



Impact of Hockey Namme on Hockey Development in Coorg: A Study On Player Perspectives

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Abstract: The Kodava Hockey Festival (Hockey Namme) is a one-of-a-kind athletic and cultural event that has helped to raise the outline of hockey in Coorg (Kodagu), Karnataka. The Kodava families arrange the festival every year, which not only develops local hockey skills but it also builds cultural identity and community relationships. This research uses a structured Likert-scale to administer to 100 Coorg hockey players about their perceptions of Hockey Namme's impact on hockey development along with personal information. The interview and survey assesses crucial variables such as participation rates, talent development, infrastructure improvements, cultural relevance and future possibilities for hockey in the region. The results were examined using both qualitative and quantitative methods, utilizing percentage analysis along with independent 't' test to assess statistical significance at 0.05 and 0.01 levels, using the SPSS software package. The data show that Hockey Namme has had a substantial impact on fostering hockey excitement, developing community bonds and conserving Kodava sports traditions. However, problems such as improved training facilities, structured leagues and professional opportunities were recognized. The research article highlights the significance of strategic investments and policy initiatives in sustaining the festival's impact and strengthening Coorg's contributions to Indian hockey.

Index Terms – Hockey Namme, Coorg, Hockey development, sports infrastructure, community engagement

INTRODUCTION

Hockey has long been a part of Coorg (Kodagu), Karnataka and the region has produced a number of great players who have represented to India at various levels. Among the several activities promoting hockey in Coorg, the Kodava Hockey Festival also known as Hockey Namme, stands out as a distinct cultural and sporting event. This annual event, organized by many Kodava families, is more than just a hockey competition; it is also a celebration of tradition, community togetherness and sportsmanship. The event has grown in popularity over the years, considerably contributing to the region's hockey growth by giving a platform for young players to demonstrate their talent while also encouraging grassroots participation.

The Kodava Hockey Festival has been instrumental in developing local talent and keeping the spirit of hockey alive in Coorg. However, there has been little empirical investigation into its impact on the general development of hockey in the region. This study aims to investigate the player opinions on how the festival affects talent development, community engagement, infrastructure and long-term hockey prospects in Coorg. Understanding these elements will assist stakeholders, particularly policymakers and sports authorities in making educated decisions to promote the sport's growth.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study is notable because it sheds light on the effectiveness of a community-driven sports project for promoting hockey at the grassroots level. While India has a long history of hockey, regional contributions such as those of Coorg deserve more recognition and encouragement. This study will emphasize the Hockey Namme's strengths and weaknesses, as well as make recommendations for its long-term impact. The findings will be useful for sports administrators, government entities and local hockey aficionados looking to improve the sport's development in the region.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study seeks to examine the influence of Hockey Namme on hockey development in Coorg from the perspective of players. It aims to examine the festival's role in promoting participation, skill development, infrastructure upgrades and cultural preservation. Furthermore, the study will look into the problems that players confront in terms of professional possibilities and structured training facilities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. Investigate the impact of Hockey Namme on increasing hockey participation in Coorg.
2. Assess the perceptions of hockey players regarding the festival's impact on hockey development based on demographic factors such as gender and participation level.

HYPOTHESIS

There is no significant difference in perceptions regarding the festival's impact on hockey development based on demographic factors such as gender and participation level.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopts a survey-based research design, collecting data from 100 Coorg hockey players via standardized Likert-scale format. Purposive sampling was used to recruit the participants, ensuring a diverse range of age groups and experience levels. In addition to surveys, interviews were conducted with key stakeholders such as players to gain qualitative insights into the festival's impact. The research tool is a structured questionnaire separated into sections that address demographic information, involvement in Hockey Namme, perceived impact on skill development, infrastructure, cultural significance and future possibilities. This study employed a structured questionnaire to analyze perceptions of Hockey Namme's impact on hockey development in Coorg. It includes of 35 statements grouped into numerous categories, including participation level, talent development, infrastructure development, cultural relevance, future hockey opportunities, obstacles, places for improvement and overall satisfaction. Participants rate their level of agreement on a 1–5 scale, with 1 representing "Strongly Disagree" and 5 representing "Strongly Agree." Cronbach's alpha (0.85) was used to assess reliability, while content and construct validity were verified with topic experts and hockey specialists. The acquired data was evaluated with both descriptive and inferential statistics. The percentage analysis was utilized to interpret player perceptions and the independent t-test was performed to determine statistical significance at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels. To ensure accuracy and reliability, data was analyzed using the SPSS softwares. This study intends to provide useful insights regarding Hockey Namme's role in creating Coorg's hockey scene, as well as suggestions for how to improve its influence for future generations.

