

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN SPORTS IN INDIA

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Physical education, games and sports are gaining importance now a day's, however, these received only peripheral attention over successive Plans. India hosted the IX Asian Games in 1982 and thus sports as a subject of policy gained recognition. The preparation for and conduct of the Asian Games created the much needed awareness about the multidimensional character of sports and the need for evolving a holistic Sports Policy and creating institutions for its implementation. Promotion and development of sports calls for a comprehensive, multipronged strategy, supported by adequate budgetary allocation and a strong organizational structure with clearly defined roles for various stakeholders. There is huge demand for physical education teachers and instructors. It is essential that more universities and colleges offering courses in physical education are opened across the country. The present paper attempts to examine the human rights issues in physical education and sports in India.

INTRODUCTION

'Rights', according to the New Webster's Dictionary, constitute a just claim or title, whether legal, prescriptive or moral. 'Rights', according to the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, are the political, social and other advantages to which one has a just claim, morally or legally. Oscar Wilde defines 'right' as a reasonable claim to freedom in exercising certain activities. According to H. J. Laski 'rights' are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek, in general, to be himself at his best. Bosanquet says that a 'right' is a reasonable claim recognized by the society and enforced by the state. Thus, the idea of basic rights of human being has been postulated differently by different thinkers, political theorists and philosophers during the last few centuries. The legal base of the modern concept of human rights is the slogan, "Liberty, Equality and

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always hierarchy given to the western countries or the white men or the developed countries may come up aggressively or war indication may also be projected. It may also happen that a greater subjugation might also be projected.

SPORTS IN INDIA

Physical education, games and sports are gaining importance now a day's, however, these received only peripheral attention over successive Plans. India hosted the IX Asian Games in 1982 and thus sports as a subject of policy gained recognition. The preparation for and conduct of the Asian Games created the much needed awareness about the multidimensional character of sports and the need for evolving a holistic Sports Policy and creating institutions for its implementation. Thereafter a number of steps were taken in this direction. These included the creation of a separate Department of Sports under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which was later expanded into a Department of Youth Affairs & Sports in 1985, and upgraded to a full-fledged Ministry in 2000 (Planning Commission, 2012). In 1984, the Sports Authority of India was created as an autonomous registered society under the Department of Sports. Steps were also initiated for developing a comprehensive National Sports Policy, and a resolution in this regard was introduced in 1984. This led to the adoption of the National Sports Policy, 1984, as the first concerted move towards developing an organized and systematic framework for the development and promotion of sports in the country, Government of India also introduced National Sports Policy, 2001. The Policy, apart from, bringing out the need for establishing a network of sports infrastructure and facilities in the rural and urban areas, inter alia, also emphasized the need for making sports and physical education an integral part of the curriculum of educational institutions. Since 'sports' is a state subject, the primary responsibility for promotion and development of sports is that of the States. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in the task of promotion and development of sports, both for creation and development of sports infrastructure and sports facilities in the states and nurturing and training of the identified talent. State Governments must be incentivized to invest in human

together in various human rights campaigns by specific classes of persons. Increasingly, marginalized groups and populations have begun to announce their presence and claim their right to human rights with the use of sport. Economists and the public at large have become increasingly interested in the issue of discrimination in professional sports. The public perception has to some degree been that sports are an oasis of equal economic opportunity for minorities (Eitzen and Sage, 1978). The issue of discrimination in sports has increasingly attracted the attention of economists, who have seen professional sports as providing an unusually good opportunity to study the extent of discrimination. Economists have usually defined discrimination as unequal treatment (for example, on the basis of race, gender, or age) of equally productive workers (Becker, 1971). This review has uncovered varying patterns of evidence on discrimination in professional sports. Currently, there is little evidence of salary or hiring discrimination by major league baseball. Consistent with these findings for baseball salaries, there is no evidence that customer discrimination has affected team revenues since the introduction of free agency, although it has affected baseball card prices. Finally, there are unexplained racial differences in career length and persistent, though slowly falling, segregation by position (Kahn, 1991). By virtue of their global platform at sporting events, athletes hold tremendous potential to promote human rights values. International law guarantees their right to do so and whether applied to them directly, or indirectly through the states within which they reside, athletic organizations, too, are bound to uphold this guarantee. Nevertheless, athletic organizations continue to restrict their athletes' freedom of speech in contravention of international law (Shahlaei, 2018).

