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Bridging the Divide: Analyzing Sports Participation Disparities between Rural and Urban Government High Schools in Kashmir

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ABSTRACT
This study compared sports participation and accessibility of equipment between rural and urban government high schools in Kashmir. A sample of 40 schools (20 rural, 20 urban) across four districts was randomly selected. Data was collected using a checklist assessing participation levels and equipment inventory. Contrary to expectations, findings revealed rural schools had significantly higher sports participation compared to urban schools, potentially due to greater interest, more active lifestyles, and more free time among rural students. However, urban schools were better equipped with sporting goods and equipment than their rural counterparts. The results rejected both hypotheses that there would be no differences in participation rates or equipment availability between the rural and urban school settings. These findings can inform policies and resource allocation for promoting athletics across different regional contexts within the education system.

Keywords: *Sports, participation, Rural, Urban School, Kashmir*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and Gilgit were under different rules before 1845 after that they were ruled by Dogra rules. The topography, religious faith ways of living spoken languages of the area and cultural heritages are quite different. Different modes of transportation could not give easy access to the common people to freely together and understand each other. Establishment of resident commission in the state also invited the Christian missionaries to this part of the country for spread of Christianity. The western influence and thus the process of education got transformations. The reformation education effected during Maharaja Pratap's time. Three colleges, 33 high schools, 142 middle schools and 1054 primary schools besides two teacher's training schools existed at the time of independence. **(Khaoihami peerzada, 1954)**

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Kheljournal (2020), compared the participation in sports and games between rural government high sch ool students and urban government high school students. The results showed that rural high school students parti cipated in various sports and games more than urban high school students. This shows that rural students are mo re active in physical activities than urban students.

Researchgate (2022), compared selected physiological variables between rural and urban school studen ts in Bankura District. The study found that rural students had better physical fitness than urban students. This s uggests that active participation in physical activity among rural students leads to improved physical fitness.

Researchgate (2012), compared and analyzed factors affecting participation in sport and physical activi ty between urban and rural girls. The results showed that factors such as behavioral alternatives, autonomy, com petence, and relatedness differed between urban and rural areas. This suggests that girls in urban and rural areas have different motivations for participating in sport and physical activity.

Researchgate (2021), conducted a systematic literature review of policies and environmental strategies related to physical activity for obesity prevention in rural communities. The study found that one of the most eff ective strategies in rural communities was to provide school-based physical activity programs. This suggests that school environments can play an important role in promoting physical activity among rural students.

Researchgate (2021), compared the physical fitness of rural and urban high school girls in Kashmir. Th e results of the study showed that the physical fitness of rural girls was better than that of urban girls. This show s that the active participation of rural girls in physical activities led to improved physical fitness.

In the previous studies have shown that rural high school students have more active sports participation and better physical fitness overall than urban high school students. This suggests that school-based physical acti

vity programs in rural areas may be effective. Future research should analyze the causes of these differences in more depth.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research on sports participation disparities between rural and urban government high schools in Kashmir is critical for understanding and addressing educational inequalities in the region. By analyzing these differences, the study can shed light on how geographical location impacts students' access to physical education and sports opportunities, potentially influencing their overall development, health, and future prospects. The findings could inform policymakers and educational administrators in designing more equitable sports programs, allocating resources effectively, and implementing targeted interventions to bridge the rural-urban divide. Moreover, in a region like Kashmir, where socio-political tensions often overshadow developmental issues, this research can contribute to a broader conversation about youth empowerment, social cohesion, and the role of sports in fostering community ties and individual growth.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the sports participation of rural and urban schools.
2. To study the availability of equipment's in urban and rural Schools.

HYPOTHESIS

1. There would be no significant difference in the participation of rural and urban government high schools in sports.
2. There would be no significant difference in the availabilities of equipment's of rural and urban government high schools.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study would help to know the popularity of different sports, sports participation in different areas and help physical education authorities to frame policies for the improvement of sports.

SAMPLING

For the data collection 40 schools were randomly selected as sample, out of which 20 schools from rural and 20 schools from urban areas were selected, from four districts were shown as below:

District	Number of rural schools	Number of urban schools	Total number of schools
Anantnag	05	05	10
Baramulla	05	05	10
Pulwama	05	05	10
kulgam	05	05	10

SELECTION OF THE SUBJECTS

The subjects were selected by simple random sampling method

TOOL USED

A self-made checklist was prepared with the help of supervisor and experts to check the sports participation and availability of equipment's in rural and urban area of Kashmir division.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table No: 4.1 Chi Square test of sports participation of Rural and Urban High Schools in different games of Anantnag District.

Table 4.1

Geography	Participation	Non participation	Total
Rural	39	11	50
Urban	37	13	50
Total	76	24	100
Rural %age	78%	22%	100%
Urban %age	74%	26%	100%
$X2=\sum(fo-fe)2\div fe=0.281$			

Table No: 4.1 shows that the participation of rural schools is 78% and the participation of urban is 38%. The calculated chi square was 0.281, which is less than tabulated value = 3.83 [df = (2-1) (2-1) =1] at 0.05 level. Hence there is no significant difference in the participation of rural and urban schools in different games of district Anantnag.

BARAMULLA

Table No. 4.2: Chi Square test of Sports participation of Rural and Urban High schools in different games of Baramulla district.

