

NAVIGATING THE NOTABILITY OF WOMEN IN SPORTS FROM 19000 TO 2000

5000
قابل احترام
Personas

Women in Sports throughout the 20th century in South America and South Asia

Wajahat Mirza, James Pearce, Jaime Blanco

New York University Abu Dhabi

Table of contents

Abstract	3
Introduction	3
Technical approach	7
Challenges	10
Findings	11
Results and documentation	16
Bibliography	17

Abstract

The following document contains information regarding the notability of women in the 20th century in South Asia and South America in the field of sports. A data set of 11,872 individuals has been used for this, where only 948 out of the total number of individuals happen to be women. As part of the research project, the historical background, policies in the different regions, as well as the differences to one another or the political regimes, had to be addressed to better understand the results and findings. The countries chosen for the research are Pakistan and India from South Asia; and Chile and Argentina from South America.

This investigation/research has two clear objectives. First, to identify and compare the four countries in terms of the “men to women ratio” in sports or games and seek an explanation for these results. Secondly, to explain the importance of historical backgrounds and its correlation with the number of women that were notable in these countries during different time periods –mainly between 1920 to 2010, with a particular focus on the role of autocratic regimes in influencing female notability in sports. As an introduction, the most important changes regarding women in the 20th century, have been introduced to understand their backgrounds better.

Introduction

Pakistan

Today, Pakistan has a population of 212 million inhabitants. The population of Pakistan began to increase following the proclamation of the new nation in 1947, after declaring independence from the United Kingdom. Since its independence, Pakistan has suffered constant political crises. Its first Constitution, dated March 1956, was repealed by a coup on October 7, 1958,

which proclaimed Martial Law¹. On October 27, 1958, General Ayub Khan introduced a basic democracy, with a system of local self-government and indirect presidential elections. Martial law was lifted in 1962; a new Constitution granted absolute powers to the president and turned Pakistan into an Islamic Republic. Ayub Khan resigned on March 25, 1969 after the organization massive protests. Martial Law was re-declared and General Yahya Khan was appointed president. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, leader of the PPP, formed a civilian government in 1972, following the resignation of General Yahya; with which he promoted public sector participation in the economy, developed a non-alignment foreign policy and introduced radical land reforms. The PPP won again in the 1977 general election, but the opposition denounced the win as fraudulent. General Zia-ul Haq overthrew Bhutto's government and proclaimed Martial Law. Bhutto was arrested and sentenced to death for conspiracy. Pakistan strongly opposed Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in late 1979.

Zia accelerated the process of Islamization in all spheres of political and social life. Many opposition members were prosecuted and arrested. The leader was killed in a suspected plane crash in August 1988 and democracy was restored. Benazir Bhutto (PPP), the daughter of the former president, took office after the November 1988 general election. This was the first female Prime Minister in Pakistan; which also happens to be relevant for our research and findings in the region. Bhutto, the first woman to preside over a predominantly Islamic country, held the post twice (1988-1990 and 1993-1996). During her administrations, Pakistan signed **the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**, although some Pakistanis did not feel their situation improve significantly. Some felt that Bhutto had not made enough efforts to impose legislation that would reestablish a quota on women's seats in

¹ Martial law is a law administered by the military rather than a civilian government. Martial law may be declared in an emergency or response to a crisis, or to control occupied territory.

Parliament. Her weak coalition government included religious and conservative parties that opposed such a change. However, during her leadership women were first appointed as *judges of higher courts, a major campaign was started against domestic violence, and a women's bank was founded. These made up some of* the most outstanding changes regarding gender differences in the country.

India

During the 20th century, India lived through a period of strikes and brutal violence to become independent from the United Kingdom. Gandhi, among other figures, participated in the peaceful movements that guaranteed independence. However, it was not until 1998 when the first policies for women were introduced in the country. At the beginning of the 20th century, Indian women of the upper-middle class began to intervene in the public sphere collectively through movements and organizations. Their vision of oppressive male power was linked to the image of the colonizer. In 1926, the All India Women's Conference was created, continuously bringing the topic of women into the national discourse. Between 1955 and 1956, the Civil Hindu code was approved, which introduced changes regarding marriage, divorce and heritage.