Research in the sociology of sport suggests that sport can be an invigorating and a personally empowering experience for girls and women (Nelson, 1991). Being an athlete, especially a skilled athlete, can change the way a woman sees herself. It can make her feel physically stronger, more competent, and more in control of her life as an independent individual. This is important because social life often is organized in ways that lead girls and women to see themselves as weak, dependent and powerless. Developing physical

problems faced by women players who participate in interuniversity sport competitions. Another body of knowledge, which takes as its fundamental premise, men's domination of sport, is the emerging literature on homophobia in women's athletics. Agrawal and Sharma (2018) have raised the issues plaguing the sports arena is numerous. The sports law majorly revolves around the corruption that takes place in an event of sport. Betting, gambling and match fixing are among the other integral factors contributing particularly to this corruption. Every event of sports, big or small, has been and is continued to be subject to betting and match fixing. Doping is one of the major challenges faced in sports law. Gender discrimination in the athletics industry has long been a controversial topic. Sport is one area where gender inequality is strongly evident. The problem is more socio-psychological than anything else. Men are still considered the better sex Sport participation also appears to cultivate development of masculine characteristics (e.g., competitiveness, achievement in athletes, and is one manner for American males to pursue and achieve a masculine gender role identity. In contrast, American society typically views being female and an athlete as incompatible. Sport participation by females routinely carries a negative stigma (Kothekar, 2005). The availability of well qualified coaches is a critical area for the promotion of sports excellence, and requires focused attention in the Indian context. There is need for producing quality coaches of international standards within the country and develop a holistic system for imparting coaching. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has already decided to de-merge National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala from Sports Authority of, India (SAI) for forming a new society for creating an institute for coaching of national importance. Prior to its amalgamation with the Sports Authority of, India in April, 1987, NIS National Institute of Sports, Patiala was functioning as the National Institute of Physical Education and Sports under the erstwhile Society for the Scheme for Preparation of Indian Team for CWG 2010, has worked well as it has clearly defined roles and responsibilities, supported with adequate budget, for each agency/authority responsible for preparation of teams for participation in mega events viz., the

values like respect for human beings, unity in diversity, tolerance, understanding, acceptance and etc... This particular event reveals how vast can be the effect of such an event in protection of human rights. Archery, Athletics (including Track and Field events), Atya-Patya, Badminton, Ball-Badminton, Basketball, Billiards and Snooker, Boxing, Bridge, Carrom, Chess, Cricket, Cycling, Equestrian Sports, Football, Golf, Gymnastics (including Body Building), Handball, Hockey, Ice-Skiing, Ice-Hockey, Ice-Skating, ludo, Kabaddi, Karate-DO, Kayaking and Canoeing, Kho-Kho, Polo, Power lifting, Rifle Shooting, Roller Skating, Rowing, Soft Ball, Squash, Swimming, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Tenni-Koit, Tennis, Volleyball, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Yatching are the sports practiced and supported by Government of India. In India too favouritism (based on regionalism and casteism especially) and gender discrimination find a place not only in conferring honorary titles to sports person but also in their selection to the national team where the talent is being crippled. Media is the best way to promote human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal. Media also play an active role by bringing out the truth and encoring the Government of India to impose more transparency in sports system.

Sports Authority of India was set up by the Government of India on 16 March, 1984 as a registered society primarily to look after the sports infrastructure created for the IX Asian Games. With the declaration of the National Sports Policy in August, 1984 an amalgamation of the Society for the National Institute of Physical Education and Sports (SNIPES) and the Sports Authority of India took place on May, 1987. There are six regional centres of Sports Authority of India and the headquarters of all the centres are situated in different states. There are Southern Centre, Eastern Centre, Northern Centre, Central Centre, Western Centre and North Eastern Centre. Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala, established in 1961, is India's most prestigious and Asia's highly prized institution. The Ministry formulated a scheme for promotion of sports and games among disabled during 2009. Doping is the deliberate or inadvertent use by sportspersons of a substance or method banned by Medical Commission of International Olympic Committee/World Anti Doping Agency (WADA). India is no

physical activity plays an important role in bringing people together around common values of fair play, integrity, teamwork, excellence, respect, tolerance and friendship.

There is huge demand for physical education teachers and instructors. In order to catering the rising demand of quality physical education teachers especially for senior secondary schools, it is essential that more universities and colleges offering courses in physical education are opened across the country. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India is responsible for administering the Department of Sports. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the field arm of Ministry in the promotion of sports in India through the implementation of various schemes such as the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), SAI Training Centres Scheme and Centres of Excellence scheme. SAI also operates several regional Centres and sports institutes such as the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports Patiala and the Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Thiruvananthapuram. Government bodies under the Ministry are responsible for providing financial assistance, training and infrastructure support to autonomous bodies such as the Indian Olympic Association, various national sports federation, sports federations that operate under the aegis of recognized National Sports Federations and various State Olympic Associations). In return of the investment made by Government bodies, National Sports Federations, Sports Authorities and Associations are responsible for organizing sports competitions, holding international sporting events and providing Indian sportspersons with an adequate platform to showcase their talents. Various sports associations at the state level are in turn affiliated to their respective Sports Associations and National Sports Federations. . Non-profit organizations such as the Olympic Gold Quest and the Mittal Champions Trust have shown the way to other corporate players in supporting training requirements of athletes and extending financial support to upcoming athletes by raising funds from companies and individuals. Sports and games have been highly beneficial for good health and building competitive spirit ever since humanity existed. It brings people together, catalyses cultural and societal change, encourages free spirit, instills discipline and