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**KRIKET A SPOLEČENSTVÍ COMMONWEALTH:  
POROVNÁNÍ ANGLIE A INDIE**

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**CRICKET AND THE COMMONWEALTH:  
ENGLAND AND INDIA COMPARED**

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## **ABSTRACT**

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The aim of this undergraduate thesis is to describe the major milestones of the cricket development in the world with the focus on the Commonwealth countries specifically on India throughout the history. It discovers what makes cricket such a popular game and how much of British Colonialism there still is in cricket.

The thesis focuses on the key factors of cricket expansion in India and finds out about what people in India think about cricket and its relationship to Britishness through a survey.

The aspects of cricket considered in this thesis are the reasons of its popularity in Commonwealth countries and its new forms and the consequences they bring today.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESES**

- 1) Do Indian people consider cricket as a symbol of Britishness?
- 2) How much of their own invention did Indian people implement into the game of cricket?

Hypothesis 1:

The results will show that there is a hidden strong link to Britain in terms of how much of colonial essence in cricket is still noticed.

Hypothesis 2:

The results will show that there is at the same time a shift from the traditional conception of cricket.

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## INTRODUCTION

This thesis goes a little bit beyond the well-known definitions of the game of cricket that would be easily understood. The aim is not to define the very complex rules and even the more complex history of this (for us) unusual game which very probably needs a many years intensive study but to describe the major milestones of the cricket development in the world with the focus on Great Britain and on India throughout the history. The ambition is to discover what it is that makes cricket such a popular game in only a few chosen countries and how much of British Colonialism there still is in cricket.

Chapter one shows the position of the game of cricket among other sports today and offers several explanations of Britishness seen from different points of view and it. Some interesting facts about cricket in literature are displayed and it is reflected how much this fair-play there is.

In chapter two a brief history of the game of cricket in Great Britain is presented, including the spread out to British colonies. It examines its threads and shows the dualism of this game.

A short history of cricket in India is presented proving there are a few significant milestones which effected the development in such a vast extent gaining a huge popularity. It brings about the idea of the reasons why cricket is adored enormously by Indian people.

The practical part of the thesis focuses on the key factors of cricket expansion in India and finds out about what people in India think about cricket, whether they play it or did play it when they were young. It examines the relationship of this game to Britishness through a survey. The results bring an interesting view on the meaning of identification with Britishness.

# 1 CRICKET IN THE CONTEXT OF BRITISHNESS

## 1.1 THE POSITION OF CRICKET AS A SPORT GAME

For most Europeans, including me, the game of cricket does not mean anything or very little. As is verifiable by the list of number of fans - within Europe the number of cricket fans is negligible (Wood, 2008). The list shows the only European country which appreciates cricket is actually the UK where this game occupies number one place in the table. According to other charts, however, the position should be more precisely put together with only England (and Wales) because in Scotland or Ireland cricket is not particularly popular. It might therefore be a surprise that cricket holds an amazing second place as the most popular sport in the world right after football in terms of reputation and number of fans (Wood, 2008).

But still one well-established cricket correspondent says: *It is a game of such beautiful simplicity and yet it is blessed with layers so complex that it can be anything to anyone.*” (Macintosh, 2010). It brings out another phenomenon of this game which is its variability. There are many different forms to play it be it a first-class match or even street cricket as people call it.

### 1.1.1 VARIABILITY

There are only ten teams with full international status, who play Test matches and which can last up to five days. This is the traditional form of cricket which has been played for about a hundred and fifty years. In addition, over the last few decades, another form of one-day matches lasting approximately 8 hours has been developed, which is immensely popular amongst wider numbers spectators. And there is an even more concentrated form, so-called Twenty20, which is calculated to last only about three hours, so that the spectator can see the match on the weekend after work, as is the case with football, and these games are starting to grow heavily, perhaps the most in India. The first ever Twenty20 match was played in 2007 and it was considered to be a very fascinating affair mainly because nobody really knew what was going on and how serious it was. However, it certainly was impressive in a way that it was much more full of action. (Macintosh, 2010) These one-day matches are being only very slowly accepted by conservative fans and high-class players, nevertheless they are becoming very popular.

## 5.1 BRITISHNESS AND ITS MEANINGS

What are these symbols and what does the term Britishness represent?

In the context of today's worries about the consequences of Brexit on the one hand and terrorist attacks on the other, there are discussions in place about British values and identity, what they are and what their purpose is. It is not only politicians and experts from various fields that speak about them, it is also seen in many blogs, chats and posts on the internet that these topics concern many people in the United Kingdom. And in fact there are even several Facebook pages named Britishness. It is therefore understood that all those facts lead to an extensive complex discussion which has not finished yet and there is no sign it is going to end. Nevertheless there certainly must be features of Britishness like the Queen, the Union Jack, rainy weather, many historical monuments and sights such as Westminster, Stonehenge, Scottish kilts and pipes, and many others. At least these are the objects foreigners would probably consider.

What are some ideas of the Britishness from the view of the United Kingdom as a country and what the politicians think about it? Recent pre-elections speeches by Jeremy Corbyn showed some signs of national consciousness when saying: "It's because I am driven by these British majority values, because I love this country, that I want to rid it of injustice, to make it fairer, more decent, more equal." (Parker, 2015), which suggests words like "Britishness" and "British values" do count. Even the current Prime Minister Theresa May felt she had to denote what Britishness stands for as she mentioned family, shared endeavour and common interests (Smith, 2017). Unfortunately none of those using the term was more specific about what it really means.

In fact there has not been any conformity across the UK political parties what exactly Britishness should stand for. Apart from the fact that British values should be promoted via schools, which was one of the topics a former Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove (Government Digital Service, n/a) had opened, politicians continue to argue over what such values actually consist of. Following their political party lines some would see Britishness as the union flag, a symbol of unity, tolerance and inclusion. Others would rather prefer to compare it to chicken tikka masala as they see it as a typical example of engaging and

modifying outside inspirations, no matter how strangely it sounds. And some would relate British values to green countryside, unbroken traditions, mistiness or even warm beer. One of the former Conservative party leaders, Norman Tebbit claimed that Britishness would be measured by whether one supported the England national cricket team. (Perraudin, 2014). The concept of Britishness in the context of the cultural, historical, constitutional and ethical tradition of the peoples was even a subject of a House of Lords debate in 2008. There however was no note about the connection to any sport whatsoever (Cruse, 2008), whereas, in contrast, Ellis Cashmore claims sport belongs to one of the important realms of British culture (Higgins , Smith, & Storey, 2010).

Yet there is a short note about cricket in a BBC article saying that: *“Britishness, it is often suggested, is ultimately about shared values of tolerance, respect and fair play, a belief in freedom and democracy”*. The author claims: *“It has always struck me as a pretty insulting to our friends and relations beyond these shores..... If Britishness means anything at all it must go beyond ticking boxes of general niceness..... So, my sense of my own identity is shaped by the wobbly cine-films of my brothers and me playing cricket.....”* (Easton, 2012).

