

Investigating The Association Between Cognitive Ability, Leisure Activity And Emotional Intelligence Among An Ethnically Diverse Student Population From A Medical University In Malaysia

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ABSTRACT--- *The young adult population, often classified as digital natives, have transformed their lifestyle and leisure activity to a large extent when compared to the digitally reclusive generation, which suggestively can affect their overall emotional and cognitive development. Our present study, investigated the association between emotional intelligence and cognitive ability among university students engaging in four different types of leisure activity ie. group 1- students engaging in group based physical activities, group 2-students involved in self-engaging physical activity, group 3 were online gamers and group 4 were those with sedentary leisure habits. A total of 100 students were included in this study with 25 in each category. Based on the set criteria's the subjects were classified into the four groups, following which EI-competency based questionnaire was administered. They participants then participated in a validated online gaming tool to tests their cognitive ability. The results showed no significant difference in EI between the four groups however, the group-3 showed better memory and group-4 displayed weak memory when compared to the rest. It was intriguing to observe that all the EI domains affected the spatial planning of their cognitive component. Finally, the Chinese student displayed better cognitive ability when compared to the rest.*

Keywords: *Cognitive ability, Emotional Intelligence, Leisure activity, Young adults, Physical activity, online gaming*

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a drastic transformation in the lifestyle of different age-groups, including kids, particularly in their late youth and young adulthood. Unlike youngsters a couple of decades back, students today are

driving progressively towards inactive ways of life that include time spent on PCs, mobile devices and sitting in front of the TV. This lifestyle leads them to neglect the physical activity that has been typical to this developmental period [2, 3]. Gomez-Pinilla (2013) in their work presented a developing volume of evidence that supports the impact of physical activity on vitality and function of the central nervous system (CNS) and promoting resistance against neurological disorders [4]. As indicated by these investigations, exercise has the exceptional ability to upgrade psychological wellness, and current events are being given to utilize this ability to decrease cognitive decay and mental issue.

Physical activity promotes neuronal growth and survival, along with this, it also provides a source of enjoyment, fulfillment and social interactions. [4, 5] It is plausible to conjecture that physical activity may have protective impact on cognitive ability. It has been further demonstrated that participating in sports is a defensive factor against physical illness and pathological behaviour [6, 7]. Game gives a balance between group demands and individual demands, between aggressive behaviour and self-control. It encourages a feeling of having a place with a gathering, and shows adapting to both triumph and annihilation.[8] The World Health Organization and Fonds Gesundes, in fact, have formulated strategies indicating that young adults should dedicate at least 60 min a day to physical activity (such as going to school on foot, walking up-stairs, and cycling).

Mechanisms for establishing the effect of exercise on elements of mental health and well-being are explained based on their biochemical, physiological, and psycho-social changes [9]. Identifying the biochemical mechanisms involved certainly relies on the identification of raise endogenous opioid peptides in blood during and after exercise, primarily plasma β -endorphin that are produced with the feeling of euphoria or “runners high” [9]. There has been recent attention paid to the interaction between physical activity and central serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine [5-HT]) as a mood enhancer [9]. Physiological mechanisms

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are explained by the fact that acute exercise promotes thermogenesis or elevated body core temperature which act as a trigger to increase relaxation and improve mood. Psychosocial mechanisms on the other hand suggests that improvements in perceptions of competence and self-efficacy or confidence of one's body and its capabilities may be increased through regular exercise. Physical activity has played a vital role during biological adaptation and survival of the species through evolution, in a process in which the modern mind was created. In addition, development of brain regions that warrant energy efficiency such as the hypothalamus likely evolved with centers that control cognitive abilities, and this has introduced the concept of the "metabolic brain." Importantly, the areas of the brain most influenced by aerobic fitness are higher order regions involved in control of cognition and memory [4]. In addition, aerobic fitness has been shown to promote better functioning of the brain, especially in neural networks involved in cognitive control of inhibition and attention [10].

Physical activity in the form of games, is a domain where people need to propel themselves to accomplish long haul objectives through hard preparing. Also, competitors are required to reliably adapt to the stress of hard training and competitive pressure, and this incorporates comprehension and controlling their emotions and those of different people (e.g., teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and spectators) [11]. With regards to leisure-time physical activity, individuals require elevated amounts of motivation to continue participation[12] and most types of physical activity include some level of interpersonal interaction, in which case, behaviour might be governed, at least in part, by emotional intelligence [13, 14].

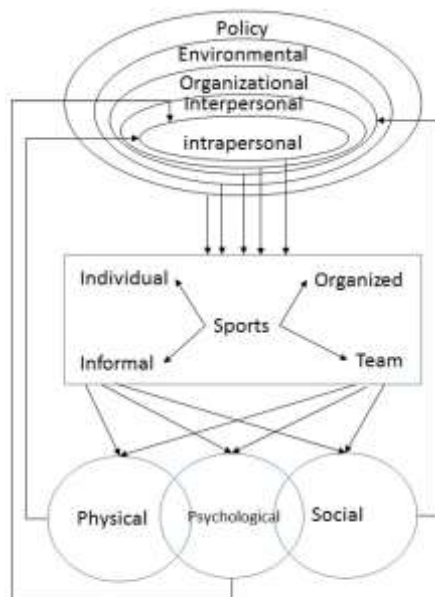


Figure 1. A conceptual framework illustrating The association between physical activity and Emotional intelligence. Source: Eime, Et al[1]

Besides physical activity, some also believe that computer games bring positive impact to the people. Computer games are now one of the most popular and attractive media among adolescents. A study conducted in the USA (2005) on the level of use of computer games by the Americans showed

that in the houses of 75% of the subjects, the device to play computer games was found [15]. The prevalence of adolescents playing computer games was found to be 66.4% in one of the towns in Isfahan province [16]. Vafaenajar(2015) indicated that such games are vastly played by adolescents on an average of 2-4 h per day and other studies reported that such games played for 1-5 h per week or somewhat more than 6 h in a week[16]. With regard to the impressive effects of computer games on lifestyle, these games have been considered as a revolution, and not just as games to pass leisure time. Researchers found that the positive effects of computer games on them are innovation and imagination skills, eye-hand coordination, and a change in abstract thinking [17].

Many studies investigating the relationship between EI, stress, and health have chosen to highlight on various occupational or educational environments [18]. In a learning environment, higher scores on EQ have been found to predict fewer daily hassles and fewer emotional and physical strain symptoms among Canadian university students tested concurrently [19]. EI refers to individual responses to intrapersonal or interpersonal emotional information and incorporates the identification, expression, understanding and regulation of personal or others' emotions [13, 14]. Emotional tendencies promotes successful sport performance [20, 21] and physical activity behaviour [22, 23]. A general agreement exists that emotions are comparatively short-lived in nature [24, 25], but theorists have also suggested that the presence of a more stable, an overarching level that reflects emotional temperaments of the individual [21, 24]. The concept of 'emotional intelligence' (EI) 1 – popularized by Goleman (1995) in the mid-1990s – has been imbibed in many research domains, mostly because of its effectiveness to influence human performance, relationships, and well-being [21]. In conclusion, the investigations found that higher trait EI was identified with more elevated amounts of physical action and positive attitudes toward physical activity. Analysts continue to debate whether EI contributes significantly to emotional, cognitive, and social processes past the notable contribution of IQ and personality traits. The connection between cognitive ability and general intelligence is entrenched, and evidence additionally recommends a connection between cognitive ability and EI [26]. Figure 1 illustrates the conceptual idea of how physical activity is associated with emotional, cognitive, and social processes [1].

Keefe et al (2009) indicates that in spite of the theoretical appeal of the idea that EI may act as a facilitator of these positive life practices, few studies have tested the proposed associations empirically, and fewer still examined the possible mechanisms behind them[18].

There is expanding evidence of association between the absence of physical movement and psychological mental health measures [2]. In spite of this fact, it is clear that physical activity is identified with physical and emotional wellness [27], the connection between physical action and

psychological working requires further study [2]. Cognitive functions include: memory, attention, visual-spatial, and executive functions, while complex cognitive processes include: thinking (abstract, cause and effect, creative thinking, and planning) and language functions [28]. In spite of the significance of this issue, few studies are concerned about the connection amongst sports and cognitive functioning of youngsters in late youth [29], and research to date gives opposing outcomes with respect to the influence of games on cognitive functions in young adults. Some studies demonstrated that physical activity had a beneficial effect on cognitive function [30-32]. Some other studies did not find strong association between physical activity and cognitive function in older adults [33-35].

