



Enhancing Physical Fitness Through Structured Aerobic Training: A Comprehensive Analysis on Non-Athletic Women

Abeer Hazim Nadhim Al-Azzawi¹, Waad Abdul Raheem Farhan^{2*}

¹Directorate of Education of First Karkh, Baghdad, Iraq

²Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, University of Anbar, Anbar governorate, Iraq

*Corresponding author: pe.studyandlife_56@uoanbar.edu.iq

To Cite This Article: Hazim Nadhim Al-Azzawi, A., & Abdul Raheem Farhan, W. (2024). Enhancing Physical Fitness Through Structured Aerobic Training: A Comprehensive Analysis on Non-Athletic Women. *Fitness, Performance and Health Journal*, 3(1), 67–73. <https://doi.org/10.53797/fphj.v3i1.8.2024>

ABSTRACT The need for professionals who can stay up to date with the rapidly changing area of athletic development is rising as more individuals want to improve their performance and overall health, particularly in athletes and fitness. This study explores aerobic exercise, which is important for improving heart health and general physical fitness. The objective of this study is to investigate the effects of these exercises on several facets of physical fitness through an analysis of a customized training program targeted at unathletic females. Employing an experimental approach, the study focused on a single experimental group, administering pre and post-tests to assess the efficacy of the training regimen. A sample of women trainees, aged between 40-45 years, participated in the program under close observation, with measurements including pulse rate, blood pressure, weight, and height, conducted to track progress. The study examined the data using statistical analysis and a variety of measures such as respiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular endurance, and strength evaluation. The results showed statistically significant increases in many indices of physical fitness after implementing the aerobic exercise program. The outcomes were discussed, and individuals showed significant improvements in respiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular endurance, and strength. These gains are attributable to aerobic activities' targeted nature in boosting cardiovascular health, increasing oxygen capacity, and improving muscle performance. In conclusion, this study confirms the favorable relationship between aerobic exercise and gains in several aspects of physical fitness. Aerobic workouts are a cornerstone in promoting general health and well-being because they improve circulatory function, adjust cardiac performance, and increase muscle endurance. This study opens the door for better informed approaches to fitness and health promotion by offering helpful insights into the efficacy of organized aerobic training programs.

Keywords: Aerobic exercises, physical fitness, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, health promotion.

1 INTRODUCTION

Individuals all across the world strive for excellence in many aspects of their lives, including sports and health. In recent years, this ambition has sparked considerable changes in the sports scene, mandating a forward-thinking response to growing problems and possibilities. This attempt requires skilled specialists who can anticipate and prepare for the future, boosting improvements in sports and health to new heights.

Our existence is based on our well-being, which also determines our level of enjoyment and resilience in the face of adversity. Maintaining that balance requires physical activity since it keeps us energized and prepared to face any task, whether the stress of a busy day or the everyday grind at home. In the past, they survived by working hard and moving about frequently, which kept them healthy and resistant to disease. Maintaining our physical and emotional health is now as crucial as our lives change, since it paves the way for strong social bonds and personal fulfillment (Edlin & Golanty 2012).

It has been shown that aerobic exercise is a highly efficient means of enhancing cardiovascular health and general physical fitness (Ito, 2019). These encompass a variety of

exercises that raise heart rate and aerobic ability, such as Zumba, cycling, swimming, and brisk walking. Beyond improving cardiovascular health, aerobic exercise also increases physical strength, endurance, and control over weight. The positive impact that aerobic exercise regimens have on mental health through stress reduction and endorphin generation underscores their overall benefits.

Recognizing the broad range of aerobic activities—from brisk walking to high-intensity interval training—and their substantial influence on cardiovascular health, endurance, and muscular strength, this study seeks to explore deeper into their transforming potential. This study aims to uncover the complex impacts of aerobic activities on many aspects of physical fitness by creating a standardized training curriculum exclusively for non-athletic women. The efficacy of these suggested workout programs is rigorously tested and analyzed, providing significant insights into their real-world application and effectiveness. In a world where information is abundant and fitness trends are rampant, it is important to separate transient fashions from verified truths to avoid essential body exercise mistakes (Peterson, 2005). By conducting extensive experiments, rigorous measurements, and high-end statistical data analyses, the focus of this study is on synthesizing theory and practice. By so doing, it enables personnel and policy implementers to base their decisions on firm grounds.

With an aging population and growing worries about sedentary lifestyles, the importance of encouraging physical exercise and well-being cannot be stressed (Herbert, 2022). Thus, this study is critical in offering evidence-based recommendations for improving overall health and vitality. This study not only advances scientific knowledge of fitness by examining the complicated interplay between aerobic activities and physiological changes, but it also has far-reaching implications for public health efforts and fitness promotion programs. In this context, the current study seeks to investigate the efficacy of a structured aerobic training curriculum aimed at non-athletic women, with the goal of enhancing total health fitness. By defining the impact of aerobic activities on essential components of physical fitness, the study hopes to provide significant insights to the scientific community. Specifically, the study seeks to determine the influence of the prescribed curriculum on key physical fitness metrics, offering insight on prospective routes for health promotion and performance development.

