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# A comparative analysis of soccer skills: Indian players vs. foreigner players

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**Abstract**
This study evaluates and compares the soccer skills of Indian and foreigner players studying at Guru Kashi University. Using a comparative cross-sectional design, data were collected from 60 soccer players, equally divided between Indian and foreign participants. Purposive sampling ensured that all participants had been actively training for at least one year. Soccer skills were assessed using standardized tests: the McDonald Soccer Test for trapping, the Long Kick Test for kicking and the Receiving and Passing Test for passing.
Results indicate significant differences between the two groups. Foreign players demonstrated superior performance in most skills. For chest trapping, foreign players had a mean score of 8.63 (SD=0.96) compared to 6.03 (SD=1.47) for Indian players, yielding a t-value of 4.38, indicating statistical significance. In instep trapping, foreign players scored 8.7 (SD=0.93) versus 5.66 (SD=0.76) for Indian players, with a highly significant t-value of 9.21. Receiving and passing also showed significant differences, with foreign players scoring 5.43 (SD=0.62) against 2.73 (SD=1.14) for Indian players (t-value of 2.31). However, the difference in long kick performance, though higher for foreign players (mean=6.76, SD=1.19) compared to Indian players (mean=2.9, SD=1.27), was not statistically significant (t-value of 1.39).
The findings suggest that while Indian players at Guru Kashi University have a solid foundation in trapping skills, there is a substantial need for improvement in kicking and passing abilities to match the proficiency of their foreign counterparts. This highlights the potential for targeted training interventions to elevate the overall skill levels of Indian soccer players.

**Keywords:** Soccer skills, McDonald soccer test, long kick test, receiving and passing test, trapping skills, kicking skills, passing skills

## Introduction
Soccer, known as football in most parts of the world, is a globally celebrated sport that combines physical prowess, strategic planning, and teamwork. The development of soccer skills among players can vary significantly based on multiple factors, including training methodologies, cultural influences and access to resources. In India, soccer has been gaining popularity and many universities are now focusing on nurturing soccer talent. This study aims to compare the soccer skills of Indian players and foreigner players studying at Guru Kashi University using the different standardized Soccer Skill Test. By understanding the differences and similarities in their soccer abilities, this research hopes to provide insights into effective training practices and areas that need improvement.

## Objectives
- To evaluate the soccer skills of Indian players studying at Guru Kashi University.
- To assess the soccer skills of foreigner players studying at Guru Kashi University.
- To compare the soccer skills among Indian and foreigner players.

## Hypothesis
There is a significant difference in soccer skills among Indian players and foreigner players at Guru Kashi University.

## Design of the Study
The study was designed as a comparative cross-sectional analysis aimed at assessing and

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comparing the soccer skills of Indian and foreigner players studying at Guru Kashi University. This design allowed for a snapshot comparison between the two groups at a single point in time.

## Source of Data
The primary data for this study was collected directly from 60 soccer players at Guru Kashi University through the administration of the different standardized Soccer Skill Test.

## Sampling Method
The study used purposive sampling to select participants. This method was chosen to ensure that the sample included players who had been actively participating in soccer training for at least one year and were currently students at Guru Kashi University.

## Selection of Subjects
### Inclusion Criteria
- The players were enrolled as students at Guru Kashi University.
- Players had been actively participating in soccer training for at least one year.
- Players provided informed consent to participate in the study.
- 30 Indian and 30 foreigner soccer players were selected for this study from Guru Kashi University.

## Exclusion Criteria
- Players with any injury or condition that might have affected their performance in the skill tests were excluded.
- Players who had not been involved in regular soccer training over the past year were also excluded.

**Collection of Data:** The data for this study were collected through the administration of the different standardized Soccer Skill Test. The test was conducted in a standardized manner, ensuring consistent conditions for all participants. The test components included trapping, kicking and passing.

## Variables
### Independent Variable
**Nationality of Players:** Indian players vs. foreigner players.

### Dependent Variables
Trapping ability, kicking ability and Passing ability.

## Tools and Techniques
- Trapping ability was measured through "McDonald Soccer Test".
- Kicking ability was measured through "Long Kick Test".
- Passing ability was measured through "Receiving and Passing Test".

## Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 1:** Showing the overall Skills performance of Indian Soccer Players

| Skills | N | Mean | SD |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chest Trapping | 30 | 6.03 | 1.47 |
| Instep Trapping | 30 | 5.66 | 0.76 |
| Long Kick | 30 | 2.9 | 1.27 |
| Receiving and Passing | 30 | 2.73 | 1.14 |

The table 1 provides a comprehensive assessment of the skills performance of Indian soccer players in four key areas: Chest Trapping, Instep Trapping, Long Kick and Receiving and Passing. For each skill, data from 30 players is analyzed, presenting both the mean score and the standard deviation (SD) to illustrate the average performance level and the variability of the scores.