In the present study, we examined the association between physical activity and cognitive function among the university student with different ethnic and socio-physical activities. We also conducted the study with a view to address the question of whether physical activity (in the form of game & leisure activity involved) has a predominantly protective effect on cognitive function and to further investigate the effect of emotional intelligence in the study group.

This study proposed three research questions to explore the effect of socio-physical activity on the cognitive ability and emotional intelligence among a university student. The research questions ascertain whether relationships exist among emotional intelligence, social-physical activity in the form of games/leisure activity involved, and cognitive ability using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient (i.e., Pearson's r).

Research Questions

- 1.1. Is there a relationship between social-physical activity and leisure Activity?
- 1.2. Is there a relationship between emotional intelligence and leisure Activity?
- 1.3. Is there a relationship between the cognitive ability and emotional intelligence scale scores?

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Participants

The participants were undergraduate students from a university in Kuala Lumpur. They were from a wide range of disciplines including Medicine, Dentistry, Environmental Science, Biomedical Science & Physiotherapy. Using convenient sampling, 100 participants were inducted into this study out of which 60% were male and 40% female. All participants were in their first or second year at the university. Before commencing this project, institutional ethical committee was obtained.

2.2. Measures

Cognitive Assessment: The participants were assessed for their cognitive ability using an online gaming tool built by Cambridge Brain Sciences who have designed a scientifically-validated, yet easy-to-use cognitive assessment products on an easy to access the online platform [36]. This secure and powerful cognitive assessment platform built for healthcare practitioners is accessible on mobile and tablets, which was used in our study. As per the design of this game,

the brain cognitive skills and abilities is divided into 4 key areas which further had subsets of games that could be chosen to make the assessment. These areas include 1. Memory (Spatial span or Monkey ladder or Digit Span or Paired Associates) 2. Reasoning (Double Trouble or Grammatical Reasoning or Object Reasoning or Odd One Out) 3. Concentration (Rotations or Feature Match or Polygons) 4. Planning (Spatial Planning Task or Spatial Search or Spatial Slider).

Emotional Quotient Assessment: The intervention consisted Emotional Intelligence Audit –Competence based, used by Tony-Miller business consultancy in Britain [37, 38]. The questionnaire was designed to address the four classes of Emotional Intelligence 1. Self-Awareness, 2. Self-Management, 3. Social Awareness, 4. Social Skills. Participants completed the assessment during the first visit and were given a report and one-to-one feedback of their results.

Leisure Activity Assessment: A checklist was designed to assess the type of physical activity and social engagement the participants were involved in their leisure. The checked list enabled us to categorize the activity under four groups Group 1: Interactive sports, this included leisure activities that was done participating in a group which included group sports such as football, badminton etc. Group 2: Non-interactive sports, this includes all those leisure activity that is engaged by an individual on his/her own with interacting in a social group such as those who prefer visiting gym, cycling, jogging Group 3: Online or virtual gamers, include those students who in their leisure activity were restricted to sedentary style and had only virtual interactions over the internet Group 4: Not engaged in any of the above activity were those participant who did not belong to neither of the above group. As an inclusion criteria. This questionnaire was validated using a pilot study conducted prior to its implementation.

2.3. Procedure

Participants in this study were briefed on the objectives and benefits of this study following which a written consent was obtained. All volunteers were requested to fill the data sheet which included their personal profile and leading question screen the participant based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria's. Following the selection of the participants the checklist was provided and volunteers guided them on the content and process to complete them. Upon completion of the checklist, they were provided tablets (iPad & Android Devices) on which the game to assess the cognitive ability were purchased. The participants were expected to complete all the four tasks pre-selected by the research team. In order to test the cognitive skills of participants from different groups, were allowed to take a cognitive function test using only one test from each category. One has to visit the site, <http://www.cambridgebrainsciences.com/> and click on the specified tests. Results are obtained were tabulated based on different groupings. Under the Memory category, the test



“Monkey Ladder” was chosen, for the reasoning category, the test “Grammatical Reasoning was chosen, for the concentration category, the “rotation” test was used and for the planning category, the “Spatial Slider” test was used. The participant were finally requested to complete the Emotional Intelligence Audit –Competence based, used by Tony-Miller business consultancy.

