



Case Study

A case study on International Cricketer Irfan Pathan

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Abstract

“Every art”, said Aristotle in his famous exordium “is thought to aim at some good.” The purpose of education one say is to form character; another, to prepare for complete living; third to produce a sound mind in a sound body. The purpose of the present study was to highlight the achievements of International Cricketer Irfan Pathan. Secondly, to find out the qualities in him that made him make a mark at the International Arena and to find out how he is as a person. The problem therefore was stated ‘A Case Study on International cricketer Irfan Pathan’. A careful and planned study was designed wherein historical, biographical, analytical and interpretive methods were employed to systematically pursue the objective. Data/Information for this study was derived from the primary and secondary sources. To get the first hand information, the investigator visited the school where he studied, the club from where he started learning cricket as a child, his ancestral house where he spent most of his childhood. The investigator personally contacted Irfan Pathan and conducted interview. Almost all his family members were personally interviewed by the Investigator. The researcher also personally contacted his childhood coach, friends, relatives, umpires, trainers, etc. Various pictorial records of Irfan Pathan were investigated. Some of the photographs relevant to different occasions were chosen as documents for the study. Published materials of Irfan Pathan such as books, pamphlets, newspapers etc were studied and information was retained as documents for the study. Data/Information collected through primary and secondary sources were analyzed qualitatively through external and internal criticism. Quantitative analysis was also employed to the data collected by using opinion rating questionnaire for statistical inferences.

Keywords: Case Study, Interview, Survey, Opinionaire.

Introduction

“Every art”, said Aristotle in his famous exordium “is thought to aim at some good.” The purpose of education one say is to form character; another, to prepare for complete living; a third to produce a sound mind in a sound body.

Education is the main tool of social change. It is expected to serve as a bridge between the past and the future. It has not only to inform a person about his roots in the past but also to enlighten him as to why the present is as it is and it has to guide him to build his future. It has not only to impart wisdom and the experience of the past ages but also to equip the individual to make his life a success in the present and to give him hope for the future. It has to bring out in him such abilities and develop in him such innate potentialities that would help him in problem solving and in achieving a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment¹.

Also Education must enlighten a person how he can lead a peaceful life and how he can make his environment peaceful. Life is no all smooth sailing. There are ups and downs and there are periods of troubles and tribulations. One should know how one can maintain one’s equipoise and keep one’s peace in the face of odd circumstances.

Education is important for various points of view. Its field of activity is so wide that all activities and experience are embraced in this sphere of work. Essentially, it is a process of development, a development of latent, inherent capacities of a child to the fullest extent. It sublimes the animal basic instincts in child to socially useful activities, habits of thinking and behaving. It inculcates values, so that he is able to form a strong character useful to his own self and to the society of which he is an integral part. Further, education meets the immediate needs of a child and also social and refined patterns of behavior. Not only this, it develops all his intellectual and emotional powers, so that he is able to meet the problems of life squarely and solve them successfully.

The aim of education is two-fold (i) Development of the individual in society and (ii) Consequent development of the society².

Physical Education

Physical education is rightly recognized as an integral part of education. The existence of man is primarily physical. The first lessons a human child learns and lesson of physical activity. No education howsoever ideal and exalted in its objectives is complete without emphasis on motor activity. The human body

is a sacred gift of Nature. Its growth, development and efficiency largely depend upon the quantity and quality of motor activities it performs. Adequate muscular activity is not merely a biological necessity; it is the basis of "intelligent behavior". The primacy of physical education over all other kinds of education, formal or informal, has to be recognized³.

Physical Education has been considered as an essential part of human life. Physical Education is not a new discipline in India. From time immemorial, Indians have given great importance to 'Yoga' and 'Physical Exercises' not only to keep fit but to prevent or cure the diseases.