The 1970s and 1980s were very important periods for women's rights in India. In this period, women founded SEWA in 1972 (Self Employed Women's Association), an organization of self-employed women who look after the interests of working women who struggle to improve their conditions. They launched two important campaigns that served to combat different forms of violence: namely the anti-domestic violence campaign and policies targeting sexual abuse.

Chile

During the twentieth century, the Chilean population grew strongly, from 3,231,022 inhabitants in 1907 to 15,116,435 in 2002. In this century, Chile transitioned from a rural to predominantly urban society that **incorporated women into working and political lives with full rights**.

The political regime changed from Parliamentarianism to Presidentialism, governed by a new Constitution in 1925. The media and popular groups that accessed the Government placed the Chilean state as the engine of development protecting citizens' rights. The evolution of Chilean democracy in that century dominated by the birth of new parties and politicians, who responded mainly to the currents of socialist, communist and social-Christian thinking, witnessed an increasingly complex world, with two world wars, economic crises, cold war, nuclear threat and others, which will affect and condition the development of the country.

Argentina

After a prolonged period of civil wars, between 1853 and 1860 a federal republic was formed under the name of the Argentine Republic. Between 1862 and 1930 a long period of constitutional stability passed, in which - due to a large wave of migration coming mostly from Italy and Spain - the population grew five times faster than the world average. The implementation of universal suffrage for men in 1912, completed with the recognition of the right to suffrage to women in 1951, gave rise to a series of governments elected by the popular vote, which alternated in power with military dictatorships and governments fraudulent since 1930. After the 1982 defeat in the Falklands War against England, the last dictatorship collapsed, with its members prosecuted for serious crimes against humanity. In 1983 an extensive period of democracy began that continues today, with nine presidents belonging to three parties since then: Raúl Alfonsín, Carlos Menem, Fernando de la Rúa, Adolfo Rodríguez Saá, Eduardo

Duhalde, Nestor Kirchner, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Mauricio Macri and Alberto Fernández.

For these reasons, we strongly believe that the case study countries of this paper are of great importance in Asia and Latin America to understand the notability of women in the 20th century. Although there is an uncountable number of fields that we could have researched to understand the notability of women throughout the 20th century, in order to narrow the research the best approach to understand the role that women had in those years in their respective countries is by choosing one field and studying the data from that field in particular.

Sports and/or Games - inclusive of individual players - is the field that we have chosen for our research and that seems to have changed considerably depending on the political regime at the time, policies implemented for the protection and guarantee of the rights of women.

Technical approach

Our original dataset contained 115,000 data entries. However, after cleaning the data and narrowing it to four countries, our database had a total of 11872 individuals from Pakistan, India, Argentina and Chile (women in sports/games). Professor Etienne scrapped the data and provided us with the dataset which extended the data collection from English, Spanish and Urdu/Hindi/Punjabi/Tamil/Gujarati editions. One of the most important tasks of our research was to determine whether dictatorships had affected - and if so, by how much the notability of women in sports/games throughout the 20th century.

For the process of data scraping, we have used “Stata”. As per the more technical approach in terms of the code used for the data processing, there are two sections of code: one for the subcontinent (India and Pakistan), and another one for Latin American Countries (Chile and Argentina).