All the data were then transferred to the Statistical software for analysis.

2.4. Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were performed to understand and describe the data. Univariate analyses were used to explore the correlation between potential confounding factors, physical activity, and cognitive function. The correlation between cognitive performance and potential confounding factors was examined using Pearson’s correlation coefficient for parametric variables (age, gender, EQ score, and physical activity groups).

Those factors found to be significantly correlated with cognitive function were entered as covariates. The correlation between cognitive performance, EQ and physical activity was examined using Pearson’s correlation coefficient.

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software, version 17.0, was used to conduct the analyses. The level of statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

III. RESULTS

3.1. Baseline characteristics

The mean age of the 100 participants was 21.33 years (SD= 1.5, range = 17-25), out of which 40% were female, and 60% male. The study population’s ethnic percentage among Malay, Chinese, Indian & others were 16%, 34%, 16% & 34% respectively. Twenty five participants in all the four groups of leisure activity (group sports, individual sports such as body building, on-line game and entertainment & limited socio-physical activity) were selected based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria’s.

Table 1 presents the mean and standard deviation of the parameters testing the cognitive ability and emotional intelligence.

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Cognitive Ability		
Memory	39.97	31.5
Reasoning	24.15	22.1
Concentration	30.65	29.7
Planning	42.41	28.4
Emotional Intelligence		
Self-Awareness	34.68	5.5
Self-Management	34.82	5.2
Social Awareness	34.80	4.7
Social Skills	36.24	5.4

Table 2 presents the comparison between the means of the cognitive scores in various domains; it was observed that there was no significant difference in the scores between male and female. However, a Tukey test done using ANOVA to compare the mean value of the cognitive scores

with different ethnic group showed, a significant, difference between Chinese students who displayed better memory and concentration when compared to the others. Whereas, when the scores obtained using EI test were compared between gender and ethnic groups there was no significant difference in there mean value both between and among groups.

ANOVA (Comparing the Means of the Cognitive Ability amongst different subsets)							
Cognitive Ability	Gender		Ethnicity		Leisure Activities		
	F	Sig.	F	Sig.	F	Sig.	
Memory	2.259	0.136	8.169	.000*	4.024	.010***	
Reasoning	2.676	0.105	1.833	0.146	0.597	0.618	
Concentration	0.871	0.353	4.463	.006**	1.681	0.176	
Planning	0.861	0.356	1.857	0.142	1.756	0.161	
EI	F	Sig.	F	Sig.	F	Sig.	
	Self-Awareness	1.126	0.291	1.011	0.391	1.4	0.247
	Self-Management	0.389	0.534	0.388	0.762	0.827	0.482
	Social Awareness	5.762	0.018	0.84	0.475	0.394	0.757
Social Skills	0.008	0.929	0.609	0.611	1.699	0.172	

*Chinese performed significantly better than all the other ethnic population in this category.

**Chinese performed significantly better than Indian & other ethnic population in this category.

***Online Gaming group have performed better than all the other categories, but significantly better when compared to sedentary group

On further analysis, it was revealed that the cognitive ability between both the gender group were largely similar however, in the social awareness component on the EI score females were found to be significantly better ($p < 0.05$) than male (Table 2).

Person correlation test was performed to evaluate the cognitive ability and EI among the four subsets of ethnic population. The results showed no significant difference in the EI component of among the students from different ethnic background. However, the Chinese students were observed to have significantly positive correlation in the cognitive skills when compared to the rest (Table 3). A Tukey test conduct using ANOVA also indicated a significant difference in the mean scores of all the four sub-categories of cognition that was tested, between Chinese students and the rest.

		Malay	Chinese	Indian	Others
Memory	Pearson Correlation	-0.227*	.441**	-0.107	-0.182
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.023	0.000	0.288	0.07
Reasoning	Pearson Correlation	0.029	.209*	-0.121	-0.137
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.778	0.037	0.23	0.174
Concentration	Pearson Correlation	0.008	.328**	-0.171	-0.202*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.937	0.001	0.09	0.044
Planning	Pearson Correlation	0.000	.221*	-0.115	-0.133
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.996	0.027	0.256	0.189

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*

In the whole sample, cognitive decline was observed among students with better spatial planning activity, a significantly negative correlation was also observed among students who reported good self-awareness and social skills (Table 4).