## 1.1 CRICKET IN LITERATURE

There are, indeed, many authors writing about cricket remembering their childhood and putting it together with the memories of playing or watching cricket. Some research through cricket books, in comparison to basketball or football, may lead to a conviction that on the whole cricket has the greatest literature in sports covering biographies, essays, memoirs, coaching books or tours. And the vast list of those works is not only about the rules, charts and memories. There are also publications offering quite a profound view on cricket in the connection to social and historical topics and above all those bringing globalization views. One of the authors of several books about cricket Sir Derek Birley won the British Society of Sports History's Aberdare Literary Award in 1995.

Although cricket has changed a lot since the old times, still it apparently offers something more than just a game, as it is expressed in the following quotation: “Description of cricket, found throughout the literature of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are filled with the language of idealism: cricket was a noble game, a manly game. Cricket embodied the British

virtues of strength, persistence, courage, healthy rivalries, camaraderie, and sportsmanship. Cricket was a respectable, a Gentleman's game." (Pugh, Gibbons, & Adams, 2002).

Perhaps it is because cricket is not just a sport as another of Birley's work says. He claims cricket is English Culture, reflected in a sport that has always been a complex depository of English etiquettes, orders and politics. He speaks about 'the English caste system' and changing from rural anonymity by gentlemanly bettors into the metropolitan fashion turning into representation for British imperialism (Birley, 2013).

But the value of many of the books lays on those recently produced. There is one holding still the same position as it did back in the 1958. It was a book of instruction, which could be perfectly understood by even a young boy. It was awarded as the most brilliant coaching book of all times. It is called *The Art of Cricket* by the author Sir Donald Brandman - a name everyone from the cricket world should know (n/a, 1)

## 1.2 CRICKET EQUALS FAIR-PLAY EQUALS BRITISHNESS?

This is further evidence that there must really be something about cricket and that it is without discussion one of the symbols of Britishness no matter how many of them they are. Apart from that cricket can be a very dangerous and violent and an exhausting game there are no doubts that with the touch of the old imperial Britain it stands for respect and fair play. This is not seen so strongly in other sports. When the Englishman (or Australian or New Zealander) says "that's not cricket at all", he is concerned about what he thinks is wrong, just not fair-play. In fact one of the above mentioned sources also offers another definition of a cricket, which is: "fair and honourable behaviour" (Merriam-Webmaster, 2017). And there is even an idiom –not cricket- described as "not honest and moral" (Cambridge, Meaning "not cricket" in the English Dictionary, 2017).

## 2 CRICKET IN ENGLISH CULTURE

### 2.1 HISTORY

Cricket is a game, rather than sport, which has been representing Great Britain for more than two hundred years. However, not all of the sources agree about where it came from. Malcolm offers several approaches from the traditional one, that it was invented in England to another one, which says it has actually Celtic origins and was played in 500 A.D. Others even claim that cricket was invented in France and the very surprise solution offers the Indian view which says that it is: “Indian game invented accidentally by the British” (Malcolm, 2013, p. 2)

### 2.1.1 THE EARLY ERA

It is known that most of the modern sports games have been invented by the British. Football, tennis, rugby, golf are played around the world. Cricket is far from widespread, perhaps because it is the most English of all games. It was originally a children’s game. Some sources date it back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century when it gained its great popularity. However, it was soon banned by King Edward III who was worried about the bad influence of cricket on military discipline. Even when King Edward IV later imposed fines and imprisonment on it due to illegal betting the game still continued to be practised (Birley, A Social History of English Cricket, 1999, pp. 4-5).

### 2.1.2 THE MODERN ERA – DOMESTIC CRICKET

Cricket received its satisfaction in 18<sup>th</sup> century when it underwent major development. It was adopted by both aristocracy and lower-class societies and that is something that no other sport has gone through. The popularity and the development throughout the social classes and ongoing interactions with the need of each other but also mutual rivalry and hostility is something that has created such a special and a vivid phenomenon (Brookes, 1974, pp. 344-345).

Brookes further explains that cricket held strong features of an elite tradition regardless of the fact that at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century many of the members were enrolled from middle-classes so it had been losing the upper-class only status (1974, pp. 344-345).

Organized cricket in England has been played since the early 18th century, with the first match of two eleven-member teams being held in Sussex in 1697. In 1719, the Middlesex team played against the Kent team, which can be considered as the first match of two county

councils, the so-called "county cricket," which is still an English tradition. "County cricket," gradually developed into an organized first-class competition, and since the 18th century, cricket teams competed in London adding other counties of the greater part of England to participate later.

From the very beginning, there was also a lot of money, so the top players soon began to make a living from it. (Malcolm, 2013, pp. 42-43) In addition, bets were placed on the results of matches, which led to an increasing popularity of the game. One of the first successful professional players was Thomas Lord, who, besides playing (he was said to be a good bowler), had also opened and looked after the pitch which holds his name up to this day. Lord has relocated his field several times, but in 1813 he finally settled in St. John's Wood in the northwest of central London. The Lord's is the sacred place of all the devotees of this noble game (MCC, 2016).

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), which used the Lord's pitch during its matches, was formed in 1787. In the first year of its existence, the Club Committee finalised the cricket rules originally written by Hambledon Cricket Club (HCC), located in Hampshire (Mortimer, 2013, p. 16). Since then, it has been a world-renowned authority for more than two centuries in this respect. The rules of the game gradually developed until the end of the 19th century, but in the twentieth century they have again undergone some changes, although relatively small ones. Those were for example the way the ball has to be thrown ( Rumford & Wagg, 2010) and also the way the batsman has to be protected so that nowadays he looks very much like a hockey-keeper (Macintosh, 2010, p. 84)

But there was still money driving it, aristocrats establishing laws to play it and advertising matches to enhance their social status...and onward throughout the centuries when the country was more industry driven the new middle-class was adopting the aristocratic social practices to be as well presented as something rather old while real aristocrats were watching it with a disdain (Malcolm, 2013, pp. 42-43).

### 2.1.3 BRITISH EMPIRE – INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

No matter how the countries that were once part of British Empire, dealt with lost and gained independence, they all experienced main change in the countries' structures and societies.

Cricket was always part of it, it symbolized “the very essence of an exclusive white, Victorian society” (Malcolm, Majumdar, & Meltha, 2010, p. 5)

Cricket was one of the first sports ever be played internationally, long before international footballers and hockey players began to play. The first cricket match of the actual national teams of two countries was played as early as in 1877 in Melbourne but there were other international matches even before when other countries’ teams toured abroad. In 1877 Australia defeated England. Then the Australian team repeated their success five years later in London. And what happened was that at that time one of British newspaper published the famous, ironically meant funeral announcement publicly announcing the cremation of English cricket whose remains were to be sent to Australia. This created the legend of The Ashes. At London's Lords Pitch, a Urn is placed in which there are ashes of goal pins burned after another match (England lost again) in Australia in 1883. Since then a trophy has been played in the so called Ashes Series. Until the end of the 19th century, both teams played almost every year. After initial collapses, English players started to perform better and mostly won. As other international teams started to qualify, they joined the Ashes being now played as series of six five-day matches every two years (Lynch, 2009, stránky 6-7).