In order to find the mean ranking, women ratio, and birth year, the sub-dataset was split into equal intervals. A new variable is generated and assigned to a value of 1 if the gender is enlisted as female. While for non-female gender, our code assigns a value of 0. Then, another variable is generated and the ranking value is placed only if the gender of the individual is female to assign to it the ranking of the women, year of birth, and death in that order:

```

18 cd "/Users/mwajahatmirza/Desktop/5K_wajahat"
19 * Generate a new var and assign it a value of 1 if the gender is Female. For non-female gender, make it 0.
20 g z = (gender_b == "Female")
21 * Generate a new var and place ranking value to it if gender is female
22 g z2 = 0
23 replace z2 = ranking_final_b_5 if z==1
24 * Generate a new var and replace it with ranking of women
25 g women_visibility_ranking= ranking_final_b_5 if z !=0
26 * Generate a new var for birth year of women
27 g z3 = 0
28 replace z3 = birth_b if z==1
29 g women_birth_b= birth_b if z !=0
30 * Generate a new var with death year of the women
31 g z4 = 0
32 replace z4 = death_b if z==1
33 g women_death_b= death_b if z !=0
34
35 * this encode assigns a numeric value to the string occupation. E.g giving value of 18 to cricket
36 encode final_occupation, gen (final_occupation2)
37 g z5= 0
38 replace z5 = final_occupation2 if z==1
39

```

Then we have used specific lines of code for the subcontinent by using intervals to find the mean ranking of notability, year of birth and the ratio of women in each of these intervals which are used to produce scatter plots. The same process was iterated again with the sub-dataset of South America: creating directories and assigning variables for gender, ranking, year of birth, year of death and finding the mean in each interval.

For producing graphs, we have carried out different multivariable regressions that include the ratio of women with year of birth, ratio of women with the Wikipedia ranking, correlation of ranking with year of birth, correlation of ratio with ranking, among other options with which we have plotted the different graphs to understand the notability of women in sports throughout the 20th century and the very beginning of the 21st century.


```
. regress avg_interval_wmnratio avg_interval_birthyx x22
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	9,768
Model	.65100713	2	.325503565	F(2, 9765)	=	1068.01
Residual	2.97614291	9,765	.000304777	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.1795
				Adj R-squared	=	0.1793
Total	3.62715004	9,767	.000371368	Root MSE	=	.01746

avg_interval_wmnratio	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
avg_interval_birthyx	-.0006475	.0010391	-0.62	0.533	-.0026843	.0013894
x22	2.53e-07	2.66e-07	0.95	0.342	-2.68e-07	7.74e-07
_cons	.3422348	1.01567	0.34	0.736	-1.648688	2.333157

Table 1: regression, average interval women ratio - average interval year of birth (LatinAmerica)

