



“DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S SPORTS IN INDIA: SOME ISSUES”

Physical Education

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ABSTRACT

Sport is one area where gender inequality is strongly evident. The problem is more socio-psychological than any thing else. Today, as we stand at the start of a new millennium it is deplorable that men and women are treated so differently, especially in sport. Women make up 50% of the world. Population but they are not given equal opportunities. Men are still considered the better sex and this is one of the reasons why the world is yet to produce a female Michael Schumacher, Tiger Woods, Mike Tyson or a Sachin Tendulkar. Sport in India is yet to reach its peak. The Mughals ruled India for centuries, the Britishers for another one and a half-century. It was only after 1947, when we achieved independence that we started developing as a modern nation, with special rights to half of its citizens namely women. Indian women are still trying to establish their own identity. Women in India are still unable to take a stand for themselves. Times have changed and are improving but there is still a lot to be achieved. Men have an upper hand in all spheres of life. Gender inequality is a deep-rooted issue and in order to change the situation, drastic steps/measures need to be taken. The worst thing to happen is the female feticide. Latest technology is being blatantly misused for killing the girl child. Far from giving her good education and a happy life we Indians are trying to eliminate women from this earth. Dogmatic principles govern much of our thinking. As is mentioned above, gender inequality is one of the many issues because of which India is not being able to progress at a faster rate. In India we seem to be beatifying our great leaders but never pay attention to what they are trying to tell us. Pandit Nehru has said that .to awaken the people, it is the woman who must be awakened, once she is on the move the family moves, the nation moves. A society, which does not allow a girl to do something simple as primary education, this study is an attempt to analyze the some issues of women's sports who wants to shape her life as a sports woman

KEYWORDS

Women, Education, Participate, Inequality, Opportunity.

INTRODUCTION:

India is rich in various sports which have made their own position in the records book. Not even men but women are also takes part in such spots to honors their country besides the opposition country. The Role and Development of Women in Sport Introduction Through out the history of the advancement of sport, women have had to strive twice as hard to gain the same status and recognition as their counterparts - men. There have been many factors, which have prevented women from participating in sport and reaching their full potential (for example, lack of finance, time or education). Perhaps the biggest factor has been prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination. The Changing Face of Women's Sport The changing face of sport has always been influenced by the stereotypical discrimination that women have always faced. In the beginning of the 19th century, the view of women typically characterized them as emotional passive people who were unable to take part in energetic activities where as men were seen as naturally aggressive, so were therefore more suited to sport. To defend and justify this view, the Victorians and Edwardians maximized

Scope of the study:

The study will cover all aspects associated with women's sport ranging from health, nutrition, financial and social support, gender biases and will later present a complete and wholesome picture on women's sport in India. The study attempts to trace facts pertaining to differential treatment of women from different social and financial backgrounds.

Statement of the problems:

This literature review tries to cover all possible issues in women's sport. There is a large body of literature on gender studies. Similarly, there are a number of studies of sports related themes such as performance, group cohesion etc. However, there are not many studies looking at Gender issues in Sports. Again, most of the research studies we located are based outside India, very few are done on an Indian sample. The topics of these studies cover themes such as Participation Opportunities, under representation of women in coaching and power positions in sports, reasons for under representation of women in coaching and administrative positions in women's, the problems faced by the girl players and Suggestions to improve the women's sports

Women and Sports:

The recent report of the National Commission for Youth (2004) has traced in detail the participation of women in Sports before and after 1947. The first Indian woman to participate in the Olympics was in 1952. In 1975, the Government of India instituted the National Sports festival for women with a view to promote women's sports. The National festival is preceded by competitions at the local and the district level. However the report has observed that these competitions have been reduced to mere issuing of certificates and the subsequent

selection at the national level is done on ad-hoc basis. The National Commission report has also pointed towards the issue of dropout rate of women's from the schools. The report observed, .Sports is by and large an elite activity in the country and the adoption of a sports policy, as the government has done in 1984, is hardly likely to change the situation very much.