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

The analysis of data was utilized by using percentage analysis and independent 't' test to know the perception of players about the festival's impact on hockey development based on demographic factors such as gender and participation level.

Percentage Analysis**Table 1 :** Table showing Personal Proforma, level of participation of hockey players.

Sl. No.	Variable	Group	Number	Percentage
1.	Gender	Male	66	66.0
		Female	34	34.0
2.	Age	15-20 years	15	15.0
		21-25 years	15	15.0
		26-30 years	23	23.0
		31-35 years	28	28.0
		Above 35 years	19	19.0
3.	Years of Playing Hockey	Less than 1 year	48	48.0
		1-3 years	24	24.0
		4-6 years	9	9.0
		More than 6 years	19	19.0
4.	Level of Hockey Participation	School Level	41	41.0
		College Level	22	22.0
		Club Level	25	25.0
		State level	12	12.0

Sl. No.	Variable	Group	Number	Percentage
5.	Participated in Hockey Namme	Yes	74	74.0
		No	26	26.0
6.	If Yes, How many times	Not Participated	26	26.0
		Once	36	36.0
		2-3 times	26	26.0
		More than 3 times	12	12.0
7.	Do you Aspire to pursue Hockey Professionally	Yes	69	69.0
		No	24	24.0
		Not Sure	7	7.0

Data from 100 hockey playing Coorgs suggests a spread of engagement and experience profiles. Of these, 66% were males and 34% females, meaning hockey is played more predominantly by men. The 31-35 age group is the largest, with 28%, followed by 26-30, with a figure of 23%. It follows that, of the total, 30% fall into the category 15-25 years old and 19% are 35 years old or older, reflecting both greenhorns as well as veterans in the game.

In terms of playing experience, 48% have been playing for less than one year, while 24% have played for one to three years. A smaller proportion has over six years of experience, at 19%. At the level of competition, 41% have played in school level, 22% in college level, 25% in club level and only 12% reached the state level. This shows that most players are still developing their skills.

Hockey Namme draws a high percentage of participants since 74% participated. Nonetheless, 26% did not participate, for reasons presumably either due to poor access or some other reasons. 36% have played only once, while 26% have played either twice or three times and 12% have participated more than three times.

For this intention of objectives, 69% of players hoped to play hockey as a full-time occupation, meaning that most of them are highly passionate about the sport. However, 26% have no intent to be a player at the next level while 7% are uncertain. This therefore presents the need for enhanced training and employment opportunities for future athletes. Overall, the data reflects Hockey Namme's importance in popularizing hockey, unifying the community and motivating young players while indicating some aspects that require improvement.

Table-2: Responses of Coorg Hockey Players on the Impact of Hockey Namme on Hockey Development (N=100)

Sl. No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Hockey Namme has increased participation among the Coorg hockey community.	12 (12%)	37 (37%)	25 (25%)	22 (22%)	4 (4%)
	The tournament aims at encouraging more youths to play hockey.	26 (26%)	21 (21%)	28 (28%)	17 (17%)	8 (8%)
	Participating in Hockey Namme encouraged me to enhance my talents.	23 (23%)	30 (30%)	24 (24%)	15 (15%)	8 (8%)
	The event has increased interest for hockey among women players.	18 (18%)	21 (21%)	35 (35%)	15 (15%)	11 (11%)
	The event has helped recognize hidden talents at rural locations.	22 (22%)	26 (26%)	31 (31%)	14 (14%)	7 (7%)
	Hockey Namme provides a stage for talented sportspersons to increase their exposure.	32 (32%)	28 (28%)	14 (14%)	20 (20%)	6 (6%)
	The level of competition during the tournament increases skill growth.	24 (24%)	29 (29%)	19 (19%)	17 (17%)	11 (11%)
	The tournament promotes sportsmanship and team spirit among players.	21 (21%)	24 (24%)	28 (28%)	15 (15%)	12 (12%)
	Coaches keenly monitor the players for selection.	17 (17%)	25 (25%)	29 (29%)	18 (18%)	11 (11%)
	The event has impacted my personal development	22	34	22	14	8

