



IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Volume: 10 Issue: V Month of publication: May 2022

DOI: https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2022.42144

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The Impact of Yoga and Pranayama on Health-Related Physical Fitness

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Abstract: 90 (Ninety) college male students were taken as subjects for the study. The experimental treatments were given to two groups (yoga and pranayama) and one group served as the control. The analysis of data revealed that the two experimental groups administered with yogic asanas and pranayama showed significant gains in performance of many health related fitness components after administration of pranayamas and asanas for duration of 6 weeks. Keywords: Yogic Asanas, Pranayama and Health related Physical Fitness

I. INTRODUCTION

Yoga was selected as the focus of this research based on the claims that have been made regarding yoga's benefits for college students and its unique coupling of pranayama and physical activity. In addition to the apparent positive influence that yoga has on physical health and many recent studies have investigated its influence on cognitive function. The current study is aimed to examine the immediate effects of short-term instructional yoga and pranayama practices on selective health related fitness college students. The purpose of this study was to know the effect of regular participation in yoga and pranayama programme on health related physical fitness. Health related physical fitness is the minimum level of fitness that is required for everyone to perform daily tasks efficiently and effectively and to resist disease. Health-related components of physical fitness include body-composition, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, muscular endurance, and strength.

II. METHODOLOGY

Total of 90 (Ninety) college male students were taken as subjects for the study. Their age ranged from 20 to 25 years. The average age of the subjects was 22.3 year. Random group design was adopted for the study and equal numbers of subjects were assigned at random to three groups of thirty subjects each. The experimental treatments were given to two groups and one group served as the control. All the groups underwent the pre-test on all the health related physical fitness components. Then yoga group and pranayama group underwent the scheduled yoga and pranayama programmes, respectively for a period of 6 weeks. The group C served as control and was not allowed to undergo the yoga and pranayama programme at all. After the end of six weeks of yoga and pranayama programmes of concerned groups, the three groups including control group underwent post-test on all the variables on which pre-test was made. Yoga group was administered with the scheduled selected yogic asanas while Pranayama group was administered with the scheduled pranayamas for duration of 6 weeks and five days in a week in the morning from 6 am to 7 am.

III. FINDINGS

For each of the chosen variables, the results pertaining to significant difference, if any, between the pre-test and post-test means for the three groups after six weeks of yoga and pranayama programmes, were submitted to analysis of variance and covariance and are stated below.

Table –	1: Sig	nificance	of Differ	erence l	between	Pre-Test	and	Post-Test	Means	of the	two	Experimental	Groups	and	the	Control
Group in	n Bent	Knee Cur	l Up													

Groups	Pre-test	Post-test	Difference between	SE	't' ratio		
	mean	mean	mean				
Yoga.	17.367	22.867	5.500	0.406	13.542*		
Pranayama	17.533	22.767	5.233	0.266	19.705*		
Control	17.567	17.867	0.300	0.215	1.394		
* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, 't' $_{0.05}(29) = 2.045$							

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Table 1 clearly revealed that the yoga and pranayama groups improved significantly yielding 't' value of 13.542 and 19.705, respectively, where as the control group did not show any significant improvement in bent knee curl up performance of subjects indicating 't' values of 1.394.

Table – 2: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Bent Knee

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	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of squares	df	Mean	F ratio	
	group	group	group			square		
Pre-test means	17.367	17.533	17.567	B 0.689 W 1229.800	2 87	0.344 14.136	0.240	
Post-test means	22.867	22.767	17.867	B 490.200 W 970.300	2 87	245.100 11.153	21.976*	
Adjusted post-test means	22.964	22.731	17.805	B 509.269 W 193.392	2 86	254.634 2.249	113.234*	

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, N = 90, B = Between group variance,

W = Within group variance

The analysis of covariance for bent knee curl up showed that the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.240 was not significant in case of pre-test means. The post test means yielded 'F' ratio of 21.976, which was found to be significant. The adjusted final means yielded the 'F' ratio of 113.234 and was found significant. The 'F' ratio, needed for significance at 0.05 level of confidence (df 2, 87) was 3.07.

Table – 3: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group

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Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Difference between	Critical differences for				
group	group	group	means	adjusted mean				
22.964	22.731		0.233	0.274				
22.964		17.805	5.159*	0.274				
	22.731	17.805	4.926*	0.274				

* Significance at 0.05 level

It was clear from the Table 3 that the mean differences with respect to performance in bent knee curl up of both the yoga group and pranayama group were found to be significantly greater than that of control group. No significant difference between yoga and pranayama groups was found with respect to bent knee curl up performance.