Cricket spread quickly into the British colonial countries - unsuccessfully in America and – successfully in West Indies with the growth of the “first” British Empire. Australia and New Zealand were then “cricketised” during the “second” British Empire (Malcolm, 2013, p. 130). But the enormous roll out of the cricket commenced under the rule of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). There was also an influence on the level of education, as in the public schools, being attended by highest social class, cricket turned into the most popular sport and was considered as the one to meet the goals of moral and cultural values. That time every summer the same time across the country, there were games played, with the task to unite distant communities as a spiritual connection, so that people would have something to common, supporting togetherness, rather than Britishness or Australian-ness. The kind of imperial bond was promoted (Guha, n/a, pp. 11-12). In spite of there were other sports popular, cricket was the one which held the prestigious position on such a bond scale.

Many countries that once were British colonies are even now deeply involved in the community of international cricket, and besides all 10 full associates of the International Cricket Council (ICC) (Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies, and Zimbabwe) have close bonds to British colonial



history, and in fact are present members of the Commonwealth (Pugh, Gibbons, & Adams, 2002). As a prove of that, Bowen declares: *“When people go in large numbers to other countries, and establish colonies there, so far from abandoning their social habits and customs, they do their best to maintain them, not only that, to maintain them in the state they knew when the first substantial number of them arrived in their new homeland”* (1970, p. 72).

This British Empire phenomenon is described in the New world Encyclopedia as the one including *“many stable democracies, often modelled on the Westminster Parliament”* And it is not just the law, it is also the educational institutions *“founded by the British have developed into institutions of excellence”*. It helped people *“to develop a sense of national identity as well as a feeling of belonging to the wider civilized world.”* (New world Encyclopedia, 2016)

#### 2.1.3.1 THREADS TO CRICKET IN THE POST COLONIAL COUNTRIES

It may seem that the supreme cricket’s position was very strong and stable. The thing is that in many post-colonial countries that happened indeed. XY argues that conservative, old lawed cricket did not cope well with the newly gained independence of local people, their freedom, self-determination, multiculturalism and second-wave feminism. In contrast of sports like football, athletics, basketball, which did better in that (Guha, n/a, p. 9).

#### 2.1.3.2 TWO FACES OF CRICKET

An interesting point is brought by Malcolm. He stresses out that there is something different about cricket. It was more natural to speak about a game rather than about a sport. It the same has laws rather than rules. It took the form of clubs rather than sports associations. It presents freedom, so that everybody can play it – especially in the modern times, and the unity with the British aristocracy or higher-class society in general (2013, pp. 16,186). Together with so many different formats of playing it and so many different top-class championships, it is not easy to orientate one-self.

In another of his books Malcolm proves further duality of cricket. He sees it as an instrument and at the same time as a resistance to colonialism (Malcolm, Majumdar, & Meltha, 2010, p.

5). In addition there were malign and benign connotations to Britishness in context of cricket (Malcolm, Majumdar, & Meltha, 2010, p. 195).

Guha adds another view from the sociological point, saying that cricket stands between two incompatible positions. One is meritocracy – meaning that players should only deserve positions according to how clever they are. Another is the principle of equal chances – which is quite opposite to the previous principle, saying that everyone has an equal chance (Guha, n/a, p. 10).

### **3 CRICKET IN INDIAN CULTURE**

Cricket has become truly a religion for India. There should not be any doubt about it. People in India literally live it, they eat cricket, sleep cricket, they even dream about it and those who can afford it they would travel the world for it. Such huge is the popularity in India, where people emotionally get involved with every up and down of their national team. It seems from the Facebook pages and its hundreds of cricket fan clubs that not even the age, sex, job or social status matters. But how did all this start?

#### **3.1 HISTORY**

##### **3.1.1 FIRST STEPS**

Some sources say cricket was brought to India in early 18<sup>th</sup> century by British sailors (Majumdar & Mangan, 2004, p. 194). Some however state that it was by the soldiers and officials of the East India Company (Ramaswami, 1976, p. 1). It was popularised by the first governor of Bombay, Lord Harris, but in spite of this, the first cricket club was found in Calcutta in 1792 (Calcutta Cricket Club – CCC). The club and those which followed were all “white only” clubs. They very soon inspired the local people to copy. The first non-British cricket club was formed by the Parsi community, who made a contract with the British. They were the descendants of former powerful business and professional class of doctors and lawyers (Majumdar & Mangan, 2004, p. 194). But the Parsis were not the only community in Bombay that time. Muslims and Hindus did not want to be left behind and also started with cricket. The way they did it was only an imitation of the British, who really did not mind as

for them it was actually good to see local people are disunited, not just for the game itself but also for the political reasons (Majumdar & Mangan, 2004, p. 195).

Out of this the competitive cricket came out and in 1912 there was a first tournament between all these communities and Europeans (Ramaswami, 1976, p. 7). That tournament broke not just the religious but also political barriers. It turned into a kind of 15 day carnival from which cricket had spread in other places in the country under the patronage of the Hindu and Muslim Princes of India. Ramaswami points out that there was another important aspect of Indian cricket national self-esteem in terms of that encouraging some of the best players by Maharajas and Princes. Those players played even better than the British, and thus people wanted to follow them (Ramaswami, 1976, p. 7). It meant a lot as those players showed that they were equal to Englishmen, at least on the field if it was not possible in terms of law. The following matches were taken as the possibility to measure up with the white men. In 1933 there was first ever Test match played in India and although India lost the hope was there, together with the upcoming hunger for independence from Britain. (Ramaswami, 1976, p. 13).

### 3.1.2 INDEPENDENCE

In 1937 a communal tournament was held on in Bombay between Muslims and Hindus. That one became a political issue between those communities and heavy tensions were seen as the nationalists demanded independence from Britain (Ramaswami, 1976, p. 19).

Mahatma Ghandi considered sport played between communities to be a sectarian divisive and an obstacle to new India, saying: "I should have thought that such unsportsmanlike divisions should be considered taboos in sporting language". When the independence was really there, there were doubts whether cricket – as the game of Empire – would survive. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru believed that Indians should keep the best of their colonial past, which apparently was the case of cricket. Nehru was also a fan of cricket, he claimed it was important and it was not actually representing a colonial leftover but a kind of continuity of the history of India. With the sheer popularity there was no problem with this view. In fact after the independence the game of cricket became important and vital for building the nation (Bose, 2006, pp. 1-2). The New India needed a unifying element, which perfectly fitted to cricket. No caste, no language, no religion mattered, just cricket. This could be seen as the moment where Indian cricket was slowly losing its Britishness.

Although there were brilliant players in the Indian national team, it showed later that a complex of being ruled by the white for almost two hundred years had a big impact. In 1952 the team was weakened when some of the top players left to the new state of Pakistan and the change was needed. Since then another wave of nationalism had entered the game, specifically in the matches with Pakistan. Ram Guha says: “Cricket has been tragically drawn into the complicated history of India-Pakistan relations” (Guha, n/a, p. 196). So this time the game did not really unite but rather divide people. And the bitterness is still there, still provoking, showing its violent and darker side.

However the Indian team rose from ashes with the new player, called Tyger, who succeeded to build up a new team, collected from all corners of India. He put the team together with the aim of winning over England. And the biggest victory came in 1983 when India won the World Cup. It had opened doors to sponsors and cricket was slowly becoming to be a big business (Guha, n/a, p. 229).