The combination of changing social ambitions and advances in sports science emphasizes the significance of doing thorough research into the efficacy of fitness treatments. This study aims to expand our understanding of aerobic exercise's function in promoting holistic well-being and enhancing physical performance by combining theoretical frameworks and empirical data.

2 METHODOLOGY

The research adopted an experimental methodology to achieve the objectives outlined in the study. Utilizing a pre-post design with a single experimental group, the investigation proceeded by subjecting participants to pre-measurements prior to the introduction of the experimental variable. Subsequently, the experimental intervention was introduced, followed by post-measurements. The scores obtained from both pre and post-tests were then compared to ascertain the impact of the intervention.

A health fitness center was selected as the research setting due to its provision of requisite equipment and facilities necessary for conducting the experiment effectively. The intentional selection of participants comprised women trainees within the fitness center, aged between 40 to 45 years. This sample size consisted of ten individuals who demonstrated commitment throughout the training duration until the conclusion of the study. Prior to commencement, participants underwent comprehensive medical assessments and physical

measurements at the center, ensuring their suitability for participation in the prescribed fitness program. These measurements included pulse rate, blood pressure, weight, and height.

Various instruments and tools were employed for data collection, encompassing both Arab and foreign sources and references, standardized measurements and tests, as well as observational and experimental methodologies. Specific tools utilized included centimeter scales, tape measures, whistles, training mats, wooden boxes (steps), weights, signage, ropes, benches, medical scales, digital electronic stopwatches, and blood pressure measuring devices.

The battery of tests administered to participants included the periodic respiratory endurance test (Oueslati, et al 2016), flexibility test (Sporis, et al 2011), muscular endurance test for abdominal muscles (Learman, et al 2015), and static grip strength test for both right and left hands (Reuter, et al 2011). Functional tests were also conducted, alongside pulse rate measurements recorded in beats per minute.

Statistical analysis of the gathered data was performed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Key statistical measures, including arithmetic mean, standard deviation, and t-test for independent samples, were computed to discern patterns and trends within the dataset, facilitating rigorous examination and interpretation of the results.

3 RESULTS

The results scrutinize the outcomes of a study evaluating the effectiveness of a prescribed aerobic training program on key parameters of physical fitness. Focusing on respiratory cyclic endurance, flexibility, muscular endurance and strength in both the right and left hands, the study examines pre- and post-intervention data through statistical analysis. By comparing mean values and standard deviations and assessing calculated t-values against critical thresholds, the analysis aims to discern the impact of the intervention on participants' physical fitness. Insights derived from this analysis offer valuable guidance for individuals seeking evidence-based approaches to fitness enhancement and health promotion.

Table 1: Pre and Post-Test Comparison of Physical Fitness Variables

Test	Variable	Measuring Unit	Test	Mean	Std. Deviation	T-value	Critical t-value
1	Respiratory cyclic endurance	Meter	Pre-test	1242	3.130	5.590	
			Post-test	1350	3.210		
2	Flexibility	cm	Pre-test	35.645	8.430	6.231	
			Post-test	33.871	8.241		
3	Muscular endurance	Times	Pre-test	17.390	6.345	13.890	1.298
			Post-test	20.589	5.320		
4	Muscular strength (right hand)	Kg	Pre-test	19.329	4.342	6.327	
			Post-test	22.398	3.568		
5	Muscular strength (left hand)	Kg	Pre-test	13.560	3.239	5.298	
			Post-test	15.647	3.321		

Respiratory Cyclic Endurance

Pre-test means: 1242 meters, Post-test mean: 1350 meters. The post-test mean increased compared to the pre-test mean, indicating improvement in respiratory cyclic endurance. The standard deviations for both pre and post-tests are relatively low, suggesting consistency in the measurements. There was a statistically significant improvement in respiratory cycle endurance after the test, as indicated by the computed t-value of (5.590) which is greater than the crucial t-value of (1.298).

Flexibility

The test mean was 35.645 millimeters before and 33.871 cm after it. The mean of the post-test fell in comparison to the mean of the pre-test, indicating a little decline in flexibility after the intervention. Both pre and post-test standard deviations are relatively high, indicating variability in flexibility measurements. The calculated t-value (6.231) suggests a statistically significant difference between pre and post-test flexibility measurements.

Muscular Endurance

Pretests: 17.390 on average, posttests: 20.589 on average. The substantial increase in the post-test means over the pre-test mean indicates an improvement in muscular endurance. Standard deviations for both pre and post-tests are relatively low, suggesting consistency in the measurements. The calculated t-value (13.890) significantly exceeds the critical t-value, indicating a highly significant improvement in muscular endurance post-test.

