



Entertainment To Enlightenment: The Future Of Test Cricket

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Abstract: Test Cricket is one of the most fascinating, exciting and enthralling forms of cricket. It defines and redefines the very philosophical existence of human survival and evolution over the years. It is widely agreed that its significance and relevance are gradually falling, especially after the advent of the limited overs games. The present research attempts to examine this aspect in a comprehensive manner and suggest new ways to revive the longer version of cricket to exist in parallel with the shorter versions. The documentary research, questionnaire surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with the cricket fans of Eden Gardens, Kolkata, reveal that test cricket is a living art, yet its significance is falling, especially among the young generations. The analysis of the present study reveals that despite the fact that test cricket is exciting and deeply enthralling, its overall relevance is falling presently. Longer play duration, change in taste and preference patterns of cricket viewers, preference of professional cricketers to play more limited overs cricket are some of the key reasons for the present-day scenario of test cricket. Therefore, in order to revive test cricket and save it from a condition of dying art, it is very important for all the cricket boards, governments, and private bodies of all the cricket-playing nations that they must undertake adequate, sustainable and inclusive planning to protect test cricket. Because it is very important to realise that, future of cricket as a sport depends to a large extent on the survival of test cricket in the long run. The cricket fans of Eden Gardens agree very much with this fact and consider that the administration must take care of test cricket to prevent its premature extinction from the heart of cricket fans. Moreover, test cricket is not just about excitement and entertainment, it is a direction towards the enlightenment of human civilisation through sports.

Index Terms - Test Cricket, survival, longer format, significance, play duration, entertainment.

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most defined forms of universal human expression of competitiveness and outcomes is sports, which in turn is a pivotal form of cosmic existence of human evolution and development. The present research defines "sports" as a universal language of human expression of contention or rivalry, defining and redefining innovation with evolution symbolising the cosmic balance between power and skill exhibitions, forming an integral part of society and its progress over the years. "Sport" refers to any type of physical activities that, whether through informal or structured engagement, seek to enhance physical fitness and mental health, foster social connections, or achieve competitive outcomes at various levels (AASP, 2025). Sport is a cultural domain wherein individuals freely engage with others to assess their relative abilities and skills in physical movement, adhering to self-imposed or recognised regulations and grounded on socially recognised ethical principles (Tiedemann, 2022). The term "Sport" originates from the Old French word "desport," signifying "leisure." The

earliest English definition, dating back to approximately 1300, is "anything that humans find amusing or entertaining." Sport (British English) or sports (American English) encompasses all forms of competitive physical activities or games that, through casual or organised participation, seek to utilise, sustain, or enhance physical abilities and skills while offering enjoyment to participants and, in certain instances, entertainment for spectators (Sports. n.d.).

Cricket has evolved as an indispensable and inseparable part of sports activities over the years, reflecting the change in the taste and preference patterns of society over time. The origins of cricket are uncertain; nevertheless, historians and scholars concur that it was a recognised sport in southern England throughout the 16th century. The Marylebone Cricket Club, founded in 1787, is considered the custodian of the sport and approves modifications to the rules proposed by the International Cricket Council (ICC). Cricket was adopted in the British Empire as a method of 'civilising' the populace and sustaining the legitimacy of government. Not all colonies adopted the game; nevertheless, those who did ultimately utilised cricket to articulate their national identity and to challenge the motherland. When criticised, the game has consistently reinvented itself by adopting new formats and rules (Mondal and Rampersad, 2020). Expert agreement suggests that cricket may have originated during Saxon periods, conceived by young children residing in Weald, an area characterised by forests in southeastern England. Initial mention of cricket as a sport of adults occurred in 1611, coinciding with a dictionary's definition of cricket as a pastime for boys. It is posited that cricket as a game may have originated through bowls, through the action of a particular batsman attempting to prevent ball from reaching to its goal by striking it away (Cricket, n.d., ICC).

By mid-seventeenth century, village cricket had evolved, and the inaugural English "county teams" were established in the latter half of the century, when "local experts" from village cricket were engaged as the first professionals. The earliest recorded game featuring teams identified by county names dates back to 1709. During the initial half of the 18th century, cricket emerged as a prominent sport in London and the southeastern counties of England. The dissemination of Women's Cricket was restricted by travel limitations; yet, it gradually garnered popularity in several regions of England. The origins of Women's Cricket may be traced back to 1745, when the inaugural recorded match occurred in Surrey.

