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## Women boxers in India: A case study of Mary Kom

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### Abstract

The Paper is an attempt to have an insight into the contributions of Olympian medalist Indian boxer Mary Kom and her achievements. This study is helpful to know her qualities as boxer. This study also finds out her socio-economic and motivation factors. To attain the purpose of the present study the investigator has adopted the direct interview method and opinion rating questionnaires consist on Mary Kom contribution towards sports and physical education. Her contribution for promotion of boxing in particular and sports in general in the country.

**Keywords:** Women boxers, Olympian, motivation factors

### Introduction

Mangte Chungneijang Mary Kom also known as MC Mary Kom, or simply Mary Kom, is an Indian Boxer. She is a five-time World Amateur Boxing champion, and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the six world championships. Nicknamed “Magnificent Mary”, she is the only Indian woman boxer to have qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics, competing in the flyweight (51) category and winning the bronze medal. She has also been ranked as No. 4 AIBA World Women’s Ranking Flyweight category. She won her first Gold Medal in Asian Games in Incheon in 2014.

Kom co-wrote an auto-biography called Unbreakable (2013) and was portrayed by Priyanka Chopra in the film Mary Kom (2014). