



A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF POLITICS IN SPORTS (A SPECIFIC STUDY ON CRICKET IN CHENNAI REGION)

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ABSTRACT:

This research is based on the political pressure on the cricketers and their careers. It is clear that the purpose of watching a cricket match has changed. Due to instances of match-fixing and spot-fixing, cricket is gradually losing its significance. From this research, it is evident that the political pressure is real in cricket and it has created a greater impact on this game. Skilled players have also faced this problem moreover the all rounders and batsmen have faced this issue of political pressure. This issue has become a part of the game not only in cricket but also in other sports and it's inevitable. Even the budding era of women's cricket is also adversely affected by this political pressure. This issue has evolved since the history of cricket and it's an awe that even teams state and nationals undergo the problem of money, corruption and politics. Thus from this research, the only way to overcome this is to make the selection process more fair and rigid.

Keywords: Political pressure, match-fixing, corruption.,etc

INTRODUCTION:

2009 saw the second Indian Premier League (IPL) season being prepared, and considerable attention was focused on an unlikely confrontation. The issue was that the IPL games were scheduled to take place during the general elections in the nation. It was inevitable that battalions and platoons would need to be diverted from election booths to guard IPL matches in the wake of the all-too-recent attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Pakistan (BBC 2009), forcing the Indian government to make the most absurd choice between preserving democracy and promoting entertainment. Lalit Modi, the then-Commissioner of the IPL, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) were also in a fix. IPL timetable compression would result in careful scuttling.

The primary reason for participating in and watching a cricket match has changed. Due to instances of match-fixing and spot-fixing, cricket is gradually losing its significance. There have been instances where players have been found guilty of match-fixing in competitions like the World Cup, IPL, and others, and the BCCI has banned them. Five IPL cricket players were recently charged in a spot-fixing scam that occurred in the 2011 season following a television undercover investigation. In a little older, though still widely publicised incident, Lalit Modi, the creator of cricket's most lucrative moneymaker, was fired for having hidden stakes in many franchises. Outside of the Indian league, two international cricketers were found guilty in an English spot-fixing case, and there have also been rumours that the 2011 World Cup semi-final game between India and Pakistan was fixed. This demonstrates that match-fixing occurs in all types of tournaments, regardless of their magnitude. Money is the key motivator behind why various types of people engage in these hobbies. Money is the primary driver, but there must be additional factors that make some persons and sports more vulnerable than others²³, especially in light of the legal and professional repercussions of getting discovered. Rarely is agreeing to take part in match-fixing motivated only by financial gain. Match- and spot-fixing are ways for people to make a lot of money. The game of cricket was changed by the injection of money, technology, and professionalism into something that not just athletes but also professionals from administration, marketing, medicine, software, finance, television and media, and a variety of other non-sport-related industries could make a career out of. A term that would make this evident is "economic determinism," as people engage in these activities in order to achieve their goals. Because of these actions, the game's soul is damaged. Additionally wasted is the players' talent. Politics is a crucial factor in these activities since no one can engage in them without the backing of a powerful institution because there is always a risk of being discovered. There have been instances where the main cricket governing organisation, the BCCI, has been involved in cases of match-fixing and spot-fixing. According to a commission looking into spot-fixing in the Indian Premier League, Narainswamy Srinivasan, the president of the suspended Board of Control for Cricket in India, and three other officials were guilty of "misdemeanours," the Indian Supreme Court confirmed on Friday. This is a glaring example of how the central body's leaders, who have the power to create the sport's code of conduct, are abusing their power and undermining the sport in general. In the modern era, sports no longer exist. The type of illicit activity that is occurring is lowering the level of the game. This is explained in the paper's cricket explanation. Money is a very important factor that needs to be highlighted because it is the sole reason why all of these activities are possible. Sports used to be a forum for bringing people together and showing support for their nation. The players would put in a lot of effort to make the nation proud as the game's spirit grew in its significance. However, things have changed; while people continue to unite in support of their nation, the players and the central body are caught up in politics and

are involved embroiled in cases. The players who are chosen to represent their nation with pride are susceptible to the vices of society, thus it is important to take this into consideration. It might be argued that this game is no longer a gentleman's game because its original intent has been defeated.