```
. regress avg_interval_wmnratio avg_interval_rank w22
```

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	2,014
Model	14.1889668	2	7.09448342	F(2, 2011)	=	694.46
Residual	20.5441695	2,011	.010215897	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.4085
				Adj R-squared	=	0.4079
Total	34.7331363	2,013	.017254414	Root MSE	=	.10107

avg_interval_wmnratio	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
avg_interval_rank	-2.38e-06	9.22e-08	-25.81	0.000	-2.56e-06	-2.20e-06
w22	1.19e-12	4.22e-14	28.11	0.000	1.10e-12	1.27e-12
_cons	1.347839	.0452346	29.80	0.000	1.259128	1.436551

Table 2: average interval for women ratio - average interval for ranking (South Asia)

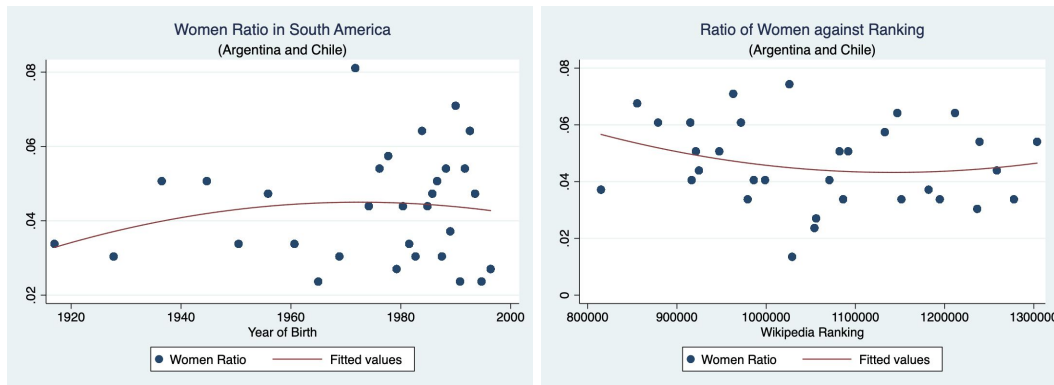
. regress avg_interval_wmnratio avg_interval_rank w22						
Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	10,360
Model	4.96876244	2	2.48438122	F(2, 10357)	=	8095.65
Residual	3.17834269	10,357	.000306879	Prob > F	=	0.0000
				R-squared	=	0.6099
				Adj R-squared	=	0.6098
Total	8.14710513	10,359	.000786476	Root MSE	=	.01752
avg_interval_wm~o	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
avg_interval_rank	1.57e-09	2.49e-09	0.63	0.529	-3.31e-09	6.44e-09
w22	1.07e-14	6.21e-16	17.21	0.000	9.47e-15	1.19e-14
_cons	.0339897	.001954	17.39	0.000	.0301595	.0378199

Table 3: ratio to rank regression in South America (Chile and Argentina)

Challenges

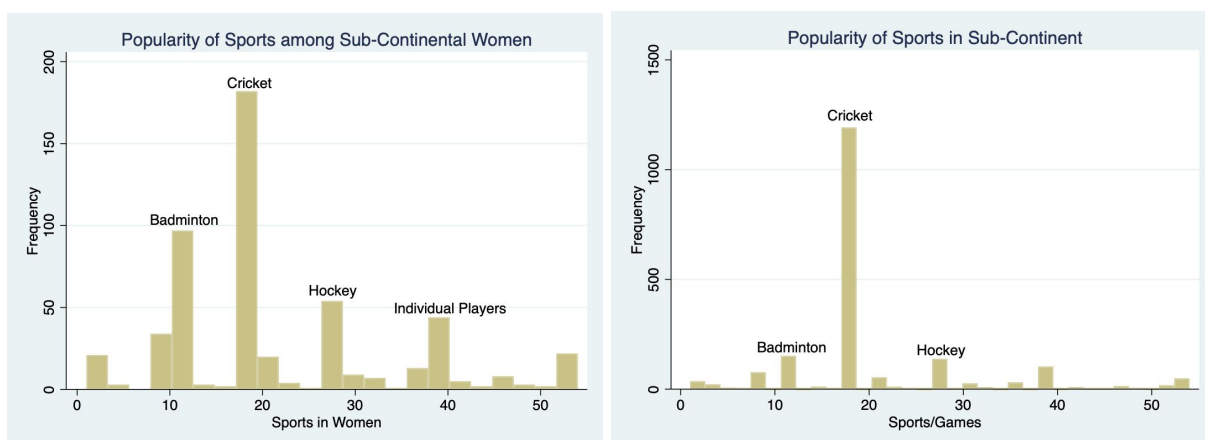
There were four particular challenges in the process of data scraping/cleaning/resorting:

- (1) Finding the citizenship of individuals, especially for South Asia. People before independence return an area of attachment with one country, but hold citizenship for another. Thus, cleaning the data, and being inclusive of pre-independence/separation citizenship.
- (2) To generate intervals of equal segments, we had to repeat the code in Stata. We could not iterate through data using loops.
- (3) We had the challenge of categorizing sports/games for frequency as they are string values. So, we had to encode them into integer values to generate histograms.
- (4) Once we had the histogram, we had to link it to the Stata generated values of the sports to identify the peaks in history.



