



Financial Expenditure Pattern among School-Level Cyclists Participating in District Cycling Competitions in Pune City

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to examine the expenditure patterns, identify major financial investments, and evaluate institutional financial support among school-level cycling players in Pune. A descriptive research design using the survey method was adopted for the study. The population comprised school-level male and female cyclists from Pune, and a purposive sample of 30 players who had participated in district-level cycling competitions in the Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 age groups was selected. Data were collected using a structured closed-ended questionnaire through the paper-and-pencil method. The collected data were analyzed using frequency and percentage with SPSS software. The findings revealed that 40% of the players used cycling shoes costing between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 5,000, while 60% used bicycles priced between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 30,000. Equal proportions of players (33.3% each) had spent less than Rs. 60,000 and between Rs. 1 and Rs. 2 lakhs on cycling since they began participating in the sport. Nearly 46.7% of the players did not possess all the necessary personal training equipment, and 63.3% received financial assistance from their schools or colleges. The study concludes that school-level cyclists primarily depend on moderately priced equipment and institutional financial support, highlighting the need for improved access to personal training resources and continued financial assistance to promote participation and performance in cycling.

Keywords: Cycling, Expenditure Pattern, Financial Investment, Institutional Support, School-Level Players, Pune.

Introduction



Cycling is an endurance sport that requires considerable financial investment in equipment, training, and competition participation. Unlike many other school sports, competitive cycling demands specialized bicycles, helmets, cycling shoes, protective gear, maintenance, and travel expenses. These costs can influence the participation and performance of young athletes, particularly those from economically disadvantaged families. Financial support from schools, sports organizations, and parents therefore plays a crucial role in the development of school-level cyclists.

School competitions provide an important platform for identifying and nurturing talented cyclists who may represent their district, state, and nation in the future. However, the high cost of cycling equipment and training often creates barriers to sustained participation. Understanding the expenditure pattern of cyclists can help policymakers, educational institutions, and sports administrators develop strategies to improve financial assistance and encourage greater participation in sport.

Pune City has emerged as a prominent center for cycling activities, with increasing participation in district-level competitions. Therefore, examining the financial expenditure incurred by school-level cyclists is essential to understand the economic challenges associated with competitive cycling. The present study analyses the expenditure on bicycles, cycling shoes, sports equipment, and financial assistance received by cyclists, providing valuable insights for improving athlete support systems and promoting sustainable development of competitive cycling.

Objectives

1. To analyze expenditure patterns among school-level cyclists.
2. To identify major financial investments required for competitive cycling.
3. To assess institutional financial support received by cyclists.

Methodology

The survey method is to be used in the descriptive research methodology for the research.

Population & Sample : School Level Men & Women Cycling Players from Pune is the population the study. 30 players who have participated in the school district level cycling competition in Pune city in the age groups of under 14, under 17 and under 19, are selected by using purposive sampling method.

Data Collection & Analysis : Closed Ended Questionnaire used for data collection. Data collected through paper pencil method. Data was analyzed using frequency and



percentage in SPSS software.

Results :

The statistical analysis of the information is as follows

Question 1: *What is the cost of foreign-made shoes (cleat-paddle) used during cycling practice?*

Table 1 : Analysis of responses received for Question 1

Cycling shoes price (Rs)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 3 thousand	11	36.7%
3 to 5 thousand	12	40%
5 to 8 thousand	7	23.3%
More than 8 thousand	00	0 00
Total	30	100%

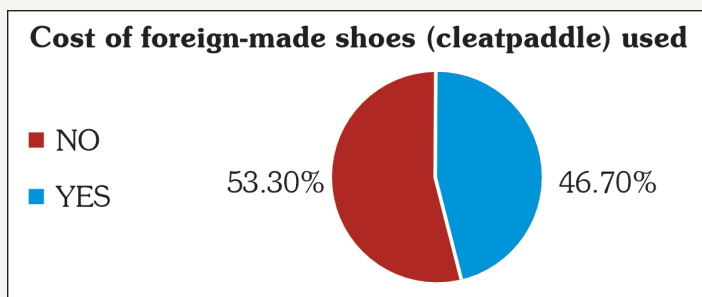


Figure 1. Cost of foreign-made shoes (cleat-paddle) used

From table 1, These are 12 (40%) players who use shoes costing between 3 to 5 thousand, exquisite brilliant shoes for cycling practice. The above analysis shows that there are a high number of players using shoes between Rs 3 to 5 thousand exhausted (cleat-paddle) shoes for cycling practice.

Question 2 : *What is the approximate cost of bicycle used for cycling?*

Table 2 : Analysis of responses received for Question 2

Cycle price (Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 5 thousand	3	10.0%



5 to 30 thousand	18	60.0%
30 to 70 thousand	3	10.0%
More than 70 thousand	6	20.0%
Total	30	100%

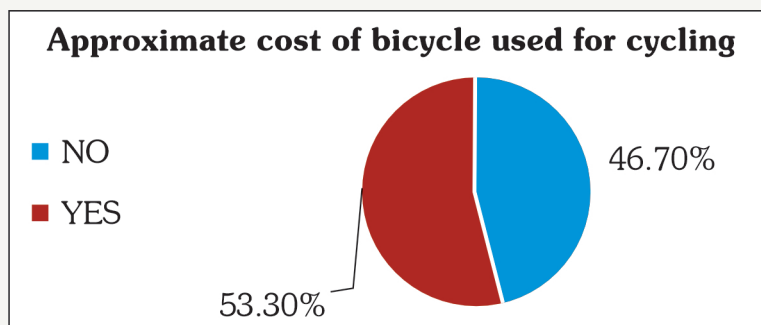


Figure 2. Approximate cost of bicycle used for cycling

From table 2 it is seen that there are 18 (60%) players who use cycling bikes priced between Rs. 5 to 30 thousand According to the above analysis, maximum number of players use cycles priced between Rs. 5 and Rupees thirty thousand for cycling training.