Muscular Strength (Right Hand)

Pre-test mean weight: 19.329 kg, Pos-test mean weight: 22.398 kg. The improvement in muscular strength for the right hand was shown by the post-test mean, which rose in comparison to the pre-test mean. Both pre and post-test standard deviations are relatively low, suggesting consistency in strength measurements. The calculated t-value (6.327) exceeds the critical t-value, indicating a statistically significant improvement in muscular strength for the right-hand post-test.

Muscular Strength (Left Hand)

The pre-test mean was 13.560 kg, while the post-test mean was 15.647 kg. The left hand's muscle strength improved as seen by the post-test mean's rise over the pre-test mean. Both pre and post-test standard deviations are relatively low, suggesting consistency in strength measurements. The calculated t-value (5.298) exceeds the critical t-value, indicating a statistically significant improvement in muscular strength for the left-hand post-test.

Overall Interpretation

The results demonstrate significant improvements in respiratory cyclic endurance, muscular endurance, and both right and left-hand muscular strength following the intervention. However, a slight decrease in flexibility was observed. These findings underscore the effectiveness of the intervention in enhancing various components of physical fitness, with implications for health promotion and performance optimization.

4 DISCUSSIONS

After returning to the results that the researcher presented in the table above, which included the arithmetic means of the mean differences, the standard deviations, and the test value to determine the significance of the differences between the tests (pre- and post-tests) for a period of (8) weeks, which is the period during which the training curriculum was actually applied, the researcher noticed the presence of significant differences. Statistically significant for the results of the respiratory cyclic endurance test between the pre- and post-tests and in favor of the post-test.

There is a noticeable development, which indicates the effectiveness of the training curriculum in general and the low- and medium-intensity exercises in developing the sample's respiratory cyclic endurance, as scientific sources indicate that exercises for the respiratory circulatory system work on large muscles, which leads to the consumption of larger amounts of oxygen than speed exercises. This is consistent with (Saghiv, et al 2020), The functional

effect of the continuous load method is to improve the functional work of the heart, circulatory system, and respiratory system, regulate the oxygen exchange process, and increase the blood's ability to carry the largest amount of oxygen and necessary fuel. To continue and exert effort and then cyclic respiratory endurance increases, as happened with the research sample.

In the flexibility test, the researcher noticed that there was a noticeable development in the arithmetic means of the mean differences and the test value, which indicates the effectiveness of the training curriculum in general. This is consistent with (Rahman, et al 2020) in that stretching exercises are included in the training curriculum, which aim to lengthen the muscle, ligaments, and tendons and increase the range of motion in the joint, as these exercises are among the most important means of developing flexibility.

Regarding the muscular endurance test, the researcher noted that there is a noticeable development in the mathematical environment and the value of the test, which also indicates the effectiveness of the training curriculum in general. By improving the function of the circulatory system and increasing the ability of the blood to carry a larger amount of oxygen and the fuel necessary to continue exerting effort when performing aerobic exercises, continuous training works to develop the oxygen capacity, which in turn works to improve muscular work, which depends primarily on oxygen to produce energy. Aerobic method for a long period before feeling the appearance of fatigue (Wells, et al 2009).

In the muscular strength test, the researcher noticed that there were statistically significant differences in the results of the muscular strength test between the two tests (pre- and post-test) and in favor of the post-test. Continuous training in the style of training stations works to develop the athlete's entire body, especially to strengthen the working muscle group (Ghafouri, et al 2022). It emphasizes attention to fitness and physical health using modern training methods that are built correctly and are not random (Obaid, et al 2024).

The substantial improvements observed in various parameters of physical fitness highlight the holistic benefits of the prescribed aerobic training program (Gibson, et al 2024). By incorporating a diverse range of exercises targeting various muscle groups, participants have not only increased their overall fitness levels but have also enhanced their functional capacity. This finding underscores the importance of balanced exercise routines in promoting overall health and vitality.

The study highlights the significance of providing various people with fair access to exercise opportunities by focusing on participant demographics such as age and gender, which encourages contemplation. Future research should aim to recruit individuals from different age groups, socioeconomic backgrounds, and cultural identities, even though the study concentrated on non-athletic women aged 40–45. Fitness professionals and legislators may create customized solutions that cater to the particular requirements and preferences of every person, promoting a culture of health and well-being for everyone, by guaranteeing representation and inclusion in exercise research.

The study's conclusions have a number of applications for fitness professionals, instructors, and legislators. This research highlights the significance of integrating organized aerobic training programs into public health campaigns and fitness promotion efforts by clarifying the transformational power of aerobic workouts in improving physical fitness. Furthermore, a more nuanced knowledge of the complex interactions that exist between aerobic exercises and other aspects of physical fitness can help designers create exercise plans that are specifically customized to meet the needs of different target audiences and fitness levels.

