

Effect of Asanas and Pranayama on Weight of Males School Going Children

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Abstract: *Background:* Yoga, an ancient culture of Indian heritage, regular practice leads to ideal physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual health. Asana and Pranayama are the yogic practices. These have a number of beneficial physiological effects on various systems in our body. The present work was taken up as data reported on the effect of Asanas and Pranayama on weight of males school going children. *Aim:* To know whether there is any change in weight in the subjects practicing Asanas, Pranayama & combination of Asana Pranayama and with that of subjects not practicing any type of yoga. *Materials and methods:* 120 male student volunteers from Muni International School, A-2/16-18, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059, India, of age between 8 to 10 years were selected. Subjects were equally assigned to the four groups by using random sampling procedure i.e. three experimental groups and one control group. The experimental Group A was administered Asanas (30 subjects), Group B was administered Pranayama(30 subjects) and Group C was administered combination of Asana Pranayama(30 subjects), and Group D control group(30 subjects) was given no training of an experimental period of twelve weeks. They practiced Asanas and pranayama for 45 minutes, six days a week and Sunday has been observed as weekly off. The control group consisted of age and sex matched 30 students. Weight was recorded on kilogram (Kg) with the help of weighing machine. *Results:* Asanas and combination of Asana Pranayama can significantly reduce the Weight of school going children.

Keywords: Asana, Pranayama, and Weight.

1. Introduction

“Yoga is not an ancient myth buried in oblivion. It is the most valuable inheritance of the present. It is the essential need of today and the culture tomorrow.”

Swami Satyananda Saraswati

The world yoga means ‘unity’ or ‘oneness’ and is derived from the Sanskrit word Yuj which means ‘to join’. This unity or joining is described in spiritual terms as the union of the individual consciousness with the universal consciousness. On a more practical level, yoga is a means of balancing and harmonizing the body, mind and emotions. This is done through the practice of Asana, Pranayama, Mudra, Bandha, Shatkarma and Meditation, and must be achieved before union can take place with the higher reality. The application of yogic techniques is considered beneficial for health and cure of certain disease for Peak flow rate management and for improving general efficiency of individual in different fields, yoga is being utilized from the most fundamentally personal to the social and educational implication of the society as a whole. The health of children has become a matter of great concern all over the world and the WHO, UNO as well as UNESCO have been stressing the importance of developing the potential that is there in our greatest resource-the children of the world. The art and science of Yoga has a lot to offer for the children in terms of their health as well as complete well being. Yoga offers us a tool by which we can provide a safe and healthy future for our beloved children. Yoga is both preventive as well as therapeutic for health problems that face children and is also rehabilitative in many situations. It is also important to understand the special needs of the children when teaching them Yoga and methods to create and interest in them for this great jewel of our cultural heritage.

2. Objectives of the Study

- To study the effect of Asanas on **Weight**.
- To study the effect of Pranayama on **Weight**.
- To study the combination effect of Asana Pranayama on **Weight**
- To compare the effect of Asanas and Pranayama and their combination on **Weight**.
- To compare the three treatments and its effect on the **Weight**.

3. Hypotheses

- H1** There will be significant effect of Asanas Practice on **Weight** of school going children.
H2 There will be significant effect of Pranayama Practice on **Weight** of school going children.
H3 There will be significant effect of Asana Pranayama Practice on **Weight** of school going children.
H4 There will not be any significant difference between three treatment groups.

4. Selection of Subjects

One hundred twenty (120) school going boys were selected randomly as subjects in the age group of 8-10 years from Muni International School, A-2/16-18, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059, India. The subjects were divided into three treatment groups and one control group using random method. Group A was allotted Asanas treatment group consisted of 30 subjects, Group B was allotted Pranayama treatment group consisted of 30 subjects, Group C was allotted combination of Asana Pranayama treatment group consisted of 30 subjects and Group D control group consisted of 30 subjects. The study was confined to 12 weeks of training programme.

5. Experimental Protocol

A period of twelve weeks in the month of August to November 2012, the climate condition was rainy and atmospheric temperature was varying from 25^o C to 38^o C. Experimental population of 90 subjects were assembled in Activity Hall at Muni International School, A-2/16-18, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, India. Experimental training was executed from 9:00 AM onwards for 45 minutes, for six days a week and Sunday has been observed as weekly off. Each subjects of the experimental group was ready to learn Asanas and Pranayamas. Group 'A' acts as Asanas Group, 'B' acts as Pranayama group, Group 'C' acts as Combination of Asana and Pranayama group and Group 'D' acts as control group which did not participate in the training programme. The subjects of experimental group 'A' practiced Asana (Surya Namaskar, Sarvangasana, Matsyasana, Halasana, Bhujangasana, Shalvhasana, Dhanurasana, Chakrasana, Ardha Matsyendrasana, Paschimottanasana, Vajrasana, Yogamudra, Standing kati chakrasana, Tadasana and Shavasana) and group 'B' practiced Pranayama (Anuloma Vilom and Bhastrika) and group 'C' practiced combination of Asana and Pranayama (Surya Namaskar, Sarvangasana, Matsyasana, Halasana, Bhujangasana, Shalvhasana, Dhanurasana, Chakrasana, Ardha Matsyendrasana, Paschimottanasana, Vajrasana, Yogamudra, Standing kati chakrasana, Tadasana, Shavasana, Anuloma Vilom pranayama and Bhastrika pranayama).