In Chest Trapping, the players exhibit strong performance with a mean score of 6.03 and a moderate standard deviation of 1.47. This indicates that most players have a good level of proficiency in chest trapping, though there is some variation in skill levels within the group. Instep Trapping shows a slightly lower mean score of 5.66 but with a smaller standard deviation of 0.76, suggesting that players are fairly consistent in this skill, with less variability around the average score. The performance in Long Kick is notably lower, with a mean score of 2.9 and a higher standard deviation of 1.27, reflecting a broader range of abilities and indicating significant room for improvement. Similarly, Receiving and Passing has a mean score of 2.73 and a standard deviation of 1.14, highlighting variability in proficiency and suggesting that this skill area also needs focused development. The data indicates that Indian soccer players are generally more proficient and consistent in chest trapping and instep trapping compared to long kicking and receiving and passing. The lower average scores and higher variability in the latter two skills suggest these are key areas for improvement to enhance overall player performance. The relatively strong and consistent performance in trapping skills provides a solid foundation, but targeted training in long kicking and passing is essential for balanced skill development.
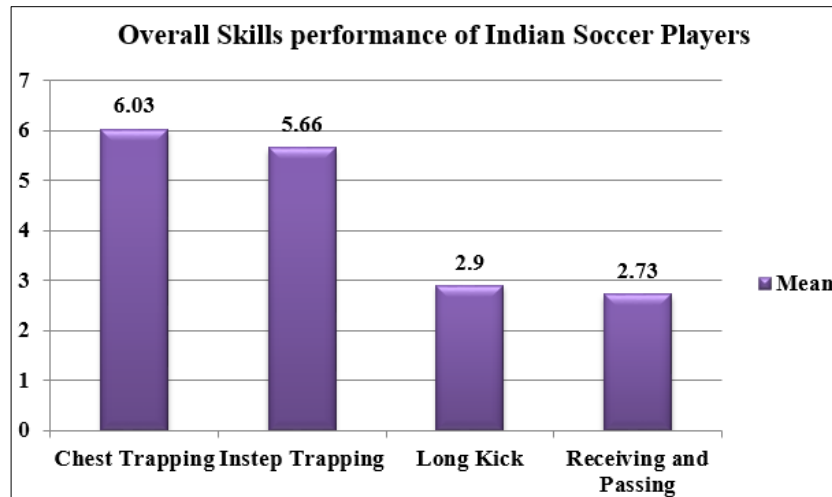
**Fig 1:** Showing the overall Skills performance of Indian Soccer Players

**Table 2:** Showing the overall Skills performance of Foreigner Soccer Players

| Skill | N | Mean | SD |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chest Trapping | 30 | 8.63 | 0.96 |
| Instep Trapping | 30 | 8.7 | 0.93 |
| Long Kick | 30 | 6.76 | 1.19 |
| Receiving and Passing | 30 | 5.43 | 0.62 |

The table 2 presents the overall skill performance of foreigner soccer players across four distinct abilities: chest trapping, instep trapping, long kick and receiving and passing. Each skill was assessed among 30 players, with the mean performance score and standard deviation (SD) provided for each skill.

Chest trapping had a mean score of 8.63 with a standard deviation of 0.96, indicating a high level of proficiency with relatively consistent performance among the players. Instep trapping showed a slightly higher mean score of 8.7 and a lower standard deviation of 0.93, suggesting not only excellent skill but also greater consistency in performance compared to chest trapping. In contrast, the long kick had a notably lower mean score of 6.76 and a higher standard deviation of 1.19, reflecting more variability and a comparatively lower proficiency in this skill. Finally, receiving and passing scored the lowest with a mean of 5.43 and a standard deviation of 0.62, highlighting it as the weakest skill among the players, yet with the least variability in performance.

Overall, the data suggests that foreign soccer players excel more in trapping skills, particularly instep trapping, while their performance in long kicks and receiving and passing shows room for improvement.
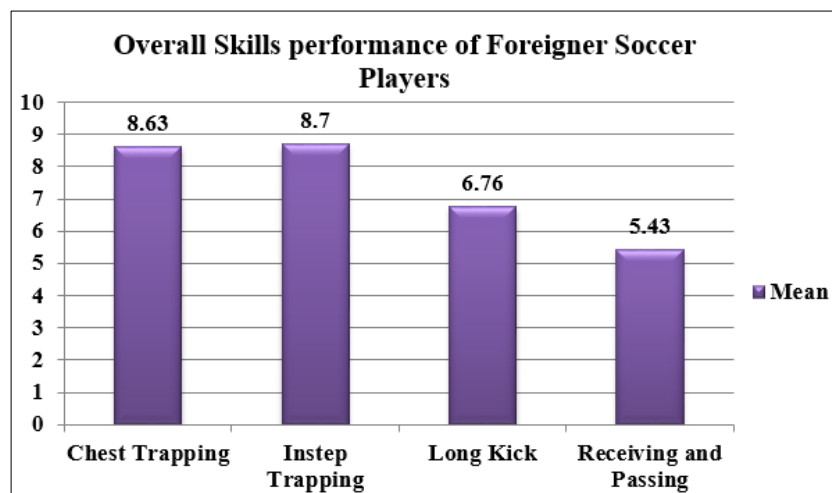