HISTORY OF CRICKET:

The British played cricket in the sixteenth century. In Australia and England, white people predominately played it. The scenario in India was a little different. The first recorded cricket game in India took place in 1792, but the sport did not become popular in India until the middle of the nineteenth century when Parsees in Bombay were the first to start playing, followed soon after by Hindus and then Muslims (Majumdar 348). Before, the players' primary goal in a game was to win, and unfair tactics were not allowed. In India, cricket is valued more highly than hockey, which is the national sport. With time, the popularity of this game has grown, and a sizable crowd has gathered.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Akshai Mansingh in his study "Cricket and science" talks about In the last twenty years, Indian cricket has been transformed. With the arrival of global television networks, mass-media coverage and multinational sponsors, cricket has become big business and India has become the economic driving force in the world game. For the first time, a developing country has become a major player in the international sports arena. This fully updated and revised edition of Mihir Bose's classic history is a unique account of the Indian cricket phenomenon. Drawing on a combination of extensive research and personal experience, Bose traces the development of the Indian game from its beginnings as a colonial pastime to its coming of age as a national passion and now a global commercial powerhouse.

Carpenter, Kevin. in his study "Match-Fixing—The Biggest Threat to Sport in the 21st Century?" the author talks about cheating in sports; gambling. As a lawyer, certified football referee, and ardent sports fan in general, the topic at the centre of this essay makes me sit up and take note. Many people, including prominent athletes, sports administrators, and regulatory organisations, have said that it poses a larger threat to the integrity of sports than doping. There is a match-fixing threat. Jacques Rogge, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and one of the most prominent defenders of sport, explains why: "Doping affects one particular athlete, while the impact of match-fixing affects the entire tournament. It has a larger size. The primary cause of what Rogge has also referred to as a "cancer" is illegal gambling

Subramanian, Vidya in his study "Cricket in the Fast Lane: Politics of Speed." mentions about the shift from test matches to one-day and then to Twenty20 formats there has been a profound reworking of the internal biology of cricket. The speeding up has become contingent on redesigning cricket into a "platform" which is now animated by combining hitherto unrelated elements such as businesses, advertising, technology, and even Bollywood.

Souvik Naha et.all, in his study "Cricket in 21st century" says that Indian cricket has changed dramatically during the past twenty years. With the introduction of international television networks, widespread media coverage, and multinational sponsors, cricket has grown to be big business, and India has taken over as the game's main economic power. For the first time, a developing nation has established itself as a major force in the world of international sports. An original account of the Indian cricket phenomenon, this edition of Mihir Bose's classic history has been completely updated and improved. Bose examines the evolution of the Indian game from its roots as a colonial pastime to its coming of age as a national passion and current commercial force by combining significant research and personal experience.

Mc Crory, in his study "The world of Cricket", discusses many aspects of contemporary sport now revolve around the concept of speed. India's modern cricket is no exception to this pattern. The internal biology of the game itself, however, has undergone a significant remodelling with the transition from test matches to one-day and subsequently to Twenty20 formats. Cricket is no longer predominantly played in front of "spectators." Instead, the game must now be sped up by rethinking cricket as a "platform," which is now animated by fusing previously unconnected components like commerce, advertising, technology, and even Bollywood.

RESEARCH GAP:

Many other researchers have made research on a similar topic. Many excellencies from universities like Harward university etc and other cricket experts and most of them have tried to expose the fact that cricket is no more a sport of spirit and emotions. Politics and corruption have replaced talent and sportsmanship. In my research, the target respondents include women cricketers as women in blue and women's cricket is budding in this era thus this research will give updated and fresh data regarding the political influence in sports, especially in cricket.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The problem on which this research was made is the increase in the influence of politics in the recent era of politics. The selection process and the people who are in charge of that process in various clubs and associations training camps etc are politically biased. For instance in past..."Basil D'Oliveira was denied permission by the Marylebone Cricket Club to represent England against South Africa in 1969 for fear of upsetting the apartheid government. D'Oliveira, a person of colour born in South Africa, was denied government permission to play for the South African team; instead, he represented England. D'Oliveira was one of the most likely players to be chosen after his performance against Australia in the Ashes the year before. He was not chosen, though, and it was believed at the time[by whom?] that this was a sign of submission to the apartheid administration.". Thus many players with abundant skills and talent are yet to overcome the huge obstacle of political influence, money, etc despite having skills

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives are to find.