6. Preparation of Treatment Programme

For the purpose of the study "Effect of Asanas and Pranayama on Selected Anthropometric and Psycho-Physiological Variables of School Going Children" the training programme consisted of three experimental groups (one control group). Keeping in mind the basic philosophy behind practicing Yoga that is "*Sthira Sukham Asanam*" (Patanjali), the deep rooted meaning that has been taken as a guide line while execution of a training nobody has been forced to do on an above his capacity on the contrary it has been observed by research scholar improvement has taken place like students could able to attend better posture and sustain it. Even in case of pranayama the magnitude has been increased like retention and frequency of stroke.

Three experts Yoga trainer were involved to administer the training simultaneously to all three experimental groups. All the training groups were supervised by the scholar.

7. Tool Used

Weight was recorded on kilogram (Kg) with the help of Weighing machine.

8. Results

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Data Measured in the Post Testing Weight

Treatment Group	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Asanas Group	28.47	5.24	30
Pranayama Group	26.91	6.09	30
Asana Pranayama Group	25.67	5.86	30
Control Group	28.64	6.14	30
Total	27.42	5.90	120

Table no.1 indicates the values of descriptive statistics of the experimental Groups (Asanas Group, Pranayama Group, Asana Pranayama Group) & Control Group for anthropometric variable of weight, which shows that the mean and S.D. values of Asanas Group, Pranayama Group, Asana Pranayama Group and the Control Group were found to be 28.47±5.24, 26.91±6.09, 25.67±5.86, and 28.64±6.14 respectively. For the total subject the mean and S.D. was 27.42±5.90.

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of the Data Measured in the Post-Testing after Adjustment with the Initial Difference Weight

Treatment Group	Mean	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Asanas Group	27.24 ^a	0.058	27.13	27.36
Pranayama Group	27.51 ^a	0.057	27.40	27.63
Asana Pranayama Group	27.33 ^a	0.058	27.22	27.45
Control Group	27.60 ^a	0.058	27.48	27.71

(a) Covariates appearing in the model are evaluated at the following values: general weight scale for children pre test = 27.49.

The mean and standard error of different post-testing Groups after adjustment have been shown in table 2. Which is for Asanas Group 27.24 & 0.058, Pranayama Group 27.51 & 0.057, Asana Pranayama Group 27.33 & 0.058 and Control Group 27.60 & 0.058.

Table 3: ANCOVA table for the post-test data on weight

Source	Sum Of Squares	DF	Mean Square	F	SIG. ^a (p-value)
Pre Weight Scale For Children	4131.66	1	4131.66	4.186E4	0.00
Treatment Group	2.41	3	0.80	8.15	0.00
Error	11.35	115	0.09		
Corrected Total	4145.43	119			

Table no. 3 indicates the values test of difference between the subject effects, which shows that there was a significant difference in pre test values of anthropometric variable of weight for the four selected Groups, as the value was found to be 4.186E4 (E4 means that the numerical error which represent the point after 4digits) which proves to be the base of Analysis of Co-Variance. Also, a significant difference was found between the post test values of the experimental and Control Group as the value was found to be 8.15, which was significant at 0.05 level.

Table 4: POST HOC comparison for the group means in post-measurement adjusted with the initial differences Weight

(I) Treatment Group	(J) Treatment Group	Mean Difference (I-J)	SIG. ^a (p-value)
Asanas Group	Pranayama Group	-0.27*	0.001
	Asana Pranayama Group	-0.09	0.27
	Control Group	-0.35*	0
Pranayama Group	Asana Pranayama Group	0.18*	0.02
	Control Group	-0.08	0.3
Asana Pranayama Group	Control Group	-0.26*	0.002