**Fig 2:** Showing the overall Skills performance of Foreigner Soccer Players

**Table 3:** Comparison of Skills performance of Indian and Foreigner Soccer Players

| Soccer Players | Skills | N | Mean | SD | t-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indian | Chest Trapping | 30 | 6.03 | 1.47 | 4.38 |
| Foreigner | | 30 | 8.63 | 0.96 | |
| Indian | Instep Trapping | 30 | 5.66 | 0.76 | 9.21 |
| Foreigner | | 30 | 8.7 | 0.93 | |
| Indian | Long Kick | 30 | 2.9 | 1.27 | 1.39 |
| Foreigner | | 30 | 6.76 | 1.19 | |
| Indian | Receiving and Passing | 30 | 2.73 | 1.14 | 2.31 |
| Foreigner | | 30 | 5.43 | 0.62 | |

The table 3 presents the overall skill performance of Indian and foreigner Soccer Players for chest trapping, foreign players exhibited a significantly higher mean score (8.63) compared to Indian players (6.03), with a t-value of 4.38. This t-value exceeds the tabulated t-value of 2.00, indicating a significant difference at the 0.05 significance level.

In instep trapping, foreign players displayed a significantly superior mean score (8.7) compared to Indian players (5.66), with a strikingly high t-value of 9.21. Again, this t-value surpasses the tabulated t-value of 2.00, signifying a significant difference.

However, for long kick, while foreign players had a higher mean score (6.76) compared to Indian players (2.9), the calculated t-value of 1.39 falls below the tabulated t-value of 2.00, suggesting that the observed difference in performance may not be statistically significant at the specified significance level.

In terms of receiving and passing, foreign players once again outperformed Indian players, with a significantly higher mean score (5.43) compared to Indian players (2.73), and a t-value of 2.31, surpassing the tabulated t-value of 2.00, indicating a significant difference.

In summary, there is a significant difference in skills performance between Indian and foreigner soccer players at Guru Kashi University in chest trapping, instep trapping, and receiving and passing, while the difference in long kick performance does not reach statistical significance.
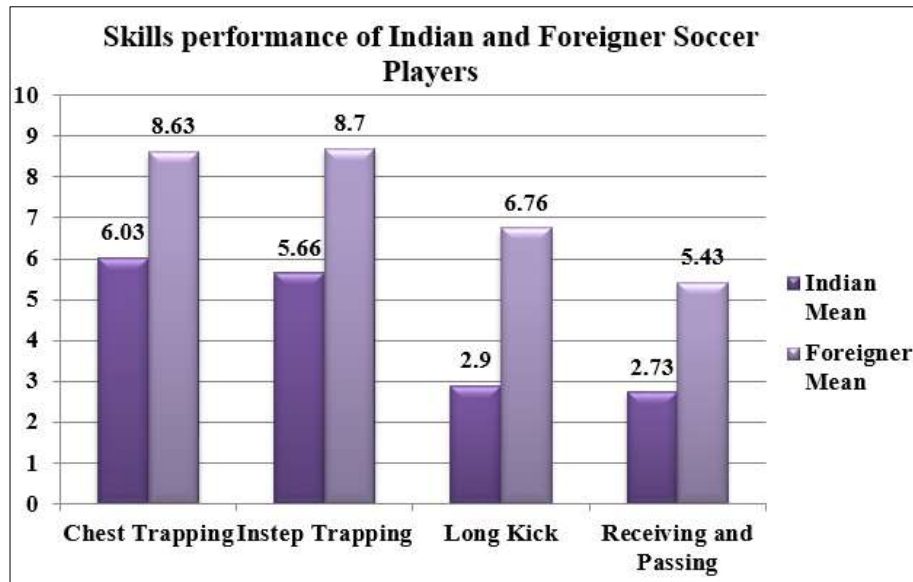


**Fig 3:** Comparison of Skills performance of Indian and Foreigner Soccer Players

## Conclusion

The study reveals significant differences in soccer skills between Indian and foreign players at Guru Kashi University. Foreigner players consistently outperformed Indian players in most skill areas, particularly in chest and instep trapping as well as in receiving and passing. Despite the solid foundation in trapping skills displayed by Indian players, there remains a substantial need for improvement in kicking and passing abilities to achieve parity with their foreign counterparts. The findings underscore the necessity for targeted training interventions to enhance the overall skill levels of Indian soccer players, focusing on specific areas where performance gaps are evident. This approach can help elevate the competitive standard of Indian players to match that of their foreign peers.

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