1. To check whether the political pressure is real in matches held.

2. To analyze political or nepotism influence over the selection process.
3. To get more understanding of this issue in women's cricket.

METHODOLOGY:

Primary data collected from cricketers via an online survey is the only source of information used in the study. It only draws attention to the precise data collected from both male and female cricketers and the metaphorical use of the cricket language is still in the foreground here. The questionnaire method was used to collect the data through google forms with 20 questions targeting both male and female cricketers and a sum of 50 responses were collected and interpreted under headings and tabulation.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES:

Table: 1 AGE

CATEGORY	NO: OF:RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Less than 20	30	60%
21-30	10	20%
31-40	7	14%
Above 41	3	6%
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Thus the research subjects of this research include less than 20 age group of people of a percentage of 60%. and 21-30 age group has 20% and 14% of 31-40 and only 6% of people are from above 41 age group. Thus it is evident that most of the people are from the age group of less than twenty which gives this research advantage of recent updates and data from present youths.

Table: 2 GENDER:

CATEGORY	NO: OF:RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Male	30	60%
Female	20	40%
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

The gender proportionality both men and women are covered in this research and the advantage of a new dimension of women cricket is attained via this survey and their views are covered in below questions.

Table: 3 MARITAL STATUS:

CATEGORY	NO:OF:RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Married	10	20
Unmarried	40	80
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Married adults of 20 % are also part of this observation moreover as most of the people are below the age of 20 thus most of the people are unmarried and not earning yet,

Table: 4 ANNUAL INCOME:

CATEGORY	NO:OF: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Less than 50000	28	57
50000-100000	7	14
100000-500000	5	9
More than 500000	10	20
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

The income status of the subjects can be seen in the next question and most of the people are not earning and most of them are doing the ug as below 20 age group is high

Table: 5 EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

CATEGORY	NO:OF:RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
PG	12	25
UG	33	66
DIPLOMA	3	5
No formal education	2	4
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Most of the students are doing ug of nearly 66 % this supports the previously attained statement that is most of the respondents belong to 20 years age gp.

Table:6 OCCUPATION:

CATEGORY	NO:OF:RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Government job	8	15
Private job	16	40
Business	14	25
Professional	12	20
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

40% of them are doing the private job and 2 people of the research have And married adults of 20 % are also part of this observation moreover as most of the people are below the age of 20 thus most of the people are unmarried and not earning yet, the income status of the subjects can be seen in the next question and most of the people are not earning and most of them are doing the ug as below 20 age group is high and 40% of them are doing the private job and 2 people of the research have selected no formal education.

TABLE;7 OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS ON POLITICAL PRESSURE

Questions	Particulars	No:of: Respondents	Percentage
Have you experienced any political pressure	Yes	28	56.9
	No	22	43.1
	Total	50	100
Did you face a situation where your team didn't win the tournament due to political pressure	Yes	23	47.1
	No	27	52.9
	Total	50	100
Have you experienced corruption during selection	Yes	32	64.6
	No	18	35.4
	Total	50	100
Have you experienced match fixing in your matches	Yes	29	59.2
	No	21	40.8
	Total	50	100
Has your team got disqualified	Yes	33	33

even after performing well.	No	17	17
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Thus, it is clear from the observation table created above for the yes/no questions that the majority of the subjects (56.9) have encountered political pressure during their cricket careers, and 67% of them have encountered a situation where their team was disqualified despite their good performance; the reasons for this could be attributed to both political pressure and biased selection, while some have been disqualified from matches where they won trophies. and 59% of people have witnessed match-fixing in their cricket careers, while roughly 40% of people have never encountered it. Additionally, many people have lost matches as a result of political pressure, making it clear that a significant portion of the population has encountered some form of political influence in their careers.