Table 4

		Memory	Reasoning	Concentration	Planning
Self-Awareness	Pearson Correlation	-.130	.004	-.096	-.267**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.199	.971	.343	.007
Self-Management	Pearson Correlation	-.072	.007	.013	-.074
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.478	.947	.899	.462
Social Awareness	Pearson Correlation	.028	.040	-.040	-.229*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.782	.689	.692	.022
Social Skills	Pearson Correlation	.002	-.012	-.007	-.256*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.417	.905	.389	.010

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**
Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*

Table 5 shows the correlation matrix that was obtained for the 4 test groups tested for their cognitive abilities and EI. There was significant negative correlation ($p < 0.05$) in the memory component and those who had engaged in limited and students in this group significantly negative correlation with ($p < 0.05$) their social skills. On the contrary, the students who are online gamers, were found to have significant positive correlation with the memory component of their cognitive ability.

Table 5

		Group1 Sports	Group2 Gym	Group3 Online Games	Group4 Limited Physical Activity	
Cognitive Ability	Memory	Pearson Correlation	-0.025	-0.062	.309**	-.222*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.807	0.537	0.002	0.027
	Reasoning	Pearson Correlation	-0.004	-0.079	0.127	-0.045
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.972	0.436	0.207	0.656
Concentration	Pearson Correlation	-0.051	-0.167	0.188	0.03	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.617	0.097	0.061	0.77	
Planning	Pearson Correlation	-0.053	-0.176	0.183	0.046	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.602	0.08	0.069	0.65	
Emotional Intelligence	Self-Awareness	Pearson Correlation	0.071	0.155	-0.088	-0.138
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.482	0.124	0.384	0.17
	Self-Management	Pearson Correlation	0.029	-0.015	0.121	-0.134
		Sig. (2-tailed)	0.778	0.879	0.231	0.184
Social Awareness	Pearson Correlation	-0.025	0.104	-0.01	-0.069	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.807	0.305	0.922	0.494	

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**
Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*

IV. DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to shed light on the relationships that exist among leisure participation, cognitive ability, and emotional intelligence, and show how these three parameters impacts students studying in a university in Malaysia. Accordingly, the study examined the relationship among leisure participation involvement (Group activity, Individual sports, online-gaming & those with limited socio-physical engagement), cognitive ability, and emotional intelligence among the students studying at a university in Malaysia. It was the intention of the study to realize research findings that would inform university administrators within the jurisdiction of its application with information on the need to institute changes in the environments that positively accord leisure activities and emotional intelligence to foster positive cognitive development with the students in the university.

During the entire period of data collection, the research team assured the participants' confidentiality by assuming

coded names for research questionnaires. This precaution ensured that instead of having the names of the respondents appear on their individual questionnaires, the coded name of the research team member administering it appeared. As such, privacy and confidentiality of the study participants were assured. Demographic characteristics of the respondents were also examined with the intention of being able to examine whether the demographic factors that characterized the study respondents influenced the findings of the research study in any way. The demographic information that was collected from the respondents included gender, age and ethnicity.

In terms of instrumentation, assessment of cognitive ability utilized an online gaming tool to determine the participation level in four categories; memory, reasoning, concentration and planning. The Emotional Intelligence Audit –Competence based, used by Tony-Miller business consultancy evaluated participants' on self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social skills.

The research findings indicated that a majority of the participants that took part in this study were between the age group 17 to 25 years old. The implication, then, is that the participants in this study were relatively young, more of young adults. From such a perspective, this may explain the leisure activity involvement of these respondents. For example, an increasingly higher number of participants reported that they preferred online entertainment when compared to the more physically engaging sporting activity. The gender distribution in our study group was 40% & 60% for female and male population, respectively which was the proportion reflected in the Malaysian Demographic Profile 2018 for the age group between 15-24 years[39].

