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IMPACT OF PILATES TRAINING ON SELECTED PHYSICAL FITNESS COMPONENTS AMONG COLLEGE MEN BADMINTON PLAYERS

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ABSTRACT

Background: Pilates training is a widely used conditioning method that enhances core strength, flexibility, and muscular endurance, all of which are essential for badminton performance. It is particularly effective in improving arm explosive power and flexibility, which contribute to better shot execution, injury prevention, and overall athletic efficiency.

Aim: This study aimed to examine the effects of a six-week Pilates training program on selected physical fitness components, specifically arm explosive power and flexibility, among college men badminton players. **Material and Methods:** Thirty (N=30) college-level male badminton players from Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, participated in the study. The players were divided into an experimental group (n=15) and a control group (n=15). The experimental group underwent a structured Pilates training program, while the control group followed their regular routine without additional training.

Statistical Applications: The dependent t-test was used to analyze pre-test and post-test differences, with significance set at 0.05. **Results:** The findings indicated significant improvements in arm explosive power ($t = 3.49, p \leq 0.05$) and flexibility ($t = 3.60, p \leq 0.05$) in the experimental group compared to the control group. **Conclusions:** A six-week Pilates training program positively influences arm explosive power and flexibility in badminton players, making it a beneficial addition to their conditioning regimen.

KEYWORDS: Pilates training, Arm Explosive Power, Flexibility, Badminton, Physical Fitness.

INTRODUCTION

Badminton is a fast-paced sport that requires a combination of agility, strength, endurance and flexibility. Players must possess explosive power in their arms for effective smashes and clears, as well as flexibility to enhance their range of motion and prevent injuries. Pilates training, a widely recognized exercise method focuses on core strength, flexibility, balance and overall body control, making it a suitable training approach for badminton players. This study aims to investigate the effects of Pilates training on selected physical fitness components, specifically arm explosive power and flexibility, among college men badminton players. By incorporating Pilates exercises into their training regimen, players may experience enhanced muscular endurance, improved mobility and greater power generation. The study assesses the impact of a six-week Pilates training program on badminton players from the Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, and evaluates its effectiveness in improving performance-related physical fitness attributes essential for the sport.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The purpose of this study was to examine impacts of Pilates training on selected physical fitness components among college men badminton players. For this study, thirty men badminton players were selected from Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, were selected as subjects. Among them 15 subjects were chosen for the experimental group. The subjects were informed about the objectives of the study and the tasks they would be performing. Their badminton coaches were requested to motivate and advise them to fully cooperate during the research study. The experimental group participated in the training programme, while the remaining 15 subjects were taken as the control group, and they did not undergo any training. The selected variables were tested using standing broad jump test for arm explosive power and sit & reach test for flexibility. The training programme for the experimental group lasted for 6 weeks, with 60-minute sessions held on three alternative days each week. Each training session started with 10 minutes of strength exercises, followed by 15 minutes of warm-up, 25-minutes of training workout with rest intervals of 30 seconds between sets and finally, a 10-minute cool-down. The repetitions were gradually increased according to the training schedule.

Statistical Analysis

The collected data before and after the 6-week training period on the aforementioned variables, under the influence of Pilates training were statistically analyzed using the dependent 't' test to determine the significant improvements between the pre-test and post-test. The derived results are discussed in the following tables.

Table 1 - Analysis of 't' ratio for the pre and post-tests of experimental and control group on arm explosive power and flexibility.

Group	Variables		Mean	SD	SE	t-ratio
Experimental Group	Arm explosive power	Pre Test	1.25	0.04	0.01	3.49*
		Post Test	1.32	0.05	0.01	
	Flexibility	Pre Test	10.08	0.48	0.19	3.60*
		Post Test	11.22	0.56		
Control Group	Arm explosive power	Pre Test	1.20	0.04	0.01	1.88
		Post Test	1.25	0.05		
	Flexibility	Pre Test	10.15	0.30	0.21	0.76
		Post Test	9.99	0.72		

Significant level at 0.05 (2.14)

Table 1 shows the computation of mean, standard deviation and 't' ratio on the selected variables namely arm explosive power and flexibility for the experimental group. The obtained 't' ratios for arm explosive power and flexibility were **3.49*** and **3.60*** respectively. The required table value for the degrees of freedom 1 and 19 at the 0.05 level of significance was 2.09. Since the obtained 't' values were greater than the required table value, they were found to be statistically significant for the experimental group. Furthermore, the computation of mean, standard deviation and 't' ratio on the selected variables namely arm explosive power and flexibility was conducted for the control group. The obtained 't' ratios were 1.88 and 0.76 respectively. The required table value for the degrees of freedom 1 and 19 at the 0.05 level of significance was 2.09. Since the obtained 't' values were less than the required table value, they were found to be statistically insignificant for the control group.

DISCUSSION ON FINDING

The present study experimented the impact of Pilates training significantly improved the selected physical fitness components among college men badminton players. The results of this study indicated that Pilates training is more efficient to bring out desirable changes over the arm explosive power and flexibility of college men badminton players. Nurten (2019) Investigated the effects of core strength training on balance, explosive force and agility.

Pilates and plyometric training can significantly improve physical fitness components in athletes. Pilates training has been shown to enhance dynamic balance, lower limb muscular endurance, and core strength in badminton players (Vora & Panwar, 2021). Similarly, mat Pilates exercises have demonstrated positive effects on balance, core strength, and body mass index in intercollegiate athletes across various sports (Anjali & Kurup, 2023).

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that a systematic and scientifically designed six-week Pilates training program produced remarkable improvements in the arm explosive power and flexibility of badminton players. Additionally, it was determined that Pilates training is an appropriate method to develop the arm explosive power and flexibility of college men badminton players.

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