Findings

Apart from the ratios mentioned earlier, we also wanted to determine from which sports there are more individuals in both the Sub-continent and in Latin American countries. In the Sub-continent, not surprisingly, cricket stands as the most popular sport with a frequency over 1000 (left), and also for women over 150 (right). Something very similar occurs in Latin America with football, where the frequency also stands above 1000 in popularity and remains as one of the most popular sports for women. Other sports such as badminton or hockey do not have as much popularity; however, hockey is among Sub-continental women more outstanding, as it shows in the graph on the right. (Figure 1 Popularity of Sports in Sub-Continent)



We want to demonstrate how the role of autocratic regimes may have affected the notability of women in sports throughout the 20th century. In the following graphs we see that those years in

which women were in power (see the historical background for Pakistan on the introduction) or the introduction of policies in India for the protection of the rights of women, were of great help to push forward the figure of women in sports. In Pakistan, between 1958-1971 and between 1977-1988, they lived through a constant period of military coups that occupied the government and that might have negatively affected the notability of women in sports among other fields. This could be because (i) of the massive representation of men in power and thus, (ii) the absence of women in the process of making laws and creating policies to fight the gender gaps within the society (iii) cooperate industry investing into males as they yield more profit and benefit to the sponsors due to several opportunities available.

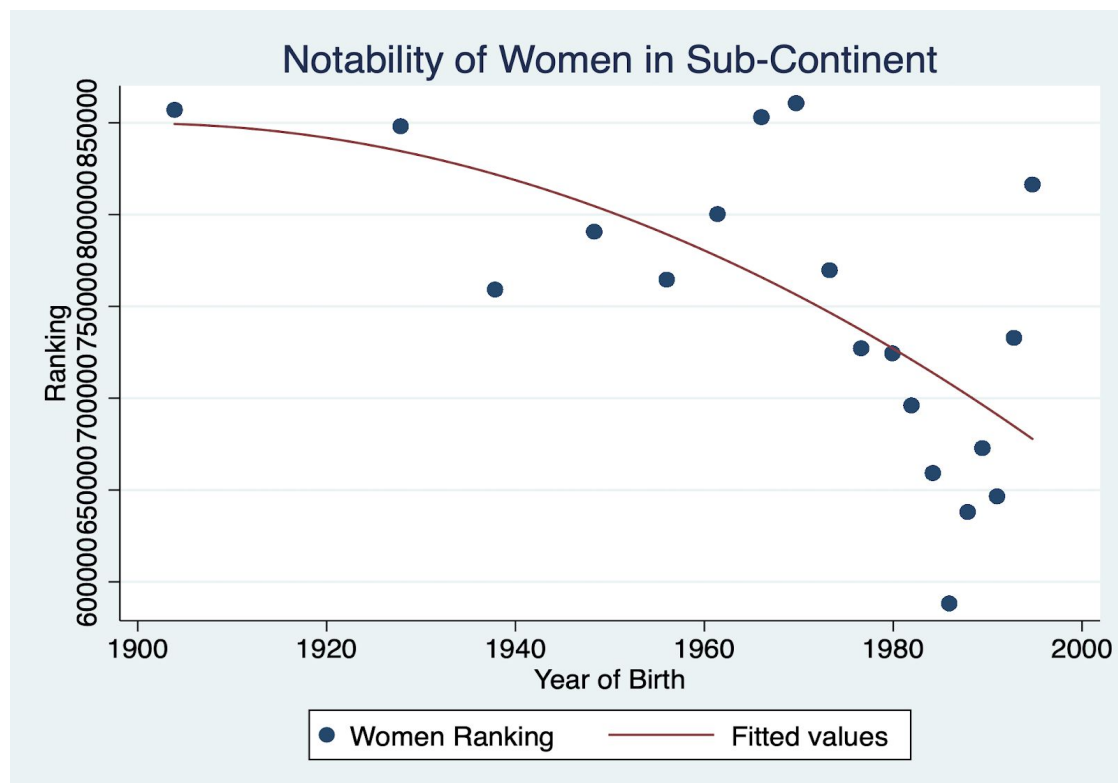


Figure 2: women notability in Sub-Continent