The meaning of 'education' refers to the continuous process of learning and development that occurs throughout one's life span. Education in this discipline helps pupil to be a good learner and also a good mover. Physical Education helps teaching physical skills so as to develop neat, skillful well controlled versatile movement. In other words aims and objectives of education and physical education do no differ. Physical when combined with education makes the education a complete process, which aims at the education of an individual through big muscle activity wherein an individual's intellectual capacity is also stimulated resulting in all round development of the personality. As a result one is physical fit, mentally alert, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, morally true and spiritually uplifted⁴.

The young person choosing a career in today's world is a faced with a critical decision. Many changes have occurred in the last few years that make the choice extremely difficult. The nation's economy has been in a state of upheaval, resulting in problems such as budget cutbacks, inflated prices, inner city difficulties, unemployment and mounting government deficits. Increased technology has resulted in changes in the work place. Concern of the environment has generated the implementation of protective measures against noise radiation and the pollution or destruction land, forests and waterways. Concern about the quality of education provided for young people has led to calls for educational reform. The growth of knowledge in recent years and projected future developments in the areas of information and technology has led educators to emphasize the need of lifelong learning⁵.

Physical education is the integral part of the total educational process which enhances and integrates psychological aspect of an individual's life, through directed physical activity. As the physical educators work chiefly in educational institutions, physical education lies within the immediate environment of education. But the content of physical education has other heritages than purely education which has held to give to therapeutic value also. The success of education depends on the extent to which it discriminates knowledge, liberates the mind, improves the skills, promotes free thinking, encourages creative talents and develops positive attitude towards change and order⁶.

For most of the people, Personality is "What makes one individual different from others" Based on the various description, personality seems to refer to an Attribute the people possesses in varying amount, yet personality is not something which an individual possesses in small or big amount, nor it is concrete thing that is easily observable as white skin or black hair. Rather it is what one is⁷.

"A sum total of all his traits and attributes which go to make him individual like anyone else" The notion about personality as something fixed as well as dynamic, inherited as well as acquired concrete as well as abstract, at the same time has always remained in the flux. For instance, at one stage, personality was conceived as "The pattern of behavior in a certain way", at other it comprised simply as 'Intelligence of Mind'.

Comparisons, though a natural phenomenon is necessary because each individual is a unique being and model in himself. Insisting upon three standard yardstick of evaluating human personality. Kluckhohn and Murray opine "Every man is in certain respects": i. Like other men (Universal norms), ii. Like some other men (Group norms), iii. Like no other men (Idio Syncratic norms).

In what proportion does generally and particularly combine to create a new "unique" individual will continue to remain a mind-boggling puzzle. In social context, to put the matter straight, an individual (Personality) is a sum total of: i. What actually is?, ii. What he considers himself to be? iii. What he is in the estimation of others?

As per the law of individual difference no two individuals are same, they differ from one another in one for the other aspect. Having so much variation in their personality traits they can't opt the same profession as such whether they are in the same field. As per the classification of the personality one possesses, people are more inclined towards a specific nature of job, or it can be said that a type of specific nature of job, or it can be said that a type of specific personality they have, help them to select a specific job that obviously suits them. Physical education endeavors to affect and modify positively the development of personality through the medium of physical activity⁸.

Cricket is one of the few aspects of Indian life that unites the whole country. India became the sixth member of the "elite club" alongside England, Australia, South Africa, the West Indies and New Zealand in June 1932. India's inaugural match with England at Lords attracted 24,000 strong crowds which included the King of England, who was also then the Emperor of India. Many believe it encouraged the concept of nationhood for the Indians and proved to be a turning point in India's struggle for independence. India had to wait until 1952 to record its first ever Test victory. India beat England by an innings in Madras. It was in the same year that Pakistan gained Test status.

Once again cricket proved its importance as a forum for reviving human bonds. India clashed with the visiting Pakistan team in 1952 initiating a new intense sporting rivalry between the newly formed neighbours. Unlike India, Pakistan managed to record their first ever win within a mere two years in 1954. As India and Pakistan went to war in 1960, cricket matches were suspended. It was just the beginning of a series of suspensions to come⁹.