The original Laws of Cricket were drafted in 1744 and updated in 1774 to include new rules like a maximum bat width, a third stump, the middle stump, and leg before wicket (lbw). Members of the "Star and Garter Club," who drafted the statutes, went on to create the famous Marylebone Cricket Club at Lord's in 1787. The MCC has been regularly making changes to the laws since it took custody of them (Cricket, n.d., ICC). Around 1760, bowlers started pitching the ball instead of rolling it on the ground, which led to the adoption of the straight bat instead of the old 'hockey-stick' type bat. Prior to the formation of the MCC and the opening of Lord's Cricket Ground in 1787, the Hampshire-based Hambledon Club acted as the game's nerve hub for around thirty years. Originally played in England's North American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries, cricket eventually made its way around the globe. Seafarers from the British East India Company took it to India, but colonists transported it to the West Indies. The sport arrived in Australia soon after colonisation began in 1788 and then spread to South Africa and New Zealand in the early 19th century (Cricket, n.d., ICC).

Test matches, One-Day Internationals, and Twenty20 Internationals are the three forms of cricket played at the international level. The match officials are provided by the International Cricket Council, and the matches are conducted in accordance with their sanctioned norms. Currently, the five-day version of the game, known as a test, features two innings per side and was first introduced in 1877 with eleven players on each side. Because it assesses teams over a long period of time, it is considered the pinnacle format. Teams need to be able to adapt, perform well, and remain calm under pressure in order to be successful in this format. The one-day international (ODI) format, which has been around since 1971 but really took off in the '80s, is a speedier version of the game. Teams that can demonstrate a blend of speed, technique, and proficiency are expected to do well in these one-day matches, which last 50 overs each side. Every four years, this format hosts the ICC Cricket World Cup, the pinnacle event of the ICC. The newest, shortest, and fastest version of the game is the Twenty20 International. Since its introduction in 2005, the 20-over format per side has drawn in new fans and inspired the creation of innovative new skills. The three-hour duration of a Twenty20 International match, along with the powerful hitting, expert bowling, and outstanding fielding that characterise the game, contribute to its enormous appeal among fans throughout the world. Afghanistan and Ireland were admitted to the ICC in June 2017, bringing the total number of members with Test Match status to twelve. This membership grants both One-Day International and Twenty20 International classification. The ICC World Test Championship has been running since 2019, and every two years the best nine teams compete in it. The ICC World Test Championship final, which will be held at Southampton's Rose Bowl in 2021, will feature the top two teams at the end of the cycle. The men's one-day international status is held by twenty ICC members. Regardless, all

104 member nations earned Twenty20 International classification; the change went into effect for women on July 1, 2018, and for men on January 1, 2019 (ICC, 2023).

Test cricket is experiencing a decrease attributable to several factors, including the ascendance of short-form cricket, shifts in player preferences, and apprehensions regarding the game's importance. The rising prominence of T20 competitions and the transition to limited-overs formats are further driving this trend (AFP, 2024). Test cricket has faced jeopardy for several decades due to the ascendance of one-day cricket and, more recently, the proliferation of T20 and T10 teams globally. The financial remuneration in T20, particularly within the Indian Premier League, is astonishing; Australia captain Pat Cummins secured \$2.47 million for a brief engagement in the 2024 auction, therefore it is unsurprising that players are drawn to it. Fans relish the intensity and excitement, complemented by vibrant lights, vivid colours, and a festive ambiance, while television is drawn to the more manageable format of the abbreviated game. Despite its embellishments, T20 lacks the subtleties and gradual tension characteristic of matches in Test Cricket (AFP, 2024, Espncricinfo.com, 2025). The condition of Indian cricket is influenced by the dynamics of international cricket, and in the past two decades, the financial viability of global cricket has been progressively reliant on India's passion for the sport. The primary difficulty facing both is the ongoing decline of Test cricket and the probability that it will become increasingly peripheral.

The findings of the present study reflect that the cricket lovers who come to Eden Gardens, Kolkata, have much higher proclivity towards limited overs cricket like T20, ODIs and all, compared to the longer versions of cricket like the Test Match Cricket. From among the few who prefer test cricket compared to the other formats, like the techniques and skill of the players, including patience. This set of cricket followers considers time, the rise of shorter formats, cricketers preferring shorter formats, and a change in the taste and preference pattern of the crowd as the main reasons for the loss of interest in test cricket. They also consider that test cricket must be promoted by the media to attract younger generations. These followers of test match cricket also consider the fact that shorter duration of play, higher income, entertainment, fame and popularity are the main reasons why the younger generations are moving away from test cricket to shorter versions of cricket. Therefore, as per the present study and observations, encouraging young generations to test cricket, making more result-oriented pitches, encouraging the participation of other associate countries, and increasing corporate investment are of pivotal importance to sustain the legacy of test match cricket in the upcoming days.