The graph above shows the ranking² of women in the two Sub-Continental countries plotted from 1900 to 2000. The ranking of women presents an inverse relation to Notability. Between 1958 and 1988 were difficult years for women in both India and Pakistan. As shown in the graphs, women born early in this period, or prior to it, were unlikely to become notable in their sports. Women born late in the period of autocracy, such as in the late 1970s, are seen to be notable in today's world, suggesting that they were able to forge prominent careers in sport, due to developing in the sport during the period of democracy that occurred in the late 1980s. In 1988, Buttho took office and implemented different policies that might have been beneficial for women in sports in the country as the graph reflects. More importantly, women born during the late 1970s and 1980s were more likely to reach levels of notability in sports, suggesting that women that were of prime sporting age during the dictatorships in their respective countries.

On the graph below, we see that something similar to what was happening in the Sub-Continent occurs in South America as well. The graph presents the notability of South American Women in Chile and Argentina. Once again, it is between 1970 and 1990 where the most notable and outstanding women stand. Looking at the historical background in both countries, in 1982 Argentina the dictatorship collapsed and democracy began, which still lasts until today. On the other hand, Chile put an end to the period of Dictatorship in 1973, when Pinochet was removed from power and democracy was established. This proves that the notability of women in sports grew substantially when the democratic period was instated, as women born during periods of dictatorship were coming of age and reaching the peak of their sport during periods of democracy.

² Rank is the relative position, value, worth, complexity, power, importance, authority, level, etc.

During dictatorships, these societies turned into more patriarchal ones, leaving women's rights and gender equality aside in a world ruled by men exclusively, as proven by looking at the legislative committees in both regimes where no women were represented.

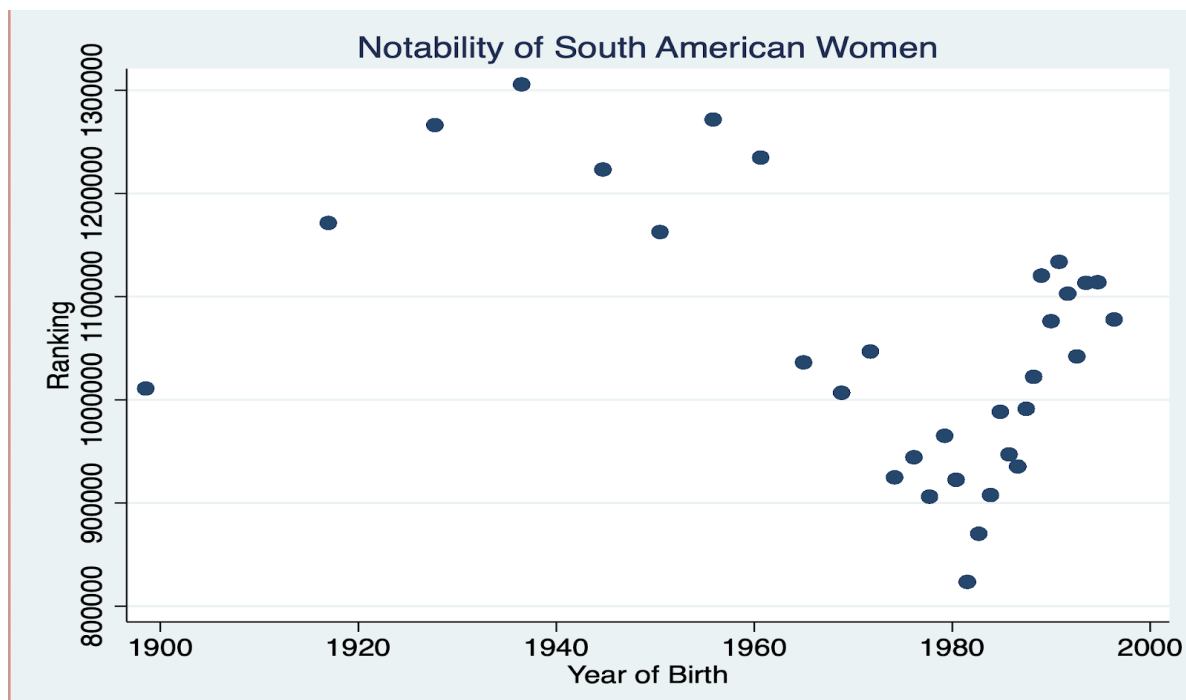


Figure 3.0: Notability of South American Women

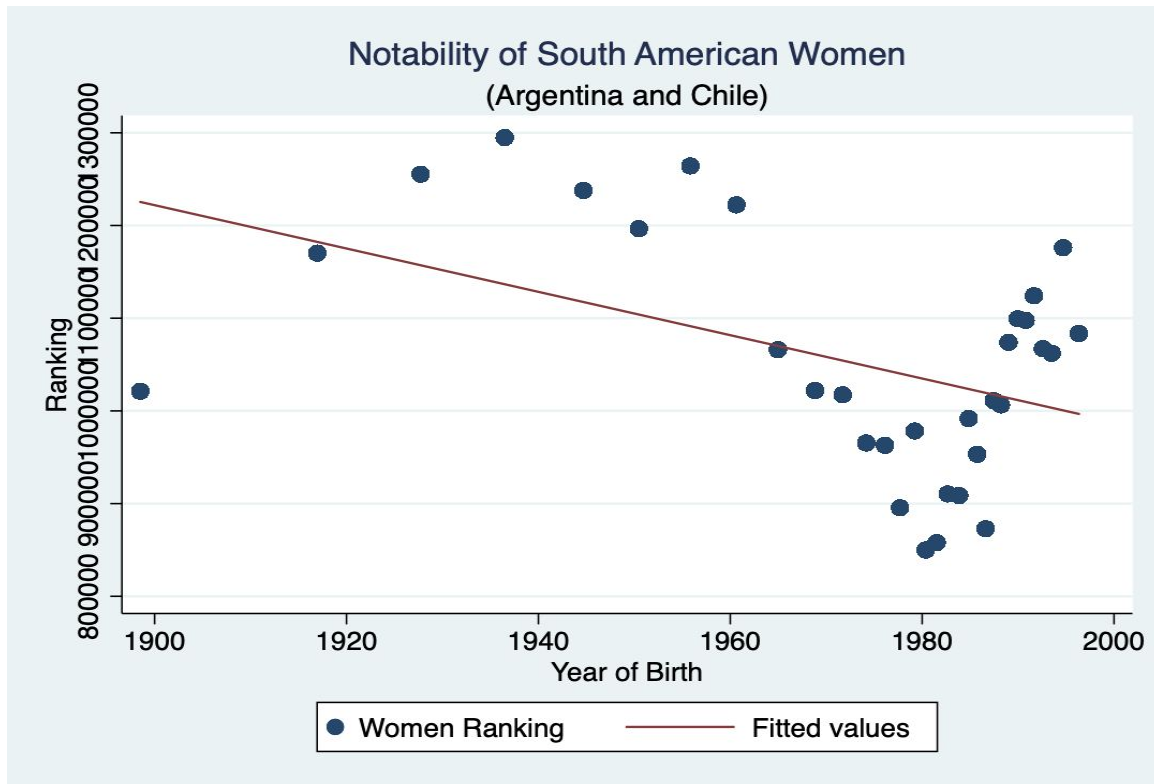


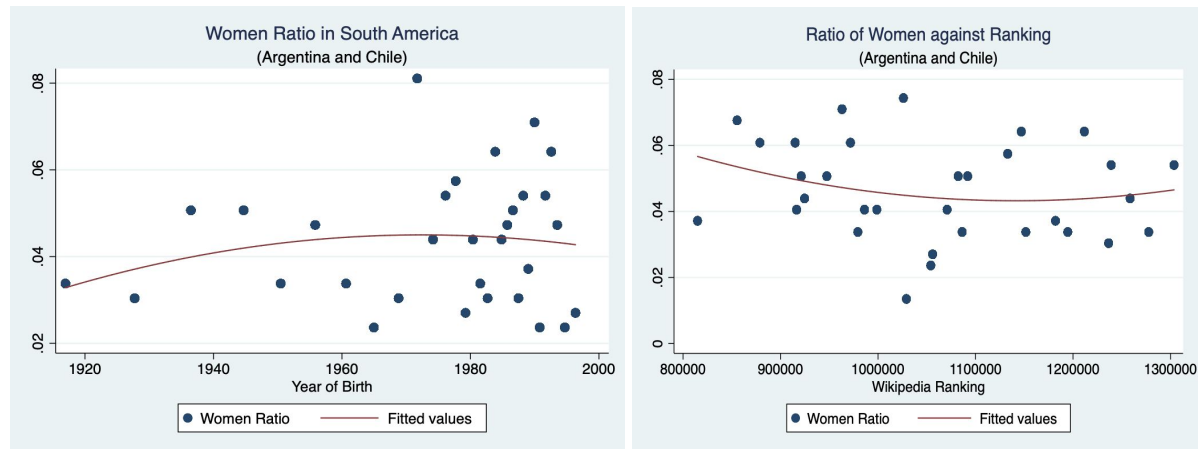