The Case Study involves an investigator who makes a detailed examination of a single subject or group or phenomenon¹⁰.

A case study is a complete analysis and report on the status of a particular individual subject, school institution, playground, community or city with a view to ensure possible improvement of status of the case under investigation¹¹.

Statement of the problem

The purpose of the present study was firstly to highlight the achievements of Irfan Pathan at National and International Level. Secondly how he has dealt with various highs and lows in his cricketing career and how he has been a person. Keeping in view the above said purpose, the problem has been stated as **a case study on international cricketer Irfan Pathan.**

Objectives of the study: The study was conducted keeping in view the following objectives:

To assess and investigate the case as a Person. To find out how the case has been an ideal to his friends and colleagues. To investigate the positive characteristics possessed by the case, who has achieved par excellence in the field of sports. From this study, it will be known how the case has dealt with various highs and lows in his cricketing career.

Delimitations: The study has following delimitations:

The study was delimited to the investigation only on the life of Cricketer Irfan Pathan. The data was collected only by the means of Interview, Questionnaire and Observation methods.

The study was restricted to the investigation of the case A Person.

The study has covered the period from his birth till date.

Limitations: The study depended on the methods used by the researcher to collect information. The validity of the questionnaire cannot be measured. The study depended on the reliability and validity of the responses to be obtained from various persons from which data was collected.

Significance of the study: The study has been considered important because:

The study helps to know the positive characteristics possessed by a player who has achieved excellence in the field of sports.

This study unfolds the facts by which Irfan Pathan has been an ideal to his friends and colleagues. This study serves as an inspiration to the young and emerging sportsmen. Through this study it was known how Irfan Pathan has been as a person. Through this study it was known how Irfan Pathan has dealt with highs and lows in his cricketing career and always emerged as leader.

Design of the study

A case study was designed to investigate the personality and characteristics of Irfan Pathan as a player, a person, as an inspiration and his achievements in the field of cricket in which historical, analytical and interpretive methods were utilized. Keeping in view the objectives of the study the following tools were used for data collection:

Collection of data

Data/Information for this investigation was derived from the primary and secondary sources.

Primary Sources: The original material/information was collected from the following primary sources.

Official records: To get the first hand information investigator visited institutions such as Baroda Cricket Association Baroda, Baroda Sports Club Baroda and M.E.S High School Baroda from where Irfan Pathan played and studied. The investigator physically verified the records of his performances at these places.

Interview: A structured interview schedule covering the following dimensions which was developed by the investigator herself and with the help of the researcher's guide and some experts in field of Physical Education was used. The dimensions were:

Information regarding family background of Irfan Pathan: i. Information regarding childhood days of Irfan Pathan. ii. Information regarding his sports career in Cricket. iii. Information regarding his future plans.

For the purpose of collecting information on the above mentioned dimensions regarding Irfan Pathan, an interview schedule was prepared by the researchers with help of supervisor and experts.

The tentative interview schedule was discussed with the supervisor and Physical education experts with the request to help the researcher with their expert guidance and suggestions to finalize the interview schedule. On the basis of their expert inputs a final interview schedule was prepared covering all the above stated dimensions.

Proper consent of Irfan Pathan was already been taken before commencement of the present research work. Appointment with Irfan Pathan was sought well before hand in view of his sports

engagements and fitness schedule. The investigator personally contacted Irfan Pathan for the interview and conducted the interview with well prepared questionnaire. The focus of the interview was mainly around family history, environment influence, childhood days, education, early days in cricket, his achievements at a very young age, experiences in the national team as well as in the IPL and his future plans.

Personal records: Personal records of Irfan Pathan including educational certificates, sports certificates, medals, awards, honours conferred, appreciation letters and articles written on him etc. were considered by the investigator for the present study.

Pictorial records: Various pictorial records of Irfan Pathan were investigated such as photographs appeared in the newspapers, photographs available on internet and photographs taken at various ceremonies and occasions.