II. METHODOLOGY

The present research incorporates the usage of documentary methods to study the relevance of test cricket for the overall sustainability of Cricket as a sport, where different books, documents, files, records, photos and so on have been studied. Documentary methods are approaches employed to classify, examine, interpret, and ascertain the limitations of physical sources, predominantly written documents, whether from private or public domains (such as personal files, commercial records, or state archives, correspondence, or legislation) (Payne and Payne, 2004). A document is broadly defined as a 'written text.' Documents "must be analysed as products situated within a social context" (Scott, 1990: 34). It is characterised as "any written material other than a record that was not specifically prepared in response to a request from the investigator" (Guba and Lincoln, 1981: 228). Silverman (1993) categorises papers into four types: i) files, ii) statistical records, iii) recordings of official proceedings, and iv) images. Moreover, in order to study the relevance of test match cricket among viewers, strict in-depth interviews and focused group discussions have been conducted among the viewers of cricket matches, especially test cricket in Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India who are 50 in number i.e. 50 individuals irrespective of age, occupation and gender have been considered by the current study. In-depth interviews (IDIs) are often prolonged, face-to-face discussions conducted to attain certain objectives. An in-depth interview, usually referred to as a one-on-one interview, is a technique for eliciting comprehensive information or profound insights into a subject or concept (Showkat and Parveen, 2017). Focus group discussions are commonly employed as a qualitative method to attain a comprehensive grasp of social issues. The strategy seeks to gather data from a deliberately chosen cohort of individuals instead of a statistically representative sample of a larger population (Nyumba et al., 2018). Moreover, word cloud analysis has also been performed to observe the most common opinions found from the discussion with the viewers regarding test match cricket. A word cloud is a visual representation of word frequency that assists in identifying prevalent words and phrases. This serves as a valuable end product and an effective instrument for enhancing your understanding of your data (Sharma and Gupta, 2021). Then, in order to study the opinion of test cricket and the future of test match cricket from the test match followers or lovers, a semi-structured questionnaire survey has been performed. Questionnaires are utilised in sample surveys or censuses to obtain accounts of facts, attitudes, and other subjective conditions

(Martin, 2006). The primary advantages of questionnaires are their ostensible simplicity and variety (Fife-Schaw, 2020). Moreover, in order to realize the potentials of test match cricket as an integral part of cricket as sports, the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis concept has been used in this regard. A SWOT analysis assesses the internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as the external opportunities and dangers inside a system's environment (Sammut-Bonnici and Galea, 2015).

III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

1) OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DOCUMENTARY METHODS AND INTERVIEWS

After reading and analysing the documents, books, files, websites, files, and other existing works of literature, it has been observed that the popularity of test match cricket is declining over the years. This is especially owing to the rise in shorter formats of cricket like ODIs, T20S, and so on. The interview with all 50 individuals reflects the fact that the change in taste and preference patterns among cricket viewers across the world has been responsible for the decline of test cricket and its relevance over the years. People mostly prefer short-term entertainment and live action nowadays. Therefore, there has been a burgeoning fame and popularity of shorter formats of cricket, especially among the young generations in India and across the world. Some of the viewers also admitted that time is an important factor nowadays. People's lives have become more busy and occupation-oriented presently. Therefore, they want mostly short-term pleasure and entertainment. However, more research needs to be conducted to come to a particular conclusion.



Figure 1: Viewer interviewees at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India

2) WORD CLOUD ANALYSIS



Figure 2: Word Cloud Analysis

Figure 2 displays the word cloud analysis of the responses obtained from the in-depth ground interviews and focus group discussions from the followers or the viewers of test match cricket. The word cloud analysis diagram displays the most frequently used words by the respondents. In our analysis, it is clearly evident that words like “test cricket”, “dying”, “frustrating”, “time-consuming”, “disinterested”, “death”, “shorter versions” and so on have been frequently used by the respondents, when asked about the future of test match cricket. This clearly gives us the impression that negative feelings and negative opinions have most frequently been used by the respondents from Eden Gardens Stadium, Kolkata. This reveals the fact that people are mostly disliking or there is a growing frustration among people with regard to test match cricket, which is indeed alarming as test cricket is the heart or the very fulcrum of Cricket as a sport.

3) THE ANALYSIS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

The analysis from the list of questions following the questionnaire survey have been displayed below.