Figure 3.1: Notability of South American Women with LFIT (Lfit or Qfit are not correct description of the graph as they do not highlight the decreasing interval in the sinusoidal curve)

As can be seen in above 3.0 and 3.1 graphs, this is a sinusoidal curve with decreasing interval that shows a pattern in which notability has varied and there is potential for model to be established that can predict the ranking in the coming years.

On the following graph, the ratio of notable women is shown in South America. On the left, the graph shows the women ratio according to the years from 1900 to 2000. From the graph, we can say that between 1970 to 1985, the ratio of notable women in sports in South America increased considerably to later decrease in the following years preceding the year 2000. Prior to 2000, the right wing parties entered parliament causing the approval of policies that did not

benefit women, and in particular women who were in sports/games. Women born around the year 2000 are also likely to be at a period in their careers where they are not yet in their prime, as they are very young, thus indicating the drop in the notability curve.

Figure 4: Women Ratio in South America



Results and conclusion

The notability of women in sports in these four countries has been conditioned by the political regimes in the region and the policies implemented to promote women in sports. When historical events had occurred, the most significant being periods of autocratic rule or major political unrest, where civil liberties were curbed, the notability of women in sports has been affected. In the 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's, is the period when the notability of women in sports changed in both regions at the same time. In Pakistan because this was the period when the first woman became the president of the country and in Chile because of the collapse of the dictatorship and the beginning of the democratic era. Women born during a dictatorship, who came of age during democracy, were far more likely to be notable than those that were of prime sporting age during a dictatorship.