Table – 4: Significance of Difference between Pre-Test and Post-Test Means of the two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sit Up

or or or							
Groups	Pre-test	Post-test	Difference between	SE	't' Ratio		
	mean	mean	mean				
Yoga.	24.633	28.067	3.433	0.317	10.834*		
Pranayama	24.767	28.567	3.800	0.416	9.127*		
Control	24.633	24.367	0.266	0.258	1.034		

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, 't' $_{0.05}$ (29) = 2.045

Table 4 revealed that both the experimental groups improved significantly yielding 't' value 10.834 and 9.127, where as control group did not show any significant improvement in sit up performance of subjects indicating 't' values of 1.034.



International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology (IJRASET)

ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538 Volume 10 Issue V May 2022- Available at www.ijraset.com

	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of squares	df	Mean	F ratio	
	group	group	group			square		
Pre-test	24 622	24 767	24 622	B 0.356	2	0.178	0.009	
means	24.035	24.707	24.035	W 1753.3	87	20.153		
Post-test	28.067	28.567	24.367	B 315.800	2	157.900	12 700*	
means	28.007			W 996.200	87	11.451	15.790	
Adjusted				D 207 194	2	152 502		
post-test	28.098	28.504	24.398	D 307.164 W 127.800	2	155.592	95.793*	
means				W 137.090	00	1.005		

Table - 5: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sit Up

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence , N = 90, B = Between group variance,

W = Within group variance

The analysis of covariance for sit up showed that the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.009 was not significant in case of pre-test means. The post test and adjusted final means yielded the 'F' ratio of 13.790 and 95.793, respectively, which were found to be significant. The 'F' ratio, needed for significance at 0.05 level of confidence (df 2, 87) was 3.07.

Table - 6: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group

	in or op								
Y	'oga	Pranayama	Control	Difference between	Critical differences for				
g	roup	group	group	means	adjusted mean				
2	8.098	28.504		0.406	0.431				
2	8.098		24.398	3.700*	0.431				
		28.504	24.398	4.142*	0.431				

in Sit Up

* Significant at 0.05 level

It was very much clear from the Table 6 that the mean differences with respect to performance in sit up of both yoga and pranayama groups were found to be significantly greater than that of control group. No significant difference between yoga and pranayama groups was observed in respect of sit up performance.

Table – 7: Significance of Difference Between Pre-Test and Post-Test Means of the two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Harvard Step Test

Groups	Pre-test	Post-test	Difference between	SE	't'
	mean	mean	mean		Ratio
Yoga.	75.000	73.133	1.867	0.371	5.037*
Pranayama	75.133	73.000	2.133	0.351	6.070*
Control	75.133	75.167	0.033	0.148	0.226

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, 't' $_{0.05}(19) = 2.045$

Table 7 clearly showed that both yoga and pranayama groups improved significantly yielding 't' value of 5.037 and 6.070, respectively, where as control group did not show any significant improvement in Harvard step test performance of subjects indicating 't' values of 0.226. In Harvard step test, it was noted that the differences between the means existed and the experimental groups improved, where as no significant change was observed in the control group.



Table - 8: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Harvard Step

	Test								
	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of squares	df	Mean	F ratio		
	group	group	group			square			
Pre-test	75.000	75 133	75.133	B 0. 356	2	0.178	0.007		
means	75.000	75.155		W 158.933	87	1.827	0.097		
Post-test	73 133	73.000	75.167	B 88.467	2	44.233	26 703*		
means	75.155			W 143.633	87	1.651	20.795		
Adjusted				R 87 536	2	13 768			
post-test	73.149	72.992	75.159	W 138 582	2 86	45.700	27.161*		
means				W 150.502	00	1.011			

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, N = 90, B = Between group variance,

W = Within group variance

The analysis of covariance for Harvard step test showed the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.097, which was not significant in case of pre test means. The post test means and adjusted final means yielded the 'F' ratio of 26.793 and 27.161 and were found significant. The 'F' ratio, needed for significance at 0.05 level of confidence (df 2, 87) was 3.07.

Table – 9: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Harvard Step Test

Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Difference	Critical differences for
group	group	group	between means	adjusted mean
73.149	72.992		0.157	0.232
73.149		75.159	2.010*	0.232
	72.992	75.159	2.167*	0.232

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence

It was clear from the Table 9 that the mean differences with respect to performance in Harvard step test of yoga and pranayama groups were found to be significantly greater than that of control group. No significant difference between yoga and pranayama groups was found in respect of Harvard step test performance.