Table 4.2

Geography	Participation	Non participation	Total
Rural	41	9	50
Urban	33	17	50
Total	74	26	100
Rural %age	82%	18%	100%
Urban %age	66%	34%	100%
X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=3.32			

Table No. 4.2 shows that the participation of rural and urban schools is 82% and participation of urban is 66%. The calculated chi square was 3.32, which is less than tabulated value=3.83 [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level.

PULWAMA

Table No.4.3: Chi Square test of Sports participation of Rural and Urban High Schools in Different games of Ganderbal District.

Table 4.3

Geography	Participation	Non participation	Total
Rural	43	7	50
Urban	32	18	50
Total	75	25	100
Rural %age	86%	14%	100%
Urban %age	64%	36%	100%
*X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=6.43**			

*Significant at 0.05 level [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1]

Table no. 4.3: shows that the participation of rural school is 86% and participation of urban school is 64%. The calculated chi square was 6.43, which is greater than tabulated value=3.38 [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level.

KULGAM

Table No. 4.4: Chi Square test of Sports participation of Rural and Urban High Schools in different games of Kulgam District.

Table 4.4

Geography	Participation	Non participation	Total
Rural	40	10	50
Urban	35	15	50
Total	75	25	100
Rural %age	80%	20%	100%
Urban %age	70%	30%	100%
X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=0.16			

Table No. 4.4: shows that the participation of rural schools is 80% and participation of urban is 70%. The calculated chi square was 0.16, which is less than tabulated value=3.83 [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level.

AVAILIBILITIES OF EQUIPMENTS

ANANTNAG

Table No. 4.5: Chi Square test of availabilities of equipment's in Rural and Urban High schools in Different games of Anantnag District.

Table 4.5

Geography	Availability	Non availability	Total
Rural	44	21	65
Urban	53	12	65
Total	97	33	130
Rural %age	67.69%	32.31%	100%
Urban %age	81.54%	18.46%	100%
X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=3.26			

Table No. 4.5: shows that the availabilities of equipment's of rural high schools are 67.69% and the availabilities of equipment's of urban high schools are 81.54%. The calculated chi square was 3.26, which is less than tabulated value=3.83 [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level. Hence there is no significant difference in the availabilities of equipment's of rural and urban schools of district Anantnag.

BARAMULLA

Table No. 4.6: Chi square test of availabilities of equipment of Rural and Urban High schools in different games of Baramulla District.

Table 4.6

Geography	Availability	Non availability	Total
Rural	53	12	65
Urban	55	10	65
Total	108	22	130
Rural %age	81.55%	18.45%	100%
Urban %age	84.61%	15.39%	100%
X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=0.20			

Table No. 4.6: shows that the availabilities of equipment's of rural schools are 81.55% and the availabilities of equipment's of urban schools are 84.61%. The calculated chi square was 3.26. Which is less than tabulated value=3.83 [df= (2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level. Hence there is no significant difference in the availabilities of equipment's of rural and urban schools of district Baramulla.

PULWAMA

Table No. 4.7: Chi square test of availabilities of equipment in Rural and Urban High schools in different games of Ganderbal District.

Table 4.7

Geography	Availability	Non availability	Total
Rural	35	30	65
Urban	41	24	65
Total	86	54	130
Rural %age	53.84%	46.16%	100%
Urban %age	63.08%	36.92%	100%
*X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=7.37**			

*Significant at 0.05 level [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1]

Table No. 4.7: shows that the availabilities of equipment's of rural schools are 53.84% and the availabilities of equipment's of urban schools are 63.08%. The calculated chi square was 7.37, Which is greater than tabulated value=3.83 [df= (2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level. Hence there is significant difference in the availabilities of equipment's of rural and urban schools of district Ganderbal.

KULGAM

Table No. 4.8: Chi square test of availabilities of equipment of Rural and Urban High schools in different games of Kulgam District.

Table 4.8

Geography	Availability	Non availability	Total
Rural	42	23	65
Urban	59	6	65
Total	101	29	130
Rural %age	64.61%	35.39%	100%
Urban %age	90.76%	9.24%	100%
*X2=∑(fo-fe)2÷fe=12.82**			

*Significant at 0.05 level [df=(2-1)(2-1)=1]

Table No. 4.8: shows that the availabilities of equipment's of rural schools are 64.61% and the availabilities of equipment's of urban schools are 90.76%. The calculated chi square was 7.37, Which is greater than tabulated value=3.83 [df= (2-1)(2-1)=1] at 0.05 level. Hence there is no significant difference in the availabilities of equipment's of rural and urban schools of district kulgam.

III. DISUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

1. The present study revealed that the rural government high schools participated more in different games and sports as compared to urban government high schools. The reason may be they are more interested in games and sports. They are more active. Rural students have more spare time than urban students. The urban students are more sedentary than rural students.

2. The study also revealed that the urban government high schools had greater number of equipment's.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that after interpretation and analysis of the results, it was found that the rural government high schools participate more actively in games and sports. Hence the first hypothesis gets rejected.

The rural government high schools had less availability of equipment's than urban government high schools. Hence the second hypothesis also gets rejected.

V. SUGGESTIONS

After analysis of the results and discussion with the supervisor with the supervisor, fallowing suggestions are given in order to increase the school participation of different areas.

- The physical education should aware the students regarding the availability of sports equipment's in present in the school.
- Physical education teachers should aware the students regarding the importance of games and sports.
- The physical education department should introduce different games and sports for the upliftment of various sports.
- Physical education teacher / school authority should motivate students especially in urban student to take part in sports.
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