Published material: Published material on Irfan Pathan such as books, articles, newspapers, sports magazines, internet articles etc. were also studied and information retained as documents for this study.

Secondary sources: Interview: Interviews with father of Irfan Pathan Mr. Mehmood Khan, his mother Shamim Banu, His brother and International Cricketer Mr. Yusuf Pathan and sister Shagufta were also conducted to ascertain more personal information on Irfan Pathan. Mr. Mehandi Shaikh the coach of Irfan Pathan and some of his former colleagues and friends were also interviewed through questionnaire and valuable data regarding contributions and achievements, professional career, philosophy, leadership qualities and personality of Irfan Pathan were collected.

Survey: Survey technique was also used to obtain responses from relatives, friends, colleagues, contemporary players, coaches, trainers, physios umpires etc.

The opinion rating scale was administered on the subjects using different modes. In most of the cases the investigator personally visited the subjects after prior appointment and obtained the information on opinion rating scale.

However, in case of distant places very far-off, the scale was mailed to the respondents via email and post which were returned back by them after candid opinion on each item of the scale.

Opinion rating Questionnaire on Irfan Pathan was constructed by the investigator with the help of the experts. Questionnaire consisted of seventy five statements mainly on Irfan Pathan as a Player, as a Person and as an Inspiration.

To estimate the strength of feeling, four degree scale was used such as SA- Strongly Agree, A- Agree, UD – Undecided, DA- Disagree, SDA- Strongly Disagree.

Analysis and interpretation of data

Data/Information collected through primary and secondary sources were analyzed qualitatively which was facilitated through the use of external and internal criticism. Quantitative analysis was employed to the data collected by using opinion rating questionnaire for statistical inferences.

The eminent sports personalities have given their opinion about Irfan Pathan that he had been a cricketer of a very high repute and a dedicated sportsman. He had been a great sports promoter of all times. All of them considered him a man down to earth, who bears the qualities of a good friend, a kind human and a committed professional.

Many of the experts believe that Irfan's career was affected by lots of injuries. He had long term injuries which took a long time to recover. Irfan always faced those challenges with utmost courage and self confidence. If it had not been injuries India would not have lost such a great all-rounder. Mental toughness is one exceptional quality of his which any youngster should follow. Apart from his sports endeavors, he often visits schools, sports gatherings, colleges and stadiums to motivate youngsters. He is also part of many charitable institutions. He is multi talented and often seen on television as a part of many entertainment programs.

He along with his brother Yusuf Pathan has started an Academy named Cricket Academy of Pathans in Baroda and are planning to open its branches in rest of the country to motivate and inspire new talent in cricket.

Conclusion

Based on the results obtained from the study, the following significant conclusions may be drawn:

Irfan Pathan is one of the most influential cricketer Baroda and Gujarat have ever produced. He is very committed and hardworking professional. He is a player par excellence. He is a role model for other cricketers. He has been a dedicated and disciplined sportsman. Irfan Pathan is very friendly, cooperative, generous and has lots of patience and perseverance. He is mentally very tough and has dealt all the challenges very courageously and tactfully. He never lets himself down at the times of failure. He has contributed a lot for promotion of cricket. Besides cricket, he is multi talented and has proved his ability in other curricular activities as well. He respects elders and loves his colleagues and youngsters. He is very cheerful and has a charismatic personality.

The above mentioned conclusions clearly stated that Irfan Pathan is a man of substance, a very influential personality, has immense talent and always seen as an ideal. He has set an example for the coming generations that through hard work and commitment a person can fulfill his dreams, despite of tough circumstances.

Table-1: Opinion Rating Scale of Various Subjects on Irfan Pathan as a Person.