Sl. No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	as a performer positively.	(22%)	(34%)	(22%)	(14%)	(8%)
1.	Hockey Namme renovated hockey grounds in Coorg.	21 (21%)	19 (19%)	36 (36%)	14 (14%)	10 (10%)
2.	The event has attracted more sponsorships and support towards hockey.	28 (28%)	22 (22%)	31 (31%)	11 (11%)	8 (8%)
3.	Youths now have better access to equipment and resources.	22 (22%)	22 (22%)	31 (31%)	20 (20%)	5 (5%)
4.	Hockey coaching in the region has been improved since Hockey Namme.	19 (19%)	33 (33%)	22 (22%)	17 (17%)	9 (9%)
5.	The event enhanced the training facilities for the players.	24 (24%)	26 (26%)	29 (29%)	15 (15%)	6 (6%)
6.	Hockey Namme supports the cultural identity of Coorg through sports.	27 (27%)	27 (27%)	18 (18%)	15 (15%)	13 (13%)
7.	Hockey brings together different cultures in Coorg.	20 (20%)	34 (34%)	23 (23%)	19 (19%)	4 (4%)
8.	The event conserves traditional hockey values and culture.	29 (29%)	23 (23%)	25 (25%)	12 (12%)	11 (11%)
9.	Hockey Namme encourages pride and honor.	24 (24%)	28 (28%)	27 (27%)	13 (13%)	8 (8%)
10.	The tournament makes the young generations aware of Coorg's hockey culture.	21 (21%)	21 (21%)	32 (32%)	20 (20%)	6 (6%)
11.	Hockey Namme has generated interest in professional hockey careers.	13 (13%)	35 (35%)	27 (27%)	20 (20%)	5 (5%)
12.	The event has resulted in the promotion of hockey among schools and colleges.	25 (25%)	25 (25%)	27 (27%)	10 (10%)	13 (13%)
13.	Hockey Namme has brought about tremendous corporate sponsorships for hockey in Coorg.	23 (23%)	24 (24%)	26 (26%)	21 (21%)	6 (6%)
14.	More such events like Hockey Namme should be conducted.	30 (30%)	19 (19%)	22 (22%)	24 (24%)	5 (5%)
15.	The event should be taken to the inter-state level.	20 (20%)	31 (31%)	27 (27%)	15 (15%)	7 (7%)
16.	Squad selection process of Hockey Namme needs improvement.	28 (28%)	27 (27%)	22 (22%)	16 (16%)	7 (7%)
17.	Media coverage should be enhanced to portray the performance of the players.	27 (27%)	23 (23%)	30 (30%)	13 (13%)	7 (7%)
18.	Financial assistance for the new entrants is still a problem.	25 (25%)	23 (23%)	26 (26%)	16 (16%)	10 (10%)
19.	Training schedules should be more systematic before the event.	14 (14%)	33 (33%)	29 (29%)	16 (16%)	8 (5%)
20.	Women's hockey should get more attention in Hockey Namme.	22 (22%)	31 (31%)	17 (17%)	24 (24%)	6 (6%)
21.	I am satisfied with the overall organization of Hockey Namme.	16 (16%)	28 (28%)	26 (26%)	16 (16%)	14 (14%)
22.	The event has positively influenced the hockey ecology of Coorg.	27 (27%)	26 (26%)	24 (24%)	12 (12%)	11 (11%)
23.	I would recommend young players to play Hockey Namme.	16 (16%)	33 (33%)	27 (27%)	15 (15%)	9 (9%)
24.	The government must support it more to continue the event and spread it further.	11 (11%)	35 (35%)	30 (30%)	19 (19%)	5 (5%)

Sl. No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
5.	I feel Hockey Namme will definitely have a long-term impact on the future hockey of Coorg.	25 (25%)	30 (30%)	22 (22%)	18 (18%)	5 (5%)

The replies of 100 Coorg hockey players provide valuable insight into the influence of Hockey Namme on local hockey development. The majority of participants (49%) believed that the competition improved participation and encouraged youth involvement in the sport. A considerable number of people (53%) said that participating in the festival helped them improve their abilities and discovered hidden talents in rural areas (48%). While many people agreed that Hockey Namme exposes talented players (60%) and encourages sportsmanship, several suggested that more structured training could improve the competitive experience.