### 3.1.3 TV PHENOMENON

In 80-90's satellite television took world cricket into smallest corners of India. The boom has started. At the beginning there was hardly anything seen on television. On the other hand it was very comfortable, offering many advantages like instance reply or expert comments. It was becoming more and more preferable. It also fitted better into the new faster world. There is no wonder that long games of cricket lasting three or more days were slowly exchanged by so called one-day matches. They started to satisfy India more, being more extrovert, loud, much more enjoyable, fast winning. The internet made it even faster and more accessible. The accent was more on winning rather than participating (Mehta, 2008, pp. 143-144).

### 3.2 CRICKET – FAIR PLAY?

In the late 90's there were signs of match – mixing , which eventually proved there were direct links between players and illegal bookmakers. It lead to the decline of watching cricket, people were losing their faith in it. And again, another new leader, top player, was found. This time it was Maharaja, who had no colonial background and thus didn't suffer with the Empire

complex. He was fresh, free and had a liberating voice saying that he does not have to prove and win over England. This has brought a new wave into the game, but the money was there already and the business started (Mehta, 2008, pp. 147-148).

A completely new thing India gave the world is Indian Premier League (IPL), although it was inspired the British Premier League. It has created the greatest turning point in the history of cricket. It was the launching the T20, or Twenty20 as it can also be called. It is an even shortened form of cricket, being played in only three hours. It has made everything even faster, fuller of actions, more accessible, thus has brought more money into it. A lot of people make investments in cricket and the whole business is driven by private enterprises. Obviously the conservative old players, call the T20 the most vulgar expressions and do not take it too seriously, but cannot do much about it. People however love it, as it perfectly fits today's consumer-friendly primetime entertainment. It is more a show rather than a game, it is even watched by women, by housewives (Bose, 2006, p. 178). Macintosh even anticipates that the T20 format is the future of cricket (2010, p. 84).

## PRACTICAL PART

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses in detail the research methodology which has been taken up for the purpose of exploration of the Indian people's approach to the game of cricket. The research is based on structured questionnaires that were spread out among the people in India to collect the necessary data for the studies. To support the data a few discussions were held with three other local Indian people. The key area was the relationship of Indian people to cricket, their ability to play it, to cheer for the national team, to distinguish or express ideas about the way cricket is perceived.

#### 4.2 QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

In order to detect the important factors and views, a structured questionnaire has been used to collect data (see Appendix). It was designed to capture factors such as, age, gender, family connection to cricket, popularity of it in the past and today, ability to play it, experience with cricket, relationship with it and its perception. An advanced on-line survey was used (Survio, 2017).

##### 4.2.1 AGE AND GENDER

In my questionnaire I have examined participant of all age and gender as it plays a significant role in perceiving sports (Alexandris, McDonald, & Funk, 2016, p. 5).

##### 4.2.2 FAMILY CONNECTION TO CRICKET

The family links to the game of cricket are examined

#### 4.2.3 CRICKET PLAYING AND LIKING IN THE PAST AND NOW

The popularity of cricket is surveyed and put in comparison of the past and today's taste. Participants show whether they did and still do play cricket or other kinds of sport.

#### 4.2.4 CRICKET FANDOM AND IMPORTANCE IN LIFE

Participants are surveyed about and whether or not they like cricket and support it and also how much this sport is important to them.

#### 4.2.5 FAVOURITE FORMAT OF CRICKET

This question shows the popularity of a specific format of cricket. As that has changed throughout years.

#### 4.2.6 REASONS OF CRICKET'S POPULARITY

Participants are asked to express their opinion about why cricket is so popular in India. Different views are taken into account such as:

- Because it does not need much, only a ball, not much space and only a minimum of two players.
- Because there are many cricket coaching centres and stadiums in India.
- Because India is performing well in the international cups.
- Because Indian people have significant physical strengths to play it.
- Because many cricketing legends come from India and they inspire others to join.

- Because cricket means money and money is attractive and important in our lives.

#### 4.2.7 POSITION OF CRICKET IN SOCIETY

Participants were to express their meanings about whether they consider cricket as a national sport and about how strongly they agree with statements regarding their opinion about cricket's position in Indian society and its relationship to Commonwealth countries and to Britishness.

#### 4.3 CONCLUSION

To summarize, cricket has its strong position as a widely played game, long enough that it has been forgotten where its origins are. It is considered to be rather an Indian national game and although there is a massive role of money in it which makes it a different business today, still people would follow it, adoring it immensely.

The results of the questionnaire are, however, to a great extent influenced by a very low number of participants. They were only 26, which makes it irrelevant in the comparison to the number of people living in India, but as many of blogs, facebook pages of cricket fans and university discussion for a were searched, it may well be declared that the results follow the findings of the survey.

It also needs to be said that although there are only 26 respondents, there were 87 other participants who did not complete the survey and many others who would "like" the survey on the facebook pages and those who would start a conversation offering other views on the topic. Specifically those from university discussion fora as mentioned above. They would suggest that such research should be more focused on the economic aspects of this phenomenon. Which finely corresponds with the responses confirming that: Cricket attracts advertising companies and makes it a big business.

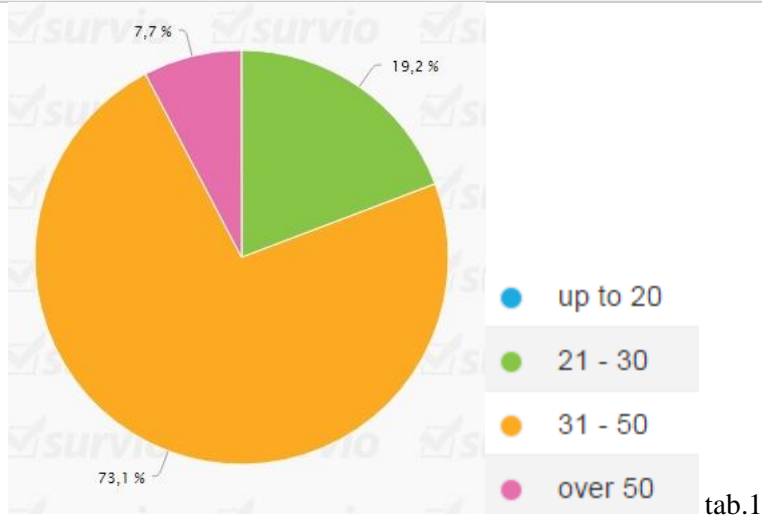


## 5 RESULTS

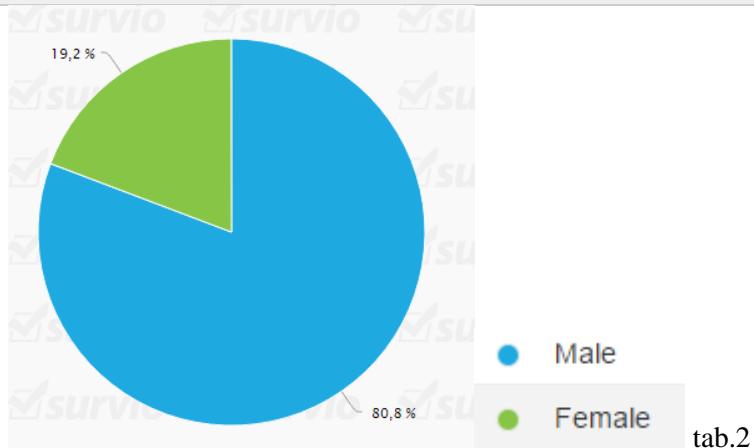
The results showed that Indian nation love cricket that is makes an important part of their lives.