Sr. no	Statements	Agree	Strongly Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	He possesses a very pleasant personality.	44.44%	55.56%			
2	He is very co-operative and friendly	33.33%	66.67%			
3	He is maintains good relations with the society.	53.96%	46.04%			
4	He believes in learning by doing.	39.15%	57.67%	3.18%		
5	He is tolerant and ready to forget dfferences.	38.62%	59.25%	2.30%		
6	He behaves in a sober manner.	53.43%	46.57%			
7	Has lots of patience and perseverance.	47.61%	52.34%			
8	He gives more importance to his work.	64.02%	35.98%			
9	Followed rules.	21.16%	77.24%	1.60%		
10	He respects all religions.	61.90%	37.03%	1.07%		
11	A very warm hearted person	23.80%	76.20%			
12	He has respect for elders.	35.97%	64.03%			
13	He respects established traditions.	56.08%	43.38%	0.54%		
14	Acts in a controlled manner.	34.92%	65.08%			
15	He has a practical approach.	56.61%	40.74%	1.05%	1.60%	
16	Possesses a good reasoning capacity.	33.86%	66.14%			
17	He is a determined person	41.79%	58.21%			
18	He is a rigid person.				74.60%	25.40%
19	He maintains warm and friendly relationship with colleagues.	53.43%	46.57%			
20	He never smokes.	50.26%	40.74%	9.00%		
21	He interacts with the media whenever required.	37.03%	53.43%	7.40%	2.14%	
22	He possesses good leadership qualities.	33.86%	56.61%	7.40%	2.13%	
23	He is very soft spoken with good command over languages.	29.62%	70.38%			
24	Takes his own decisions.	28.04%	65.60%	6.36%		
25	He has good sense of humour.	62.43%	36.50%	1.07%		

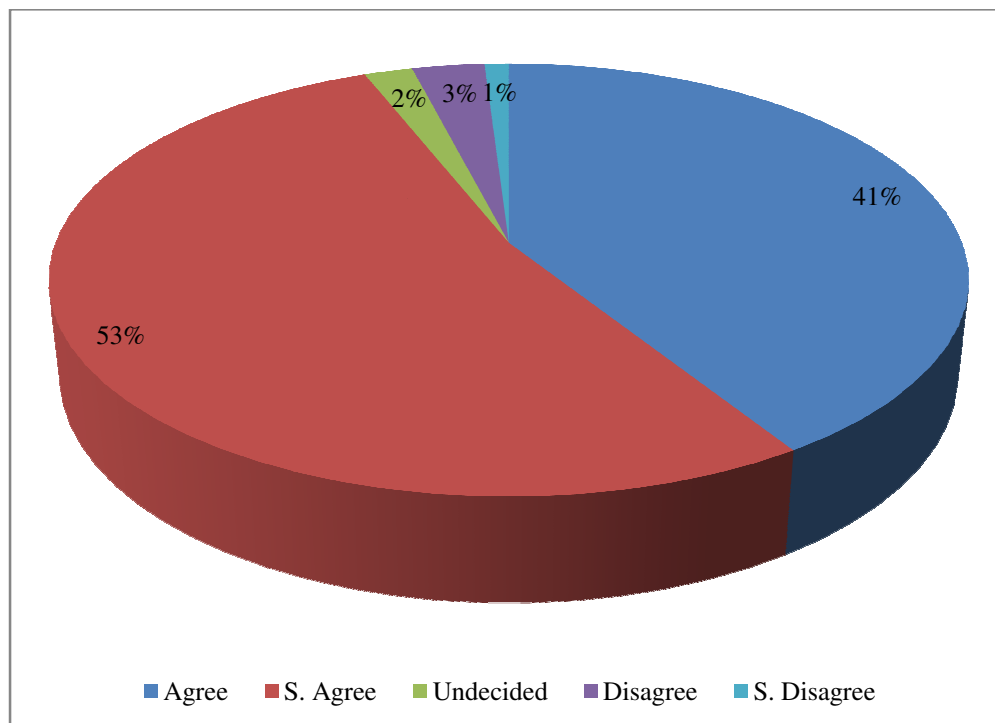


Figure-1: Summary of the responses for Irfan Pathan as a person.

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