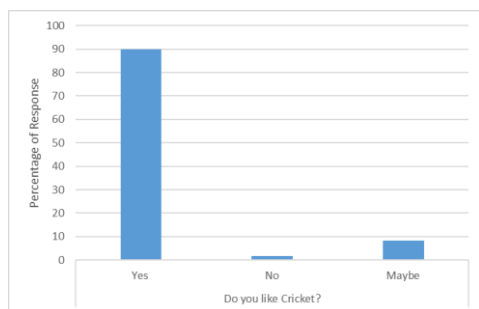


Figure 3: Percentage of Responses for “Do you like Cricket?”

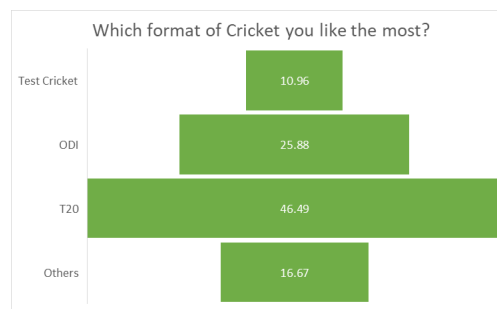


Figure 4: Percentage of Responses for “Which format of Cricket do you like the most?”

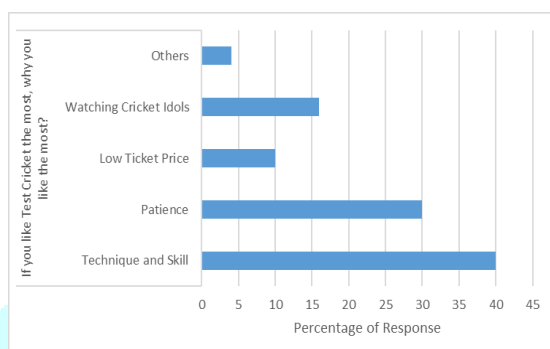


Figure 5: Percentage of Responses for “If you like Test Cricket the most, why you like the most?”

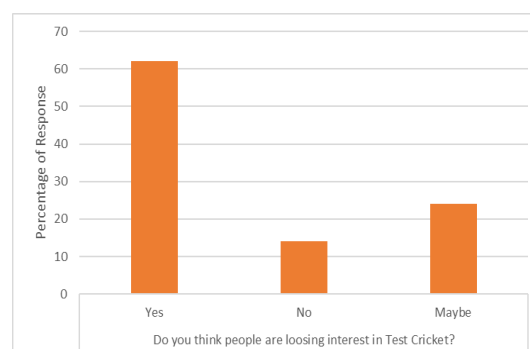


Figure 6: Percentage of Responses for “Do you think people are losing interest in Test Cricket?”

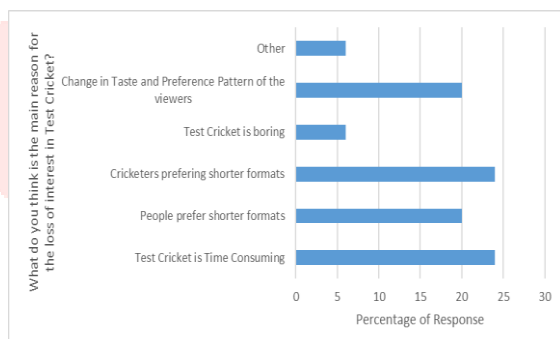


Figure 7: Percentage of Responses for “What do you think is the main reason for the loss of interest in Test Cricket?”

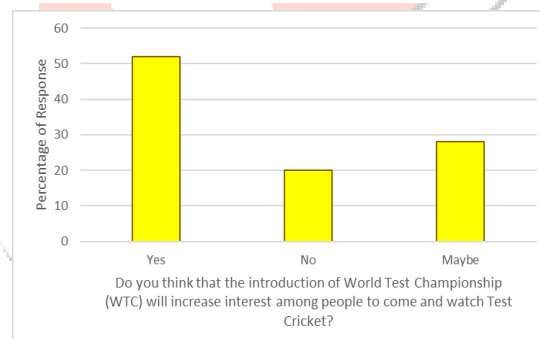


Figure 8: Percentage of Responses for “Do you think that the introduction of World Test Championship (WTC) will increase interest among people to come and watch Test Cricket?”