Table - 10: Significance of Difference between Pre-Test and Post-Test Means of the two Experimental Groups and the Control

Group in One Mile Run/ walk									
Groups	Pre-test	Post-test mean	Difference between	SE	't' Ratio				
	mean		mean						
Yoga.	12.855	10.170	2.685	0.102	26.451*				
Pranayama	12.877	9.891	2.985	0.056	53.738*				
Control	12.980	12.896	0.084	0.109	0.773				

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, 't' $_{0.05}$ (29) = 2.045

Table 10 clearly revealed that yoga and pranayama groups improved significantly yielding 't' value of 26.451 and 53.738, respectively. Further, control group did not show any significant improvement in one mile run/walk performance of subjects indicating't' values of 0.773. The needed 't' value for significance at 0.05 level of confidence with 29 degrees of freedom was 2.045.



Table - 11: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in One Mile

Run/Walk	
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	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of	df	Mean	F ratio	
	group	group	group	squares		square		
Pre-test	12 855	12 877	12 080	B 0.268	2	0.134	0.001	
means	12.033	12.077	12.960	W 128.409	87	1.476	0.091	
Post-test	10 170	0.801	12 806	B 165.368	2	82.684	85 647*	
means	10.170	9.091	W 83.990		87	0.965	85.047	
Adjusted				D 155 629	n	77 914		
post-test	10.206	9.912	12.839	W 13 423	∠ 86	0 156	498.557*	
means				W 15.425	00	0.130		

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, N = 90, B = Between group variance,

W = Within group variance

The analysis of covariance for one mile run/walk showed that the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.091 was not significant in case of pre-test means. The post-test and adjusted final means yielded the 'F' ratio of 85.647 and 498.557, respectively and were found to be significant. The 'F' ratio, needed for significance at 0.05 level of confidence (df 2, 87) was 3.07.

Table – 12: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in One Mile Run/Walk

Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Difference between	Critical differences for
group	group	group	means	adjusted mean
10.206	9.912		0.294	0.372
10.206		12.839	2.633*	0.372
	9.912	12.839	2.927*	0.372

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence

It was very much clear from the Table 12 that the mean differences with respect to performance in one mile run/walk of both the experimental groups were found to be significantly lesser than that of control group. No significant difference between yoga and pranayama groups was found with respect to one mile run/walk performance.

Table – 13: Significance of Difference between Pre-Test and Post-Test Means of the two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Tricens Skin Fold Measurement

Groups	Pre-test	Post-test	Difference between	SE	't'
-	mean	mean	mean		Ratio
Yoga.	14.600	14.367	0.233	0.522	0.447
Pranayama	14.600	14.667	0.667	0.191	0.348
Control	14.633	14.400	0.233	0.561	0.416
	I	't' o or (29)	() = 2.045	I	I

Table 13 clearly revealed that yoga and pranayama and control groups showed no significant change with respect to tricep skin fold measurement yielding 't' value of 0.447, 0.348 and 0.416, respectively.



Table – 14: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Triceps Skin Fold Measurement

	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of squares	df	Mean	F ratio
	group	group	group			square	
Pro tost moons	14 600	14 600	14 633	B 0.022	2	0.011	0.002
Fie-test means	14.000	14.000	14.055	W 409.367	87	4.705	0.002
Post tost moons	14 367	14 667	14 400	B 1.622	2	0.811	0.806
r ost-test means	14.307	14.007	14.400	W 644.833	87	7.412	0.890
Adjusted post-test	14 274	14 674	14 286	B 1.728	2	0.864	0.152
means	14.374	14.074	14.360	W 484.992	86	5.639	0.155

N = 90, B = Between group variance, W = Within group variance,

The analysis of covariance for tricep skin fold measurement showed that the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.002, 0.896 and 0.153, respectively for pre-test means, post test means and adjusted final means were not significant. The 'F' ratio, needed for significance at 0.05 level of confidence (df 2, 87) was 3.07.

Table – 15: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Triceps' Skin Fold Measurement

Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Difference between	Critical differences for
group	group	group	means	adjusted mean
14.374	14.674		0.300	0.434
14.374		14.386	0.012	0.434
	14.674	14.386	0.288	0.434

It was evident from the Table 15 that the mean differences with respect to triceps' skin fold measurement of subjects in two experimental and control group were not significant in any case.