More than 73% of respondents were in the group of age between 31-50 (see tab.1). The majority - 80% of them were men (see tab.2).

### 5.1.1 Please indicate your age

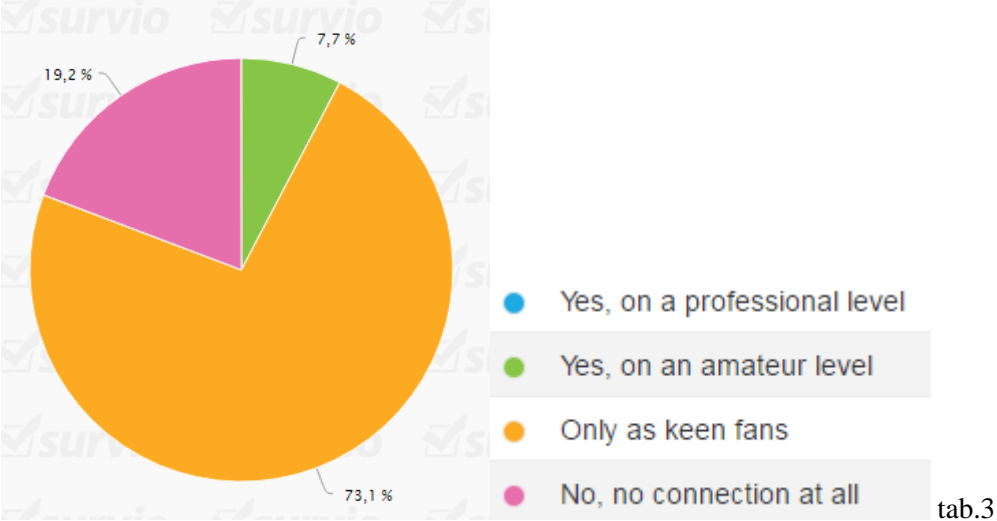


### 5.1.2 Please indicate your sex



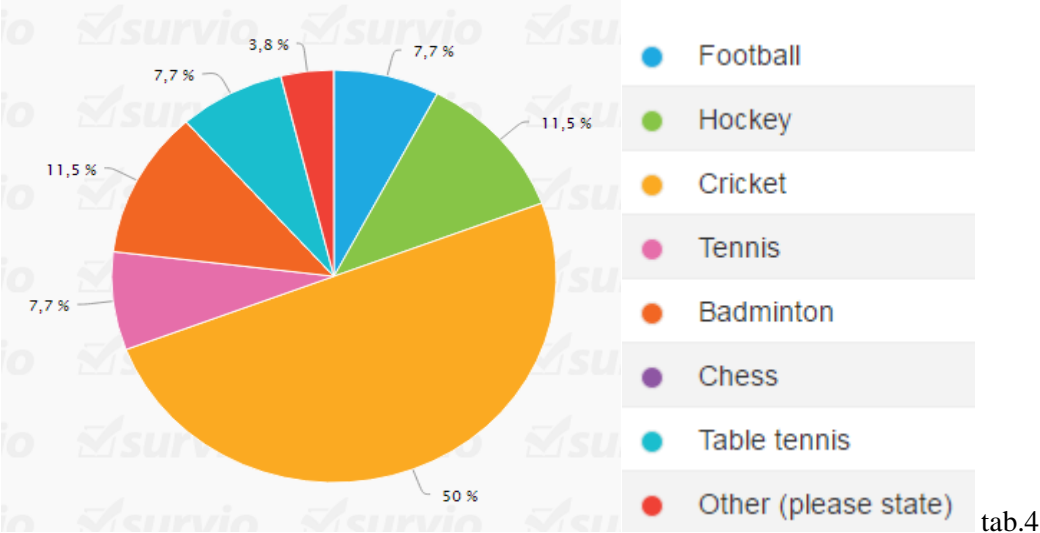
Among the family of participants were only 7%, who would play cricket on a professional level, otherwise 73% are only keen fans (see tab.3).

5.1.3 Does your family have any connection with cricket?

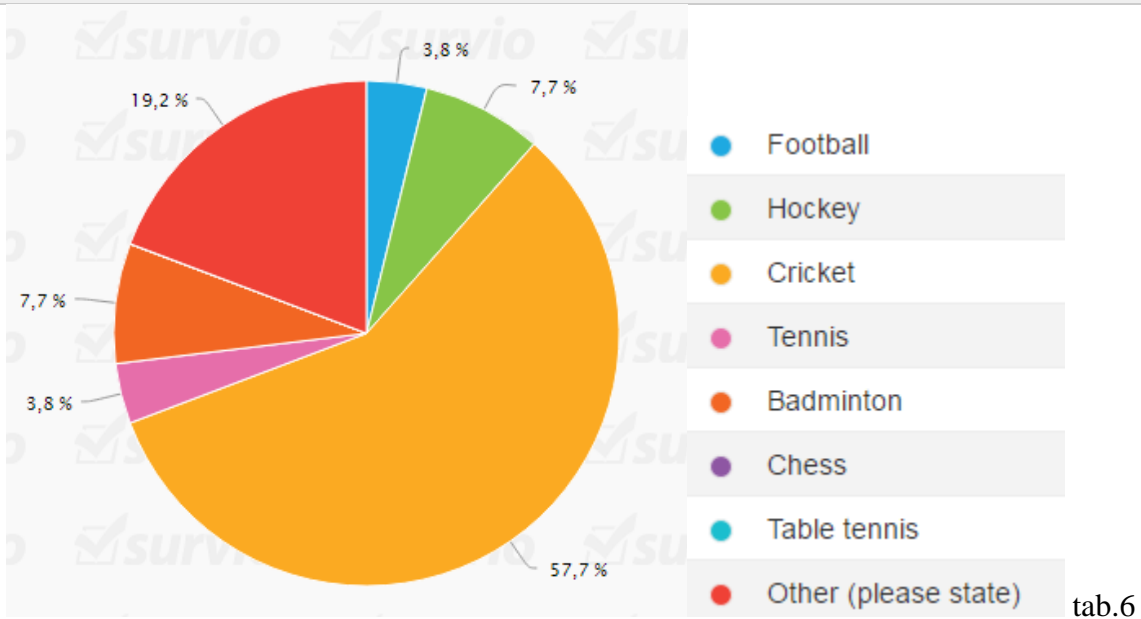


Half of the participants would consider cricket as their favourite sport(see tab.4) when they were at school age and a little bit over 57% (see tab.6) would see it as their favourite sport today.