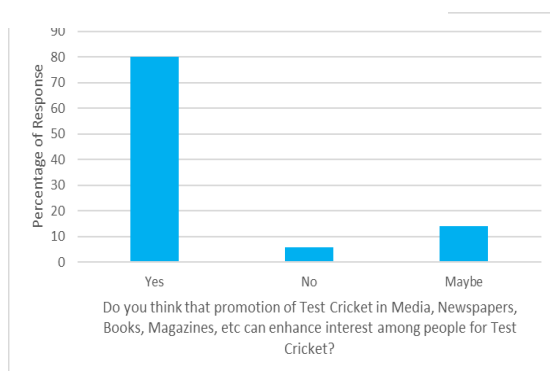


Figure 9: Percentage of Responses for “Do you think that promotion of Test Cricket in Media, Newspapers, Books, Magazines, etc. can enhance interest among people for Test Cricket ?”

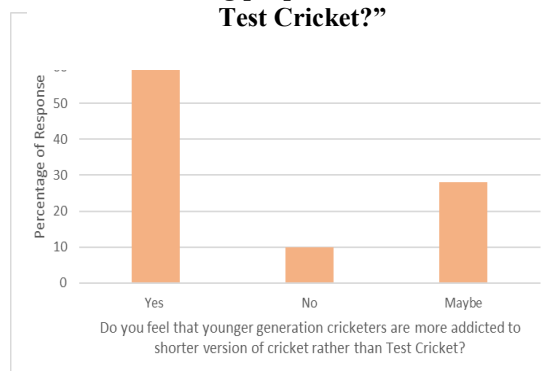


Figure 10: Percentage of Responses for “Do you feel that younger generation cricketers are more addicted to shorter version of cricket rather than Test Cricket?”

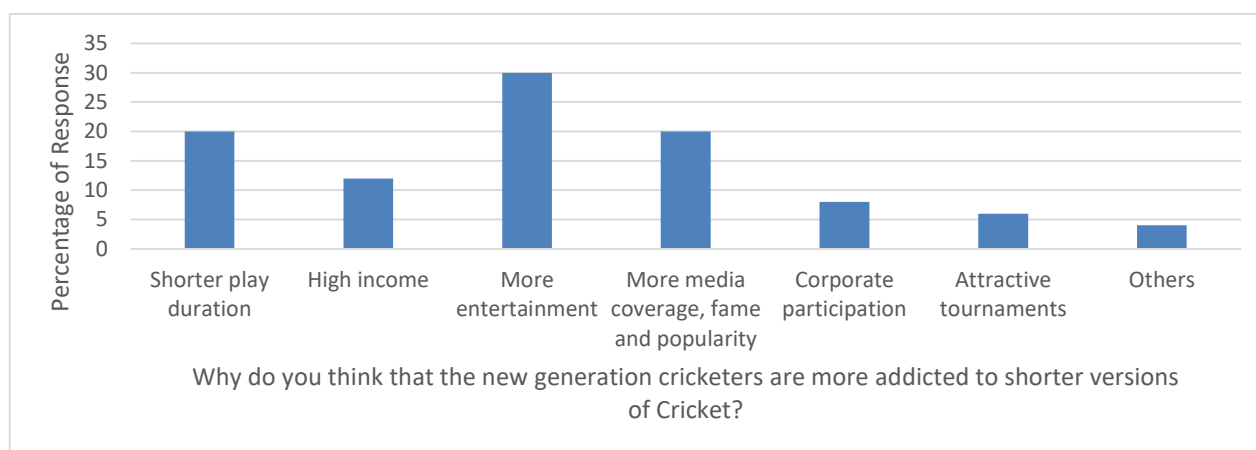


Figure 11: Percentage of Responses for “Why do you think that the new generation cricketers are more addicted to shorter versions of Cricket?”