The comparison of mean cognitive scores among the different ethnic group revealed an interesting pattern of results suggesting that ethnicity showed a strong association with memory and concentration when compared with the other cognitive domains. A correlation statistics further indicated a significantly positive correlation between Chinese students demonstrating better cognitive ability in all the four domains. These results are consistent with observations reported by various authors.[40, 41] It was also noted that gender did not affect the scores assessing cognitive ability and emotional intelligence in this study population.

Comparing the means scores of cognitive ability and emotional intelligence with leisure activity, it was observed that leisure activity significantly affected the memory domain whereas all the other components were more or less similar for this study population. This indicates that reasoning, concentration and planning domains were largely similar irrespective of the leisure activity adopted by the study population contradicting the finding proposed by Bidzan-Bluma(2018) [2] and others[42, 43]. This could be due to the reason that most of the research were done in children or elderly and very little evidence exists on the impact on the young adult population.

The whole study population demonstrated that the

planning domain had a negative association with all the four domains of emotional intelligence. This indicates that as the emotional quotient increases the spatial planning of cognitive domain decreases. Reitter, D.(2010) suggested that decline in the spatial planning is found to be related to environmental factors that is tied to memory access and perceptual judgments[44, 45]. It was also noted that spatial planning was strongly associated with self-awareness than social awareness indicating that more social interaction enabling the students to interact with their environment which eventually built their spatial planning domain.

Finally, the core research question was tested comparing the four groups based on leisure activity with their cognitive ability and emotional quotient. Interesting it was observed that there was a significantly strong positive correlation between online gamers and memory. Over the years games became more complex, often social environments, sometimes involving large distributed communities. Prensky (2006) suggest that in many ways, games have become complex learning systems suggested potential of games with regard to improving computer self-efficacy is an encouraging finding and should be more fully exploited[46] [47]. We thus suggest that online gaming which demonstrated better memory when compared to those engaging in sports or other leisure activity can be used in the learning process to enhance the students' academic performance. Educational games should cautiously navigate the problem of being sufficiently fascinating and to draw in understudies, without being addictive and along these lines inconvenient to scholarly execution[47, 48]. However, study done by Bidzan-Bluma(2018) contradicts this finding[2].

Interestingly participants of group 4, were found to have a significantly negative correlation (Pearson correlation value of -0.222) with the memory component of the cognitive domain indicating those engaging in limited socio-physical leisure activity had poor memory when compared to others. We found that productive activity appeared to show the positively association with better cognitive ability, while physical activity was not significantly associated with cognitive decline when participation in social and productive activities were taken into account. Su(2015) in their work showed similar findings concurring to the current study[49].

This study needs to be expanded in a larger population to reaffirm the finding, and also factors like diet, social structure, and measurement of IQ could provide a more corroborative evidence in understanding the cognitive function of this study population.

Exercise needs to be promoted regardless of its impact on mental fitness as it consists of significant reduction in risks for a variety of illnesses and problems among all sectors in the society. The body of literature summarized in this article additionally supports the want for workout promoting in the typical public as it ought to prove to be a cheap and handy vehicle for improving self-perceptions, mood, lifestyles satisfaction, social interaction and first-class of life. Further, inclusion of educational games into the teaching and learning activity must be considered, with caution towards its side-effects facilitating the student's overall cognitive development.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Engagement in various types' leisure activities can have a significant effect on the cognitive development and emotional intelligence of an individual, especially in the young adult age group. Most of the literature show that the physical engaging leisure activities promote better cognitive and emotional development. However, in our study we find that physical activate participant have displayed a similar cognitive ability and EI when compared to the others. We have also found the gamer appear to have better memory than the rest of the study population. It was interesting to observe that all the domains of measure EI influenced the spatial planning cognitive component. Although the emotional intelligence was found to be similar among the four race, the Chinese student appear to have better cognitive ability than the rest. It is evident that physical activities, positively influence the cognitive ability and emotional behaviour, however the effect of games has also shown positive affect on cognition.

VI. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

JM, KK, DBM, KL & MK were involved in the study design and data analysis. KK, DBM, KL, MK, NU, VV & WYY collected data. JM, KK, DBM, KL, MK, NU, VV & WYY were active in manuscript preparation and analysis. All the authors read the final draft and approved.

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VIII. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Declare conflicts of interest or state "The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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