Based on estimated marginal means

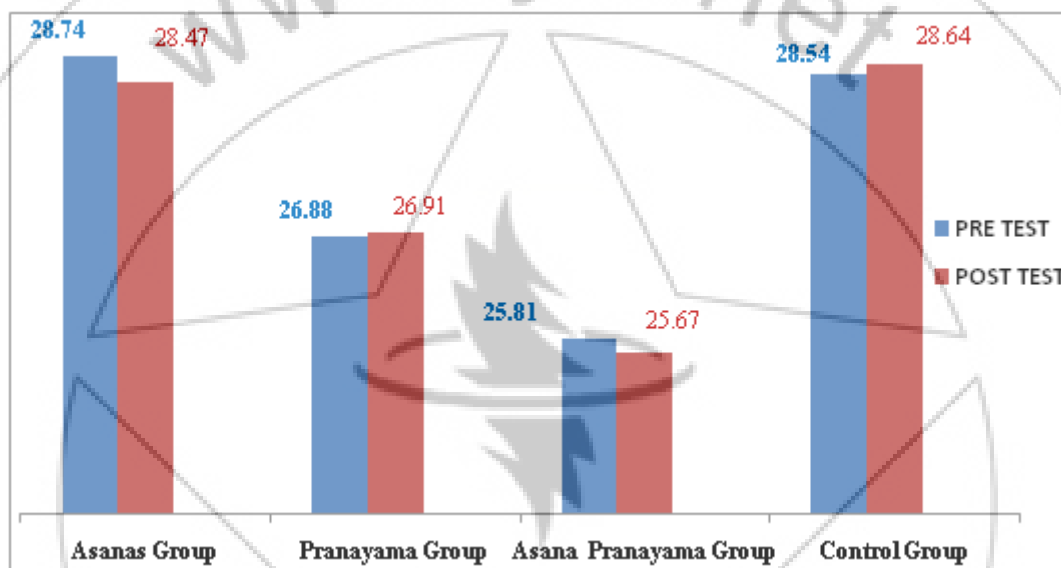


Figure 1: Comparison of the Means On Weight Of The Control Group And Three Experimental Groups

9. Interpretation of Findings

The values of the means and standard deviations for the data on weight in the different Groups during the post testing is shown in the table 1.

Further, adjusted means and standard deviation for the data on weight of different Groups during post testing have been shown in table 2. This may be noted that these values are different from that of the unadjusted values shown in table 1. The advantage of using the ANCOVA is that the differences in the post-testing means are compensated for the initial difference in the scores. In other words, it may be said that the effect of covariate is eliminated in comparing the effectiveness of the treatment Groups during post-test.

Table 3 shows the F -value for comparing the adjusted means of the four treatment Groups (Asanas Group, Pranayama Group, Asana Parnayama Group and Control Group) during post-testing. Since p-value for the F- statistic is 0.00 which is less than 0.05, so of it is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis of no difference among the adjusted post-means for the data on weight in four treatment Groups may be rejected at 5% level.

a. Adjustment for multiple comparisons: Least Significant Difference (equivalent to no adjustments).

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Table no. 4 indicates the values of post hoc test for the selected Groups for anthropometric variable of weight, which shows that a significant difference was found between the post test values of Asanas Group and the Control Group as the value was found to be 0.35 which was significant at 0.05 level, the post test values of Pranayama Group and the Control Group as the value was found to be 0.08 which was not significant at 0.05 level, Asana Pranayama Group and the Control Group as the value was found to be 0.26 which was significant at 0.05 level.

Since F-statistic is significant, post hoc comparison has been made for the adjusted means of the four treatment Groups which is shown in table 4. It may be noted here that p-value for the mean difference between Asanas Group and Control Group is 0.00, Asana Pranayama Group and Control Group is 0.002, all these p-values are less than 0.05 and hence they are significant at 5% level, but in case of Pranayama Group and Control Group is 0.30 these p-values is higher than 0.05 and hence it is not significant at 5% level, Thus, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- There is a significant difference between the adjusted means of the Asanas Group and Control Group on the data of anthropometric variable weight during post-test.
- There is not a significant difference between the adjusted means of the Pranayama Group and Control Group on the data of anthropometric variable weight during post-test.
- There is a significant difference between the adjusted means of the Asana Pranayama Group and Control Group on the data of anthropometric variable weight during post-test.

In order to find as to which treatment is best, one can see the adjusted means values of different treatment Groups during post-testing given in table 2. Clubbing these adjusted means with the three conclusions mentioned above. Hence, it may be inferred that Asanas and Asana Pranayama are equally

effective in decreasing the weight among the subjects in comparison to that of the Control Group.

To Control weight all the treatments proved to be effective as among all the Groups after treatment weight has shown downwards trends but Asanas was most effective as difference between pre and post test was 0.26, in case of experimental Group which was under gone Asana Pranayama together training was less effective. Still difference between pre and post test was 0.14. Which can be seen clearly in graphical representation that is figure-1.

10. Discussion

Table 3 was referred back into the result section. It could be seen from the table that there was a significant difference in case of weight after administrating the different training programme namely Asanas, Pranayama and combination of Asana Pranayama.

The post hoc test (Table 4) revealed that weight was significantly decreased in Asanas Group among the three experimental programme followed by combination of Asana Pranayama programme respectively. But in case of Pranayama programme there is not a significant difference between the adjusted means of the Pranayama Group and Control Group on the data of anthropometric variable weight during post-test.

The effectiveness of Asanas programme in comparison to other training programme may be due to the reason that Asanas programme decrease weight. Therefore, proposed hypothesis has been accepted in case of weight. But in case of Pranayama programme it was found that there is not a significant difference between the adjusted means of the Pranayama Group and Control Group on the data of anthropometric variable weight during post-test because Pranayama is related to the breathing exercises due to this reason it was found that there is not a significant difference between the adjusted means of the Pranayama Group and Control Group in case of weight.

11. Conclusions

Asanas and combination of Asana Pranayama can significantly reduce the Weight of school going children.

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