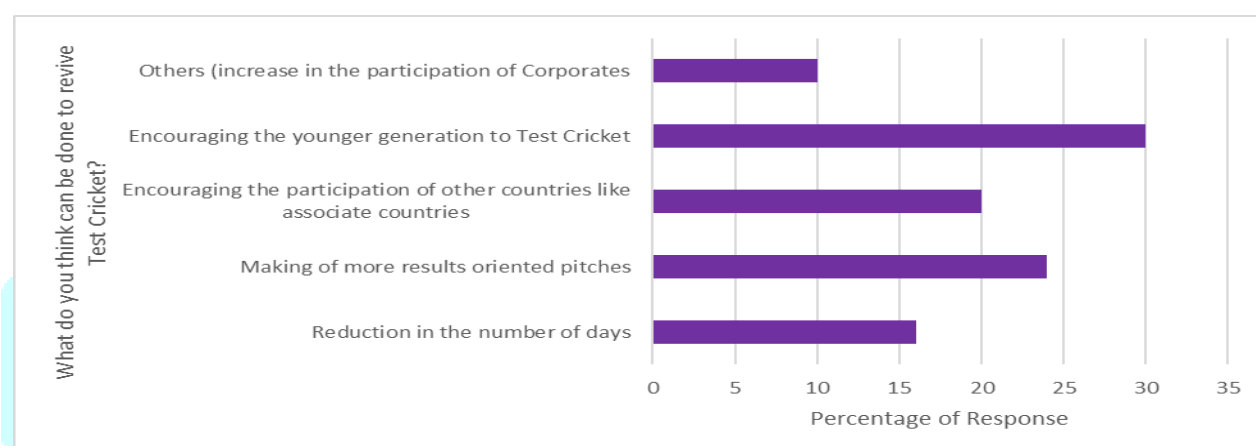


Figure 12: Percentage of Responses for “What do you think can be done to revive Test Cricket?”

The percentage of responses to the aforementioned parameters reflects the quantitative measurement of the Crowd-Test Cricket Interaction phenomenon. It is worth noting that this set of responses has been collected from 50 individuals who prefer the Test Cricket format more compared to the other formats of Cricket. This set of responses is discussed in the discussion section of this study.

4) The SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis has been performed to realise the true potential of test cricket in the present-day context. The positive and negative factors which characterise the test match cricket are described in this analysis. This analysis has been displayed in Table 1.

SWOT Analysis for the examination of Test Cricket	
Strength	The Test Cricket is the ultimate test and examination of strength, endurance, patience, skill and mindset of a cricketer. This format is the oldest format in cricket. The format is considered to be a legendary one and is also considered as a dream format for an individual by experts. This format holds the most renowned and old cricketers whose legacy have been of paramount importance for the sustenance of overall cricket as a sport. Moreover, this format gives opportunities for players to exhibit extraordinary skills like reverse swing, conventional swing, alongside more variations like Doosra, Carrom ball, Googly, Teesra and so on.
Weakness	The test cricket format is often considered old-fashioned by the upcoming generations. Moreover, the format is considered by many as time-consuming and boring. Many cricket stadiums across the world face stiff challenges in hosting test matches consecutively for five days on the trot. Many countries also face stiff challenges in hosting more than two test matches. The test records by players against weaker teams are often not given much importance by the experts. The overall importance of the format is falling drastically over the years. The young generation is least interested in playing test cricket. The format of tests is physically challenging and demanding for the players, especially the fast bowlers, who often suffer from mental fatigue. Even the cricket experts nowadays are losing interest in this format. Moreover, owing to the

	aforementioned challenges, there is a further possibility of a reduction of test match days from five to four. The test cricket amongst women is rare to see. Furthermore, there are low investments from cricket boards and corporates towards test cricket across the world. Moreover, the format is mostly dominated by powerful nations like Australia, India, and England compared to others.
Opportunity	The test cricket has historic significance owing to the hosting of some world-famous series like the Ashes between England and Australia, the BGT between India and Australia, and the Warne-Muralidharan Trophy between Australia and Sri Lanka. Many people dream of playing such test matches. The viewers also become excited during the occurrences of such series. Moreover, due to the higher number of days and time associated with this format, the disruption of cricket by bad weather can be minimised. This format also allows for the extra overs in a day to account for the time lost due to bad or challenging weather. The introduction of day-night tests and their associated usage of pink ball lately is indeed very exciting for both the cricketers as well as the fans.
Threat	The biggest threats include the fact that the majority of professional cricketers across the world are unwilling to play tests. The new day-night tests are gradually losing importance. The players are becoming more injury-prone due to five days of continuous play. Moreover, the draw between the two teams is losing relevance as a result and is mostly been considered boring. Furthermore, there is a lack of participation by the weaker and lesser competitive teams, including the associate nations. In some cases, there is a lack of good quality pitches in tests to sustain it for five days, where the matches get over within two to three days prematurely. Moreover, the prices of test match tickets are very less. This reduces the income and thus interest among the cricket boards across the world to host test matches. Furthermore, the professional cricketers in many nations get low payments and income compared to the shorter versions like T20s and ODIs. The volume of spectators is drastically falling in many nations. Moreover, nowadays, cricketers playing in all three formats, including tests, ODIs and T20s, are drastically falling. One of the biggest threats is that Cricket is mostly been played by the Commonwealth Nations, which were under British Rule previously. Therefore, both Cricket and test cricket as a whole lack Global participation, outlook, ambience and importance as a whole.