Concerns about infrastructure and resources were raised, with many players believing that coaching and training facilities might be improved and financial help for new entrants being a barrier (48%). The cultural significance of Hockey Namme was acknowledged, with more than half of the participants believing that it helps preserve Coorg's hockey traditions and instills pride. Mixed reaction on media coverage suggested that additional attention could help attract sponsorships, while a majority of players (55%) supported expanding the event to other states. Overall, 44% were pleased with the organization of Hockey Namme, while 55% anticipated it would have a long-term impact on hockey in Coorg, emphasizing the need for better policies and infrastructure to ensure its sustained success.

Table-3: Independent 't' test Analysis on Hockey Namme's impact on hockey development perceived by Hockey players with regard to gender.

Variable	Group	Number	Mean	S.D.	Sig. Level
Gender	Male	66	93.757	33.368	1.57 ^{NS}
	Female	34	86.970	8.035	

(NS indicates Not Significant; Table value 1.98 for N=100, df=98.)

The mean score for male players (93.757) is slightly higher than that of female players (86.970), suggesting that male players perceive a greater impact of Hockey Namme on hockey development. However, the independent 't' test value (1.57) is not statistically significant at either the 0.05 or 0.01 levels (critical value: 1.98 at df=98). This indicates that the difference in perception between male and female players is not significant. Therefore, both male and female players generally hold similar views regarding the role of Hockey Namme in the development of hockey in Coorg.

Table-4: Independent 't' test Analysis on Hockey Namme's impact on hockey development perceived by Hockey players with regard to participation level

Variable	Group	Number	Mean	S.D.	Sig. Level
Participated in Hockey Namme	Participated	74	94.797	29.711	2.62*
	Not Participated	26	81.923	17.787	

(* Significant at 0.05 level, Table value 1.98, df = 98)

The average score for participants who participated in Hockey Namme (94.797) was much greater than that of those who did not participate (81.923). The independent 't' test value (2.62) is higher than the critical value of 1.98, suggesting a statistically significant difference at the 0.05 level. This implies that involvement in Hockey Namme improves players' opinions of hockey development in Coorg. Players who have attended the festival directly are more likely to perceive its importance in increasing hockey excitement, developing skills and strengthening community relationships than those who have not.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The report emphasizes the significance of Hockey Namme in promoting hockey in Coorg. The event not only showcases new talent, but it also fosters community relationships and preserves cultural traditions. The findings demonstrate that male and female players have similar perspectives on the festival's influence, implying that it is regarded similarly across genders.

However, there is an obvious distinction between those who participated and those who did not. Players who participated in the event value its benefits more strongly, implying that direct experience improves their appreciation. This underlines the importance of encouraging more players to participate in Hockey Namme so that it can have the most positive impact.

Despite its success, some obstacles persist. The need for improved training facilities, organized leagues and professional opportunities was emphasized. While the festival has helped to maintain interest in hockey, developing infrastructure and creating long-term professional opportunities are critical for the sport's continued growth in the region.

CONCLUSION

Hockey Namme is more than just an event; it is a way of hockey development and a reflection of Kodava culture. The event has increased participation, improved skills and strengthened community ties. While gender differences in perception are not significant, people who have attended the event feel its impact more strongly, emphasizing the value of participation.

Certain concerns must be resolved for it to continue to have an impact. A lack of structured training programs, professional leagues and financial support could jeopardise the festival's long-term viability. Without adequate investment and policy support, Hockey Namme's full potential may not be realized.

SUGGESTIONS

- Encourage remote and underrepresented players to participate in the event.
- Improve training programs and academies to support youthful talent growth.
- Structured leagues at various levels can facilitate players' transition from amateur to professional hockey.
- Government and commercial sponsors can help enhance infrastructure and provide financial aid to players.
- Integrating hockey and Kodava traditions through workshops and mentorship programs might enhance the festival's meaning.
- Incorporating Hockey Namme into official sports development plans can promote its long-term success.

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