COACH LEADERSHIP ABOUT PREFERENCE AND PERCEPTION OF ELITE GYMNASTS IN SCHOOLS OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of study was to examine and compare the preferred and perceived leadership behavior of elite male and female gymnasts. Seventy nine (Males=43, Females=36)) national school level elite male and female gymnasts representing their respective state school teams in National School Games, 2009-10 and who volunteered to participate in this study, were randomly selected to serve as subjects for this study. Their age ranged from 17 to 19 years. The Leadership Scale for Sports developed and prepared in 1994 by Chelladurai was used to measure the five dimensions of leader behaviour as preferred and perceived by male and female involved in Artistic Gymnastics. Means, standard deviations and t-ratio were computed to establish the significance of differences between National School level elite male and female Gymnasts regarding the five dimensions leader behaviour of preferred and perceived leadership. The level of significant was set at p<0.05 level. The data analysis revealed that male and female gymnasts did not differ significantly in all the dimensions of preferred leader behavior except positive feedback dimension and TI, AB and SS dimensions of perceived leader behaviour. Male gymnasts preferred a greater degree of preferences and perceptions for coaching behavior from their coaches than their counter parts. The discrepancy was not observed between preferred and perceived leader behaviour of male and female gymnasts from their coaches on five leader behaviour dimensions. Further, both sex gymnasts preferred and perceived more of training and instruction and least autocratic leader behaviour from their coaches.

KEY WORDS: Preference, Perception, Coach Leadership, Elite gymnasts

REFERENCES