Table 1: SWOT Analysis for the examination of Test Cricket

IV. DISCUSSION

1) Test Cricket: The Dying Art

The above observations and analysis clearly portray the fact that the art of test match cricket is dying. The popularity of tests among fans and the general public is falling over the years, especially after the advent of ODIs and T20Is. The current analysis finds that the majority of cricket lovers are followers of shorter versions of Cricket (Figure 4). The few individuals who come to Eden Gardens, Kolkata, like tests mostly for technique, skill and patience (Figure 5), which makes test cricket a dying legacy, a dying art. Thus, it can be said that no matter what forms of cricket come in future, test cricket and its very philosophy of survival of the fittest will always stand out amidst the greatest tides of changing patterns of cricket. Some fans from the interview also considered test cricket as a true format of examination of sportspeople. Test cricket shall always be cherished for the extraordinary skills displayed by the players and adding so many dimensions to the game like reverse swing, conventional swing, Doosra, Teesra, Carrom ball in bowling and hook shot, flick, straight drive, sweep shot and so on in batting. These skills will remain forever cherished in future and will continue to define the art of playing in the days to come.

2) Test Cricket: The Battle of Ages

It is worth noting that the legacy and historical significance of test cricket can never be underestimated. During 1970-80s, West Indies team was considered best owing to the presence of deadly bowlers like Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner, Curtly Ambrose, Malcolm Marshall, Courtney Walsh, Wesly Hall and so on known as “the pace battery” and highly skillfull batters like Vivian Richards, Clive Llyod, Gordon Greenidge, Garfield Sobers, Desmond Haynes, Rohan Kanhai, Lawrence Row and so on. The glorious test series like Ashes, BGT, and so on will forever be the flagbearers of test match cricket as a challenging sport. Moreover, test cricket has also revealed the true passion and endeavour of the best in sports at different points in time. Who will forget the Bradman era, the era of bloody cricket enshrined by the deadly West Indian combo of

fast bowlers, the deadly combination of Lillee and Thomson of Australia to the times of Shane Bond, Shoaib Akhter (The Rawalpindi Express), Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar (The God of Cricket), Rahul Dravid (The Wall), Muthiah Muralidharan, Shane Warne, to the modern greats like Virat Kohli, Ravichandran Ashwin, Joe Root, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and so on. Therefore, without any doubt, it can be inferred that the nature of battles has always followed the changes of the beats of music of the changing time. The long-enduring battle between skill and physical body capacity shall continue to define and redefine the hallmark of test cricket forever, going past the barriers of changing times to get permanently inked in the whispers of immortality of the changing tastes and preference patterns in future.

3) Loss of interest in test cricket among the cricket fans

The documentary observations and the analysis of the cricket fans of Eden Gardens of Kolkata portray the fact that the craze and excitement of test cricket is diminishing over the years, more so since the advent of shorter versions of the game. The majority of people are losing interest in test cricket as per our current observations and findings (Figure 6). The main reasons for this situation are, test cricket is time-consuming, boring, both people and players prefer shorter formats, changing tastes and preference patterns of people and so on (Figure 7). The test match followers are also unsure of the fact that whether the recent patterns and style of test cricket introduced by the ICC will help to sustain test cricket, like the introduction of World Test Championship (WTC), pink ball day-night test matches and so on (Figure 8). However, one interesting fact observed in the current analysis is that most of the followers of test cricket agree to the fact that test match cricket can enhance interest among people if it is promoted correctly by the media, newspapers, books, magazines, etc (Figure 9). One of the main reasons for the loss of interest among the fans is the long time time-consuming nature of test matches as revealed by the current studies.

4) Lesser interest among the younger generation in playing test cricket

The documentary readings, the interviews and the focus group discussions clearly reflect the fact that test cricket is losing its relevance among the younger generations, especially in India. Although this facet is also observed nowadays, even in other nations as well. Figure 10 has clearly revealed the fact that the youth population are more addicted to the shorter versions of cricket. As per the interviews, the principal reasons for these tendencies are, shorter duration of plays, high income and profitabilities with less accountabilities, more entertainments, more media coverages, fame and popularity, increase in the volume of investments by the corporates, presence of attractive tournaments like IPL and so on (Figure 11). In the question for the revival of test cricket, the fans believe that reduction in the number of days, making of more result oriented pitches, encouraging participation of other countries like the associate countries, encouraging the younger generation to play and adapt test cricket and increase the number of investment by the cricket boards and corporates in test cricket can not only help to sustain test cricket, but also help to revive it in future.