Interestingly, the frequency of notable women in sports throughout South America was much higher than that in South Asia. While much of that effect could come down to a difference in values, where women perhaps take a more traditional role in South Asian society, what is most interesting is the lack of women at a mid-level of notability in South Asia. What this suggests is that it is much harder to be considered notable in South Asian sport as a woman, and that the only manner in which a woman can do so is to be considered a “superstar” in their sport. When we look to the histogram outlining the popularity of sports among women, it is clear to see that cricket is hugely popular. Cricket in South Asia is a sport that carries with it major celebrity status, similar to football in European or South American countries. Its top players are celebrities, with massive social media followings and a cult of personality. The lack of notable female sportspeople in South Asia could also be put down to the fact that women in one of the major popular sports, are competing with a level of celebrity amongst male cricketers that simply prevents them from being recognised to the degree that they should.

Overall, our findings suggest that women in sport throughout both South Asia and South America struggle to reach heights of notability at a high frequency, but most damningly, any decrease in general civil liberties in a country has a massive effect on the ability for women to succeed in sport. During periods of unrest, women were simply unable to find themselves in positions of notability in sport, suggesting that autocratic regimes clamp down significantly on the role of women in wider society.

Bibliography

Galván Javier A. (2013). *Latin American dictators of the 20th century: the lives and regimes of 15 rulers*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers.

Karlekar, H. (1999). *Independent India: the first fifty years*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Talha, N. (2000). *Economic factors in the making of Pakistan (1921-1947)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Todd, A. (2001). *Democracies and dictatorships: Europe and the world, 1919-1989*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.