5.1.4 What was your favourite sport during your school life?

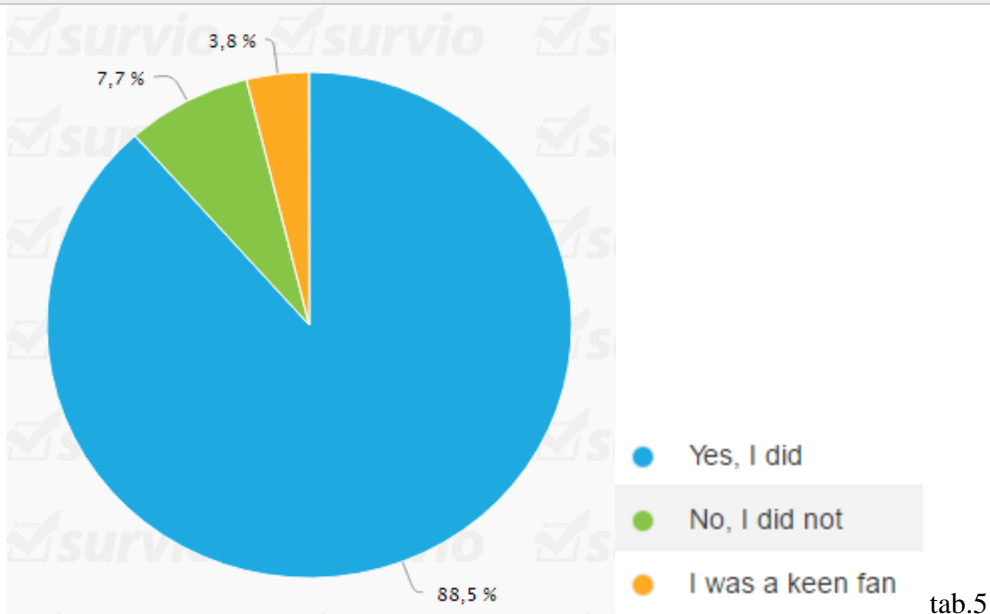


### 5.1.5 What is your favourite sport now?

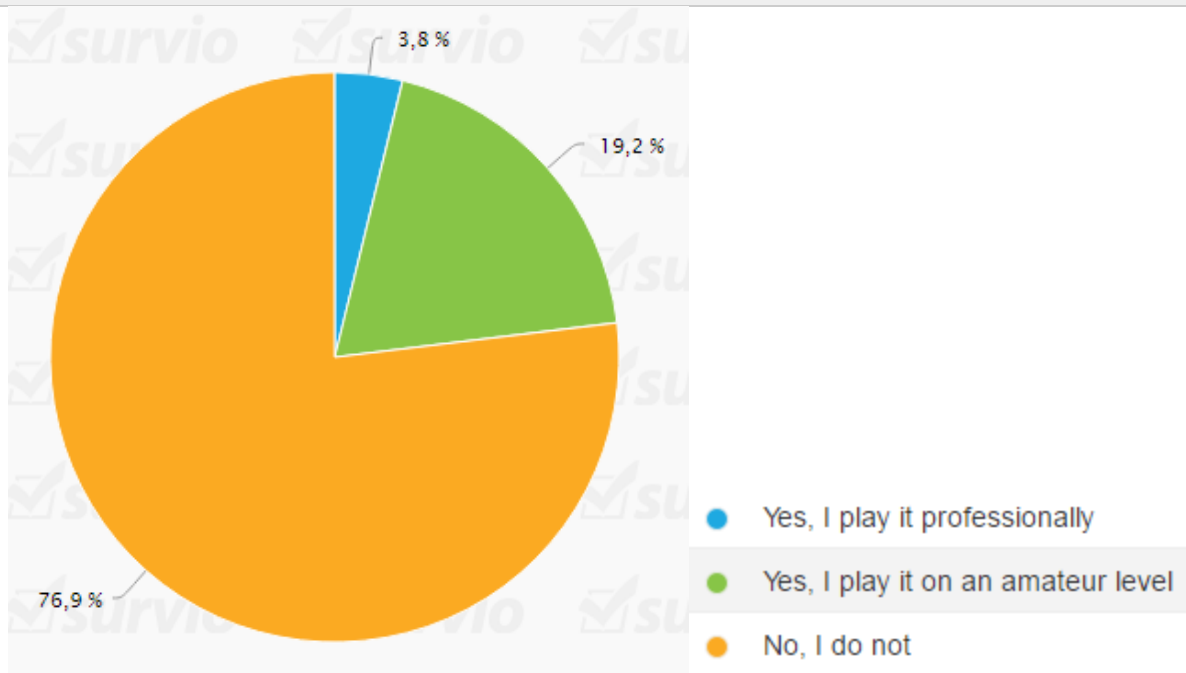


A little bit different situation is with real playing cricket while 88% would play it when at school age (see tab.5) only 24% would play it today (see tab.7). Interestingly nearly 4% out of these play it professionally.

### 5.1.6 Did you play cricket during your school life?



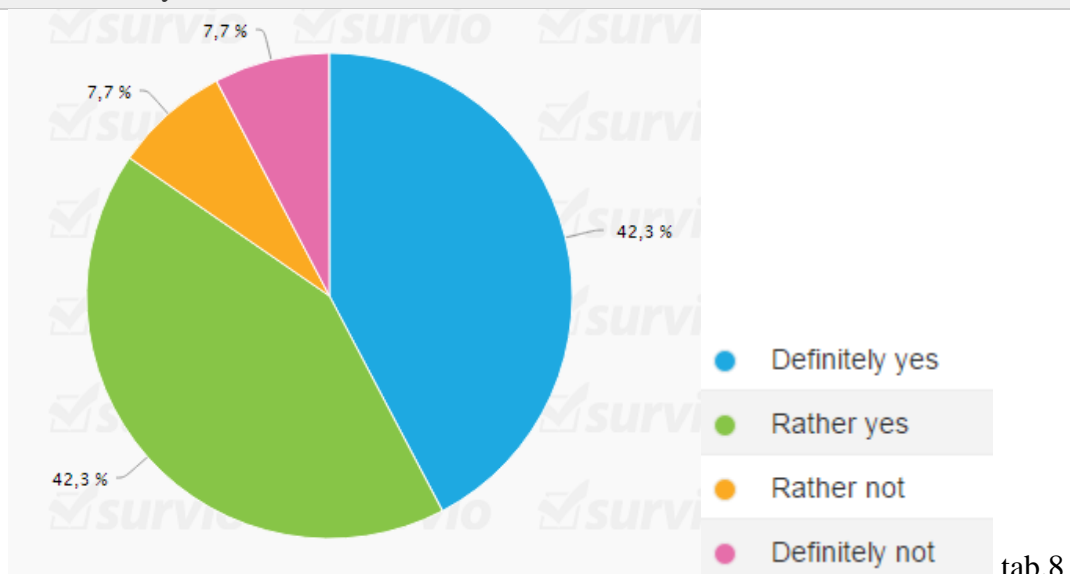
### 5.1.7 Do you play cricket now?



tab.7

Nearly 85% are keen fans of cricket today and as a few of respondents mentioned, they would even travel the world for important matches. (see tab.8)

