



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR PLAYERS AT INTERNATIONAL CRICKET STADIUMS IN SRI LANKA AND AUSTRALIA

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Abstract

Sports facilities available in Sri Lanka for cricket are higher in number compared to facilities available for other sports. It is appropriate to have a higher number of cricket facilities, especially for the men and women who have earned fame internationally to Sri Lanka. As important as the number of facilities, the features offered to the cricketers in these facilities are even more significant. Accordingly, the main aim of the study is to identify the differences between facilities available for players at International Cricket Stadiums in Sri Lanka as compared with Australia. As specific objectives, the study looks into the identification of facilities available for players at R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium and Optus Stadium separately. These facilities were selected as they are the two sites that the researcher had most access in terms of collecting information. To successfully explore the differences, the study was conducted using a qualitative research approach. Data were gathered primarily through interviews and observations. Photo-elicitation was the data analysis technique used and two sites: Optus Stadium in Western Australia and R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium in Sri Lanka were focused under this study. In total, seven managerial level interviewees took part in the study. The analysis revealed that at Optus Stadium, there is an area assigned for players to be physically active indoors. This space was specially designed to accommodate the shoes of the cricketers. Apart from the basic features of a team dressing room, Optus Stadium offers facilities such as a seminar room, attached medical room, ice and hot bath rooms. It was revealed that facilities offered to the players at R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium are similar to Optus Stadium but differed in quality. This reflects a gap between facilities available for players at International Cricket Stadiums in Sri Lanka and Australia.

Keywords: Team Dressing Room, R. Premadasa Cricket Stadium, Optus Stadium, Cricket Stadium, International Cricket Council