Question 3: *What is the estimated overall cost of cycling games since last 2 to 5 years?*

Table 3 : *Analysis of responses received for Question 3*

Money spent on cycling (Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 60 thousand	10	33.3%
60 thousand to 1 lakh	8	26.7%
1 to 2 lakhs	10	33.3%
More than 2 lakhs	2	6.7%
Total	30	100%

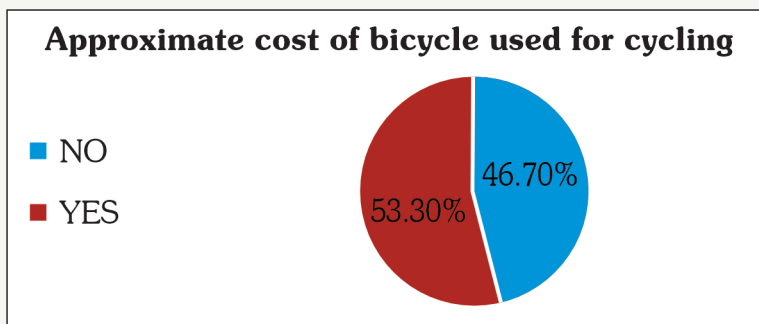


Figure 3. Estimated overall cost of cycling games since last 2 to 5 years

From table 3, it is seen, after starting to play cycling games, there are 10 (33.3%) players who have spent less than 60 thousand for cycling game. and (33.3%) players who spend around Rs1 to 2 lakhs for cycling game. The above analysis shows that since cycling started playing games, the number of players who spent less than Rs. 60 thousand for cycling games (in the 2 to 5 years) and the number of players spending between Rs 1 and 2 lakhs is found to be the same.

Question 4 : *Do you use personalized personal material like indoor cycling treadmill while practicing for cycling competition?*

Table 4 : Analysis of responses received for Question 4

Uses personalized material	Frequency	Percentage
NO	14	46.7%
YES	16	53.3%
Total	30	100%

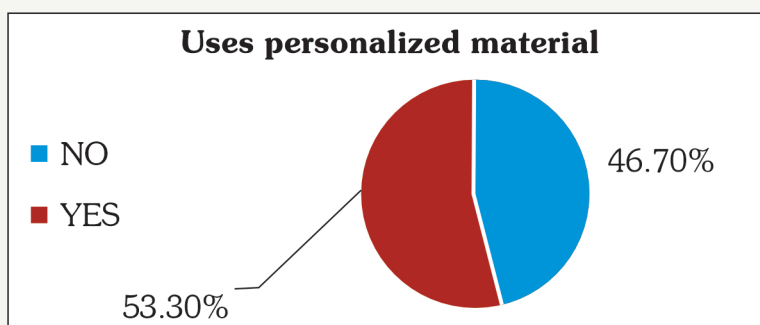




Figure 4. Financial help from the school

The above table no. 4, it is seen that there are 14 (46.7%) players who do not have their own personal material. According to the above analysis, it is seen that the number of players who use this material in the use of their own personal belongings, such as the Indoor Cycling Treadmill, for the practice of cycling competition, is high.

Question 5: Do you get financial help from the school for practice for cycling competition?

Table 5 : Analysis of responses received for Question 5

Financial help gets	Frequency	Percentage
NO	11	36.7%
YES	19	63.3%
Total	30	100%

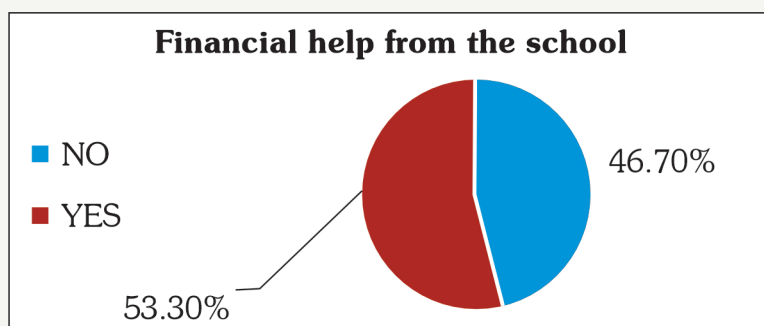


Figure 5. Financial help from the school

From table 5, it seems that there are 19 (63.3%) players, who receive financial assistance from school and college for the cycling competition. According to the above analysis, the number of players getting financial assistance from school and college level is high for the practice of cycling competition.

Discussion

The findings indicate that most cyclists use moderately priced equipment, with bicycles costing Rs. 5,000–30,000 and cycling shoes costing Rs. 3,000–5,000 being the most common. Expenditure on cycling varies, with equal proportions of players spending less than Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 1–2 lakhs over the years. A considerable number of players do not own all the required personal training equipment. Financial support



from schools and colleges plays a significant role in enabling players to participate in cycling training and competitions.

Conclusion

The study concludes that most cyclists rely on affordable equipment and institutional financial support for training and competition. Although many players invest substantially in cycling over time, a large proportion still lack complete personal equipment. Strengthening financial assistance and improving access to quality cycling resources can enhance participation and performance in the sport.

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