Participation Opportunities

The type of port participation opportunities available for women reflects dominant definitions of femininity in a culture. Earlier, women were believed to be naturally frail and inclined toward graceful movements. So they were encouraged to participate in gymnastics, swimming, tennis, golf, and other sports that people thought were unrelated to strength, power and speed, which were widely believed to be manly traits women did play sport but they never had the same opportunities men had. Over the years, some of the women who have participated in sports have demonstrated clearly that notions of female frailty were grounded in ideology rather than nature. women encounter the strongest resistance when they play sports that traditionally have been the .flag carriers of masculinity in particular societies .Inequities in participation also occur in international sports. For example women still play fewer sports than men at the Olympics and other international events. Women in our Indian culture often face barriers that discourage sport participation and certainly limit the extent to which any woman could take sport seriously enough to train at an elite level.

Under representation of women in coaching and power positions in sports.

Historically there have been serious inequities in the following areas in the American schools:

1. Access to facilities
2. Quality of facilities, including playing surfaces, locker rooms, showers and heating and cooking
3. Systems
4. Availability of scholarships
5. Program operating expenses
6. Provision and maintenance of equipment and supplies
7. Recruiting budgets
8. Scheduling of game and practice times
9. Travel and per diem expenses
10. Opportunity to receive coaching and academic tutoring
11. Number of coaches assigned to teams
12. A salary of administrators, coaches, trainers, tutors etc.
13. Provision of medical and training services and facilities
14. Publicity for individuals, teams and events.

Reasons for under representation:

1. Men have effectively used well-established connections with men in sport organizations to help them during the job search and hiring process.

2. Compared to men, most women applicants for coaching and administrative jobs do not yet have the strategic professional connections and networks that are important when they seek jobs in sport organizations.

3. Job search committees often use subjective evaluative criteria, making it more likely that women applicant for coaching and administrative jobs will be seen as less qualified than men applicants.

4. Few support systems and professional development opportunities exist for women who want to coach or be administrators, and for women already in coaching and administrative jobs

5. Many women have the perception that athletic departments and sport organizations have corporate cultures. that do not provide much space for those who see and think about sports differently than the white men do who over many years have established their ways of doing and thinking about sports.

The problems faced by the women players in as follows:

1. Family
2. Social
3. Psychological
4. Physiological
5. Sport equipment and facilities
6. Financial problems
7. Problems arising because of the government
8. Physical education and coaching related problems
9. Problems developed due to selection committees.

Suggestions:

Here are some recommendations that we would like to make for the improvement of the condition of women's sport in India. Now it is the society and the government that have to take initiative and work towards improving the state of women sport.

1. Women should be allowed to make a choice of their game.
2. Parents should be made aware of the benefits and facilities available for a girl player.
3. We need to encourage and also run a special programme so that more and more of them become coaches and referees.
4. The state federations and also the national federations of women's sport have more male office bearers than female. This proportion and system should change. Female office bearers should be more in number and rules should be made to that effect.
5. Ex-players should be elected or nominated to the federations, just like the Indian Ladies Cricket Association. We have seen that the condition of Ladies Cricket and also their performance has improved tremendously because of this.
6. Women's are asking for more competitions in their respective games. They should be provided with opportunity to play in more competitions.
7. Standard of coaching needs improvement.
8. Special training should be provided to coaches, referees and association people on the problems of female players.

CONCLUSION:

Gender and Sport in India is a very vast topic. India as a country is huge in size. In addition to that, its culture and atmosphere varies from place to place. What is true for one region is not so for another. This is a reality of all aspects of human life in India. There is a huge divide between life in the cities and metros and life in the smaller towns and villages. On one hand in the metros and bigger cities we see India competing with the western world and on the other hand there is the real India which exists in the smaller towns and villages. Education, lifestyle, money and income, sources of income, eating habits, dressing habits, dwellings and attitudes, everything is different from one region of India to another. This particularly is true for the life of women in India. In the metros and the bigger cities we see women going out, being educated and making careers. They are at par with any man, in many ways they are even better. We see them in all possible careers and professions; we also see them in sport. So we see the women golfers like Nonita Laal, tennis players like Sanya Mirza and Badminton players like Aparna Popat.

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