Table – 16: Significance of Difference between Pre-Test and Post-Test Means of the two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sub-Scapular Skin Fold Measurement

Groups	Pre-test mean	Post-test mean	Difference between mean	SE	't' Ratio		
Yoga.	14.667	14.000	0.667	0.191	0.348		
Pranayama	14.600	14.633	0.033	0.195	0.171		
Control	14.400	14.367	0.033	0.169	0.197		
$t'_{0.05}(29) = 2.045$							

Table 16 clearly revealed that yoga and pranayama and control groups showed no significant change with respect to sub-scapular skin fold measurement yielding 't' value of 0.348, 0.171 and 0.197, respectively.

Table – 17: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sub-Scapular Skin Fold Measurement

		Stupula Silli	i old lifeasait				
	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of squares	df	Mean	F ratio
	group	group	group			square	
Dra tast maans	14 667	14,000	14 400	B 1.156	2	0.578	0.077
rie-test means	14.007	14.000	14.400	W 651.067	87	7.484	0.077
Post tost moons	14 600	14 633	14 367	B 1.267	2	0.633	0.137
r ost-test means	14.000	14.033	14.307	W 403.133	87	4.634	0.157
Adjusted post-test	14 518	14 600	14 482	B 0.222	2	0.111	0.207
means	14.316	14.000	14.402	W 46.001	86	0.535	0.207

N = 90, B = between group variance, W = within group variance



The analysis of covariance for triceps' skin fold measurement showed that the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.077, 0.137 and 0.207, respectively for pre-test means, post test means and adjusted final means were not significant.

Table – 18: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sub-Scapular Skin Fold Measurement

Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Difference between	Critical differences for
group	group	group	means	adjusted mean
14.518	14.600		0.082	0.134
14.518		14.482	0.036	0.134
	14.600	14.482	0.118	0.134

It was evident from the Table 18 that the mean differences with respect to in sub-scapular skin fold measurement of subjects in two experimental and control group were not significant in any case.

Table – 19: Significance of Difference between Pre-Test and Post-Test Means of the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sit And Reach

Groups	Pre-test mean	Post-test mean	Difference between mean	SE	't' Ratio
Yoga.	25.800	29.633	3.833	0.250	15.363*
Pranayama	25.800	29.833	4.033	0.294	13.740*
Control	25.867	25.833	0.033	0.206	0.162

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, 't' $_{0.05}$ (29) = 2.045

Table 19 clearly revealed that yoga and pranayama groups improved significantly yielding 't' value of 15.363 and 13.740, respectively, whereas, control group did not show any significant improvement in sit and reach performance of subjects indicating 't' values of 0.162.

Table – 20: Analysis of Variance and Covariance of the Means of Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group in Sit and

			Reat					
	Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Sum of squares	df	Mean	F ratio	
	group	group	group			square		
Pre-test	25 800	25 800	25 867	B 0.089	2	0.044	0.005	
means	23.800	25.800	23.807	W 729.067	87	8.380	0.005	
Post-test	20 633	20.833	25 833	B 304.800	2	152.400	<u> </u>	
means	29.033	27.033	23.833	W 469.300	87	5.394	28.232	
Adjusted				P 212 160	n	156 085		
post-test	29.649	29.849	25.802	W 102 010	2	1 208	129.182*	
means				W 103.710	80	1.200		

* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence, N = 90, B = Between group variance,

W = Within group variance

The analysis of covariance for sit and reach showed that the resultant 'F' ratio of 0.005, which was not significant in case of pre test means. The post test and adjusted final means yielded the 'F' ratio of 28.252 and 129.182, respectively and differences among means were found to be significant. The 'F' ratio, needed for significance at 0.05 level of confidence (df 2, 87) was 3.07.

Table – 21: Paired Adjusted Final Means and Differences between Means for the Two Experimental Groups and the Control Group

in Sit and Reach								
Yoga	Pranayama	Control	Difference	Critical differences				
group	group	group	between means	for adjusted mean				
29.649	29.849		0.200	0.201				
29.649		25.802	3.847*	0.201				
	29.849	25.802	4.047*	0.201				
	* C:~	if and at 0	OF level of confide					

^{*} Significant at 0.05 level of confidence



It was clear from the Table 21 that the mean differences with respect to performance in sit and reach of both yoga and pranayama groups were found to be significantly better than that of control group. No significant difference between yoga and pranayama groups was found with respect to sit and reach performance.

IV. CONCLUSION

The analysis of data revealed that the two experimental groups administered with yogic asanas and pranayama showed significant gains in performance of many health related fitness components after administration of pranayamas and asanas for duration of six weeks. The control group did not show any significant improvement in the performance of any variable under study.

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