TABLE:8 OPINION ON CRICKET AND EXTERNAL INFULENCE

Questions	Particulars	No:of respondents	Percentage
Match fixing is a myth in cricket	Agree	11	22
	Neutral	27	54
	Disagree	12	24
	Total	50	100
Cricket is a corruption-free game	Agree	9	18
	Neutral	27	54
	Disagree	14	28
	Total	50	100
Many gems of cricket are buried because of politics and corruption	Agree	29	29
	Neutral	20	58
	Disagree	1	40
	Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Thus from the above observation table, it is evident that a large amt of people (54%) are neutral about the statement “match-fixing is a myth in cricket” and 22% agree and 24% of people disagree with this thus most the people are unsure about this as in few matches there exists no match-fixing and in some they do. And similarly, 54% of people are neutral about the statement that states cricket is corrupt free and a large sum of people agree that most of the gems of cricket are buried because of corruption and political influence. Therefore it is evident that the impact of politics and money has destroyed the sportsmanship and the spice of the game “CRICKET”.

TABLE:9 In What level have you played cricket?

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Zonal	25	50
State	17	35
National	3	5
Others	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Thus it is evident that that most of the respondents have played cricket in zonal level representing their respective zone and rest of 35% and 5% have played in state and national .. here national doesn't represent Indian team and other normal cricket players who play behalf of their clubs in inter and intra club events.

Table: 10 Role do you play in cricket?

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Bowler	15	30
Batsman	15	30
Allrounder	20	40
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Among the players, there is an equal representation of 30 % of both batsmen and bowlers ., and 40 % of allrounders.

Table:11 Did any of your known ones face political bias in sports?

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Friends	27	54
Neighbour	14	28
Relative	9	18
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Not only the respondents but their known ones have also faced the political bias in their respective sports and their variations are shown in above table.

Table: 12 At what level you have faced political pressure?

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Division	15	31
District	17	34
State	10	21
National	8	14
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Thus political pressure is experienced in Division, district, state, national, at the respective levels of 31%, 34%,21%,14%.

Table: 13 Why do you think that there is less number of south Indian players in the Indian team?

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Political	31	63
Rapid competition	11	22
South Indian people are interested in other sports	8	15
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

From this table, we understand that most of people think politics is the reason for this problem and others think that competition and south Indian people are interested in other sports.

Table: 14 I have experienced corruption in cricket with

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Team managers	12	25
Coaches	8	15
Selection process	30	60
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Most of the people (60%) experienced corruption in selection process compared to team managers and coaches.

Table: 15 How can we erase political favouritism?

CATEGORY	NO: RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Make selection more rigid and fair	25	54
Give more autonomy to the sports sector	12	20
Increase punishments for bribes	13	26
Total	50	100

Source: Primary Data.

Many people (54%) have supported the idea of making the selection process more rigid and low amount of people support to give autonomy to sports sector.

LIMITATION:

This research had covered only 50 respondents due to less time span if there was a chance to get more respondents then there would have been a greater scope and new answers. As the data was collected via the questionnaire method moreover online thus there are some inconveniences faced by respondents as they were allowed to select from the options given. The research is done only on Indian cricket. The international cricket's nature could vary from this. As this research is done with primary data collected via a questionnaire with limited respondents the data attained is not complete because of the unavailability of time. The answers are chosen within the options given and because of this the exact answer of the respondent is unknown.

CONCLUSION:

The main justification for taking part in and seeing a cricket match has changed. Cricket's importance is ebbing away due to incidences of match-fixing and spot-fixing. The BCCI has banned players in cases where they were found guilty of manipulating matches in events like the World Cup, IPL, and others. Following a television undercover investigation, five IPL cricket players were recently indicted in a spot-fixing scheme that took place in the 2011 season. The source of all evil is money. Sadly, this is also true of cricket, a great game. The values of the game are ignored with the introduction of the Indian Premier League. The alleged instances stand in sharp contrast to the principles of fair play that this gentleman's game upholds.

Sports used to be a place where people could come together and support their country. As the game's spirit and importance rose, the players would work extremely hard to make the country proud. The players and the central body are now caught up in politics and are involved in cases, while the people still band together in support of their country. It is crucial to keep in mind that the athletes who are selected to proudly represent their country are prone to societal vices. It could be claimed that since the game's basic goal was achieved, it is no longer considered a gentleman's game. They have much too much ambition to understand that cricket is essentially a cerebral game with a lot of strain. While some of my boys had issues, they are currently doing really well. There is a pattern to them. A mentor must comprehend the player's mentality. He must be someone the player can confide in and with

whom he can share his suppressed emotions. He needs to address every element influencing the young player's performance. Given that the player spends the majority of his time with his family, a mentor and the parents should collaborate.

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