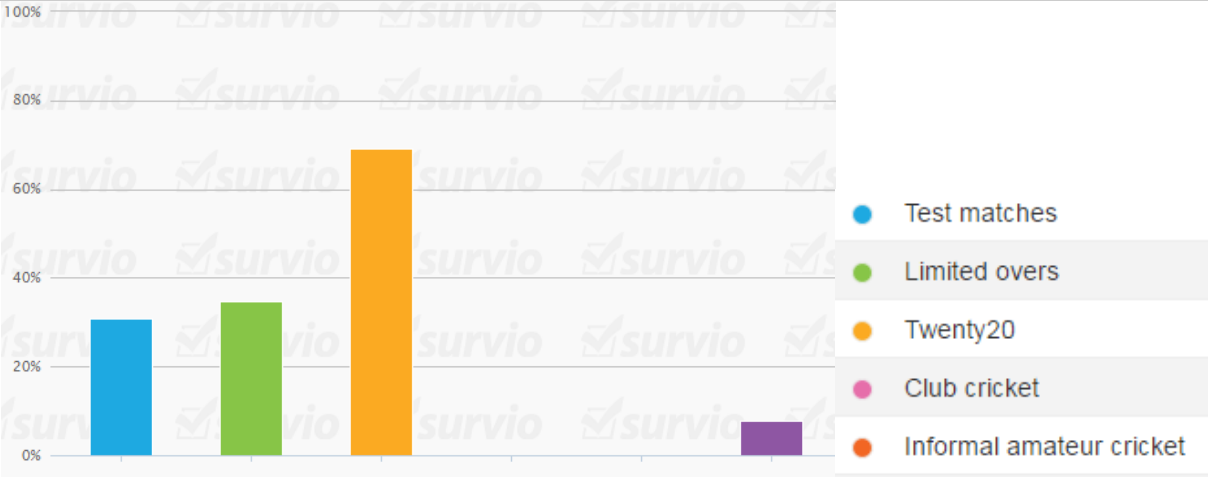
### 5.1.8 Are you a keen fan of cricket?



tab.8

Tab. 9 shows that nearly 65% of respondents prefer so called Twenty20 matches, which is the format actually founded in India and is winning not only there. (see tab.9). While limited overs and Test matches are only less than 30% popular.

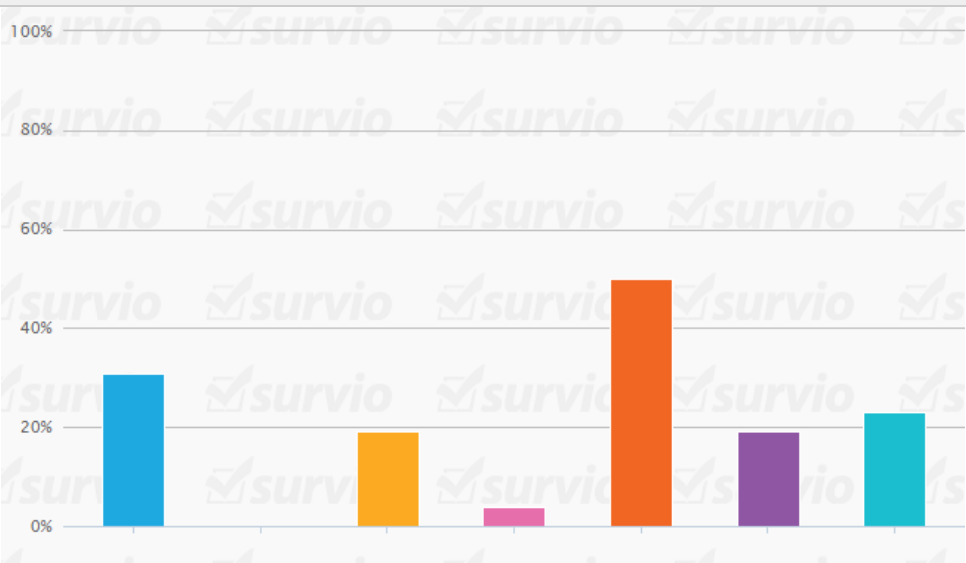
5.1.9 What is your favourite form of cricket?



tab.9

50% of Indian people think that cricket is so popular because cricketing legends come from India and they inspire others to join. That is seen on many facebook cricket fan-club pages in India, they prove that the top class players are nearly more powerful than politicians (see tab.10).

5.1.10 Why do you think cricket is so popular in India?

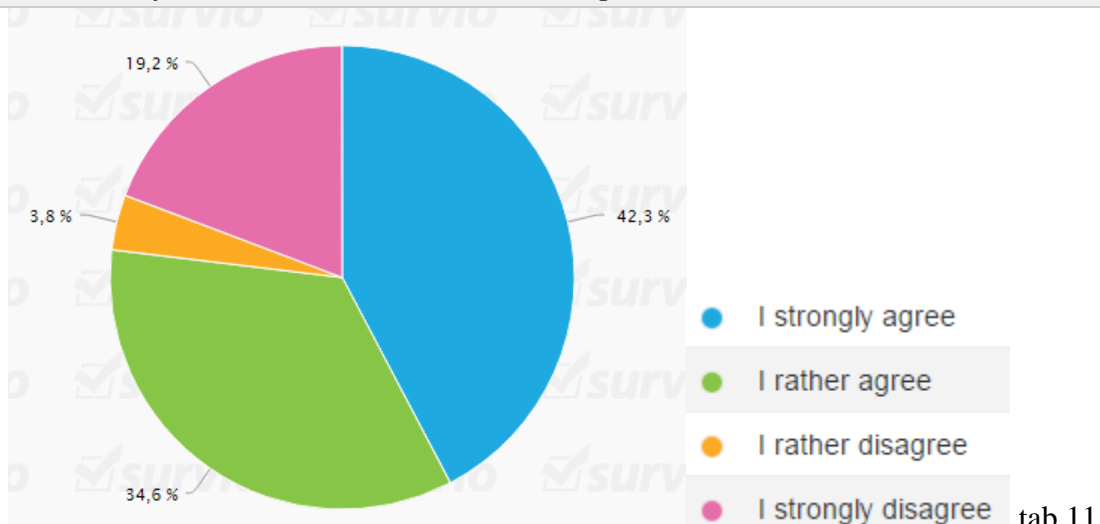


● Because it does not need much, only a ball and a bat, not much space and only minimum of two players	8	30,8 %
● Because there are many cricket coaching centres and stadiums in India	0	0 %
● Because India is performing well in the international cups	5	19,2 %
● Because Indian people have significant physical strengths to play it	1	3,8 %
● Because many cricketing legends come from India and they inspire others to join	13	50 %
● Because cricket means money and money is attractive and important in our lives	5	19,2 %
● Please specify another reason or write "not relevant"	6	23,1 %

tab.10

Nearly 77% consider cricket as a national sport of India, out of which only 42% agree strongly with it. However 19% strongly disagree (see tab.11)

