Fear of Devaluing ones Self Estimate (FDSE) and General Fear (GF) when compared to female volleyball players.
2. Female volleyball players are exhibited as higher on Fear of having an Uncertain Future (FUF), Fear of Important Others Losing Interest (FIOLI) and Fear of Upsetting Important Other (FUIO) when compared to male volleyball players.

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