Although this study offers insightful information on how well aerobic activities enhance physical fitness, there are a number of limitations that should be noted. The findings' generalizability may be limited by the small sample size and homogenous participant profile. To further clarify the long-term impacts of aerobic exercise on physical fitness, future studies may use a longitudinal design with a wider range of participants. Furthermore, the integration

of objective metrics for adherence and compliance may offer a more thorough comprehension of the variables impacting the results of interventions.

5 CONCLUSIONS

This study provides important new information about the effectiveness of organized aerobic training regimens for non-athletic women in their 40s and 45s in improving many aspects of physical fitness. The results demonstrate the beneficial effects of aerobic exercise on muscular endurance, flexibility, respiratory cycle endurance, and strength, underscoring the significance of focused exercise treatments in enhancing general health and well-being. The study offers strong evidence in favor of the relationship between aerobic exercise and gains in physical fitness metrics by using a strict experimental design and statistical analysis.

The impacts of the study go beyond the health results of an individual and include wider advantages to society. The noted increases in physical fitness may have an impact on public health policy formulation, productivity gains, and healthcare cost reductions. Structured aerobic training programs can support economic growth and prosperity while developing a culture of health and wellbeing by lowering the burden of avoidable chronic illnesses and encouraging healthy lifestyle practices.

Building on these results requires further study, the creation of policies, and community involvement programs. Future studies should investigate the long-term impacts of aerobic exercise programs in a variety of demographics and environments. Qualitative research methodologies should also be used to fully capture the experiences and perspectives of participants. Policymakers and fitness professionals should also work together to create evidence-based programs and treatments that prioritize providing everyone, regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic position, or cultural background, with equal access to exercise activities.

In conclusion, we may move closer to a healthier, more resilient society where people from all backgrounds have the chance to flourish and realize their full potential by utilizing the transforming potential of aerobic exercise.

REFERENCES

- Edlin, G., & Golanty, E. (2012). *Health & wellness*. Jones & Bartlett Publishers.
- Ito, S. (2019). High-intensity interval training for health benefits and care of cardiac diseases-the key to an efficient exercise protocol. *World journal of cardiology*, 11(7), 171.
- Peterson, J. A. (2005). Take Ten: Take-and-Save: 10 Common Mistakes Made by Individuals Who Engage in Stretching Exercise. *ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal*, 9(4), 44.
- Herbert, C. (2022). Enhancing mental health, well-being and active lifestyles of university students by means of physical activity and exercise research programs. *Frontiers in public health*, 10, 849093.
- Oueslati, F., Boone, J., & Ahmaidi, S. (2016). Respiratory muscle endurance, oxygen saturation index in vastus lateralis and performance during heavy exercise. *Respiratory Physiology & Neurobiology*, 227, 41-47.
- Sporis, G., Vucetic, V., Jovanovic, M., Jukic, I., & Omrcen, D. (2011). Reliability and factorial validity of flexibility tests for team sports. *The Journal of Strength & Conditioning Research*, 25(4), 1168-1176.
- Learman, K., Pintar, J., & Ellis, A. (2015). The effect of abdominal strength or endurance exercises on abdominal peak torque and endurance field tests of healthy participants: A randomized controlled trial. *Physical Therapy in Sport*, 16(2), 140-147.
- Reuter, S. E., Massy-Westropp, N., & Evans, A. M. (2011). Reliability and validity of indices of hand-grip strength and endurance. *Australian occupational therapy journal*, 58(2), 82-87.
- Saghiv, M. S., Sagiv, M. S., Sagiv, M. S., & Sagiv, M. S. (2020). Cardiovascular Function. *Basic Exercise Physiology: Clinical and Laboratory Perspectives*, 285-369.
- Rahman, M. H., & Islam, M. S. (2020). Stretching and flexibility: A range of motion for games and sports. *European Journal of Physical Education and Sport Science*, 6(8).

- Wells, G. D., Selvadurai, H., & Tein, I. (2009). Bioenergetic provision of energy for muscular activity. *Paediatric respiratory reviews*, 10(3), 83-90.
- Ghafouri, R. B. T., & Hamarash, F. Q. (2022). The Percentage of the Contribution of some Physical Measurements Physical Abilities and Body Composition in the Achievement of 25 Meters Free Swimming. *Journal of University of Raparin*, 9(4), 626-648.
- Obaid, M. N., Mohammed, A. F., & Fahmi, R. A. S. (2024). A Comparative Study of Some Types of Muscular Strength Among Middle-Distance Runner Athletes. *Fitness, Performance and Health Journal*, 3(1), 1-5.
- Gibson, A. L., Wagner, D. R., & Heyward, V. H. (2024). Advanced fitness assessment and exercise prescription. *Human kinetics*.