5) Ways of rejuvenation of Test Cricket from Entertainment to Enlightenment

The present research attempts to provide some suggestions and solutions to promote test cricket in future. These are as follows:

- The test match draws need to be made more interesting and eye-catching. This can be done by the provision of separate recognitions and awards to the teams involved in it.
- To make test cricket more interesting, the nature and magnitude of wins by runs or by wickets need to be reckoned.
- The nature of tournaments and their victories must be glorified like the Ashes, BGT and so on.
- Participation by other nations and associate countries must be encouraged to make test cricket a global event.
- The infrastructure and its facilities must be made more sound to sustain test cricket for five consecutive days (for example, like developing good quality pitches, drainage facilities, tower lights, stadium seating arrangements and so on).
- Players must be encouraged to participate in test cricket by making provisions for higher income and salary from playing test matches.
- Test cricket must be promoted by all the cricket boards across the world.
- There must be more investments by cricket boards and corporates in test cricket and rejuvenation, and maintenance of its infrastructure.
- The younger generation must be educated about test cricket and must be encouraged to play in this format.
- All professional cricket players must be encouraged to play all three formats of cricket, including the tests, irrespective of the workloads and other excuses.
- The participation of women in test cricket must be promoted and encouraged by all the nations across the world.

- Test legacies like the Ashes, the BGT and so on must be glorified.
- Test skills like reverse swing, Doosra and so on must be celebrated and glorified.
- Separate groups of nations can be created, like group A, group B, group C and so on can be created on the basis of team ranks, standards and quality of the test teams. This will ensure a fair chance for the weaker teams and associate teams as well and promote, encourage them towards test cricket.
- Test cricket can be encouraged at continental levels like Europe versus Asia, Asia versus Africa, Asia versus Australia and so on to ensure global participation of players from different parts of the world.
- Test records and achievements must be glorified.
- The provision of an additional sixth day in test matches can help to recover the time and play lost due to bad weather and would help to create test matches more result-oriented.
- The richer and stronger nations must help the poor nations to organise test matches. The richer nations can provide financial and infrastructural assistance in this regard.
- The introduction of a rest day after two or three days can provide the much-needed rest to the players as test matches are both physically and mentally demanding.
- The media, newspapers, books, magazines and so on must take adequate steps to glorify test cricket.
- The salaries of playing test cricket must be made more lucrative and attractive at par with other formats like T20Is and ODIs. This can also be achieved by encouraging private investments in test cricket, like what is seen in tournaments like IPL, Bigbash and so on.
- The provision of extra points for the first innings leads to the teams can make test cricket more attractive and interesting.
- The test cricket must be promoted by advertisements. If possible, such advertisements by the legends of test cricket like Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid and so on can make the format look more attractive.
- The drainage systems, supersopors, and so on must be improved by all the nations that play test cricket. This will help in the reduction of time and play lost due to bad weather.
- Provisions of sports literacy promoting test cricket among the test-playing nations and associate countries are vital for the long-term sustainability of this format in future.
- Domestic tournaments like the pattern of Ranji cricket must be encouraged in India so that players develop the skills and potential needed to play the longer version of the game.
- Salaries or payments as per skill will enhance the development of skill, proficiencies and abilities of the players in test cricket.
- The number or the frequency of test match cricket played between the nations must be increased.
- The prestige of playing in whites and in red ball must be encouraged and glorified by all the cricket-playing nations across the world.
- Moreover, the grant of separate old balls in test cricket after a certain time will encourage reverse swing and will make the game more interesting. This will also ensure that players using objects to the ball to generate reverse swing, like the infamous sandpaper incident between South Africa versus Australia in 2018, can be avoided, ensuring equal opportunities for batters and bowlers in the light of fairer and just play.
- Furthermore, the top three teams in the world in test cricket can be provided with medals like Gold, Silver and Bronze after every WTC cycle to make test cricket a more inclusive and attractive format in the long run.

V. CONCLUSION

At last, it can be concluded that although test cricket is a dying art, its legacies and history will remain etched forever in the memories of cricket fans of all the test-playing nations. In order to sustain test cricket, the present research demands that the young generation must be encouraged to play and watch test cricket, as the youth of any nation is the future of that country. Adequate steps must be taken by the cricket boards of all the test-playing nations to rejuvenate test cricket, as test cricket is not just the art of playing, but also an art of survival. Test cricket, which many feel is a great leveller. It greatly synchronises with the tunes of music and cosmic dance beats of life of the very existence of human survival. Lastly, it can be said that the future of cricket as a sport depends on the future of test cricket. More teams across the world must be encouraged to play test cricket to make cricket a global event and sport.

“I don’t think any educational degree would have taught me more in life than the sport has.”

~ Virat Kohli (Recently Retired Test Batter, a cricket icon and legend from India).

VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The present research declares no conflict of interest with anybody.

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