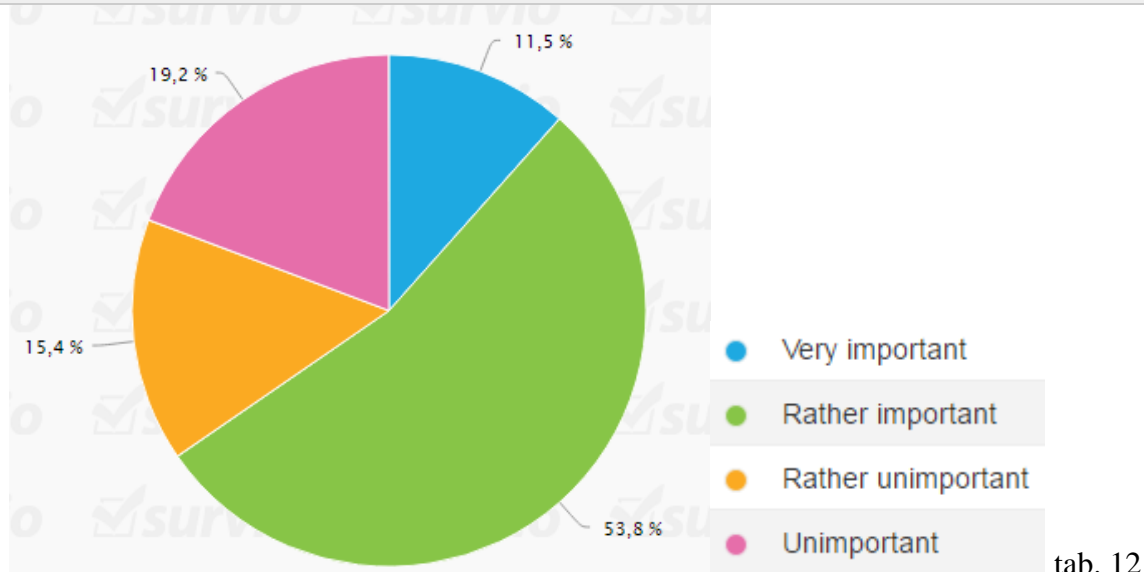
#### 5.1.11 Do you consider cricket as a national sport of India?



tab.11

Cricket plays an important part of lives of Indian people, so say nearly 65% of them and 15% claim it is unimportant. (see tab.12)

#### 5.1.12 How important is cricket for you /either playing it or being a fan of it/ ?

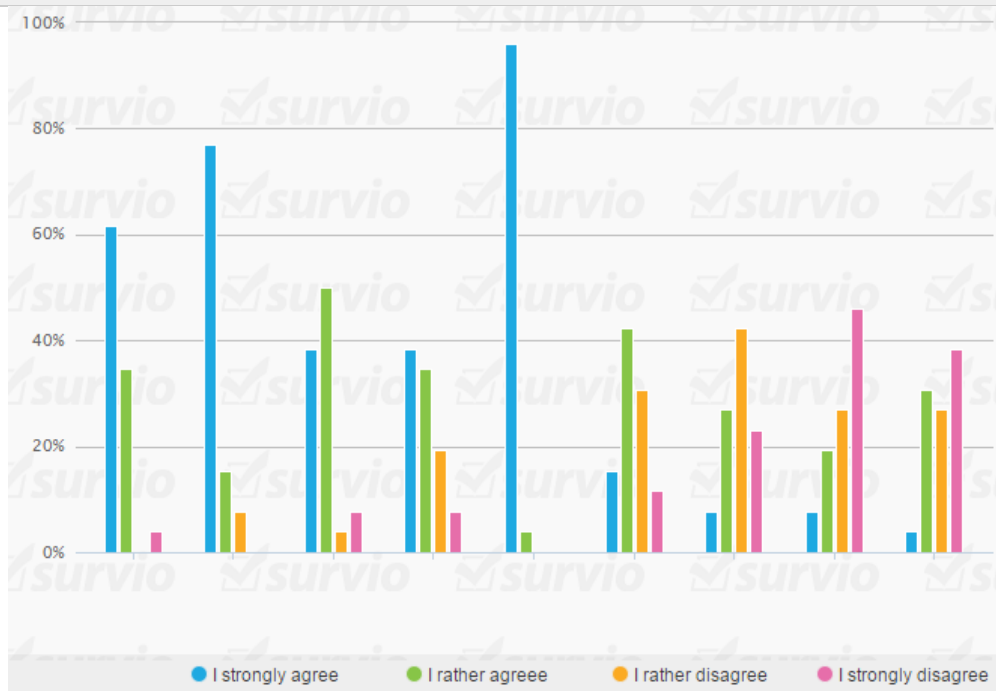


The last section included statements about cricket and respondents had to say again how much they agree with it. The chart shows up to what extent they did. The statements were as followed:

- a) Cricket brings Indian nation together.
- b) Cricket is not just a sport but a part of life of Indian people,
- c) Cricket is the Indian pride.
- d) Cricket makes India special.
- e) Cricket attracts advertising companies and makes it a big business.
- f) Cricket means a connection to other Commonwealth countries.
- g) Cricket means a closer connection specifically to Great Britain.
- h) Cricket evokes back colonial times.
- i) Cricket is a symbol of Britishness.

It is seen that nearly an absolute 100% was the agreement with the statement d) proving that cricket is a big business. With a surprise however the statement i) where cricket is seen as a symbol of Britishness only by some 3%, a little bit higher result is made by h) – evoking back colonial times, but again not so high, similar 3% means connection to Great Britain.

### 5.1.13 How strongly do you agree with the following statements?



tab. 13



## CONCLUSION

The undergraduate thesis described the major milestones of the cricket development in Great Britain and in India with the focus of key factors of its expansion in India specifically. It presented the different views of Britishness and put it together with the connection of the game of cricket. A study was undertaken to prove or disprove the initial hypotheses.

The first question searched for the answer whether Indian people consider cricket as a symbol of Britishness and how much of colonial essence in cricket is still noticed. The results showed that cricket is a very important phenomenon for Indian people, they are big fans for that game even if not playing it. It however showed that there are other sports people do, such as badminton, football or tennis. It also showed that some people would not even consider cricket as a national game. The reason why cricket is popular showed to be mainly because many cricketing legends come from India. Thus they inspire others to join, support, copy and inspire them. The top class players earn huge amounts of money and are the idols not just from the point of view of sport but also the fashion and take often place of the politicians in terms of influencing much more crowds.

The responses showed that there is very little attitude that people would link cricket or see it as a link to be more closely tightened to the Commonwealth empire or even to Great Britain. With the hundreds of years of finding the cricket own way, going through the history when cricket at the beginning of the independence played a united role, creating specifically new modern, fast, business driven format of cricket (Twenty20), there is no more sign of seeing cricket as a symbol of Britishness as it may be seen in Britain. Indians simply do not consider cricket as a symbol of that. Thus this hypothesis was not confirmed as all.

The second question was about how much of their own invention Indian people implemented into the game of cricket. It was anticipated that there would be a shift from traditional conception of cricket. The results confirmed this especially in terms of the format of the game as mentioned above. It shows that India has not only found their own way, in which they succeed and what the fans love, but it also takes it not just as a sport but a way of life for India. It has its legends, it shows the world the way and it has already forgotten its initial period ages ago, when it was born as a new independent and cricketing country... literally from the Ashes.

## **APPENDIX**

In the Appendix the sample questionnaire for the research purpose can be found.

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## **SUMMARY IN CZECH**

Cílem této bakalářské práce je popsat hlavní milníky vývoje kriketu ve světě s důrazem na země Commonwealthu a zároveň nastínit klíčové faktory rozvoje kriketu v Indii.

Práce obsahuje praktickou část, jejímž cílem je vytvořit dotazník za účelem prozkoumat přístup ke kriketu v současné Indii a zaměřit se na vazby mezi kriketem a kolonialismem.

Kriket je zkoumán nejen pohledu oblíbenosti a fanouškovství, ale zejména z pohledu toho, jak se jako sport v Indii proměnil a jaká je jeho současná pozice. Výsledkem je zjištění, jak dalece obyvatelé Indie vidí kriket spjat s tzv. britskostí.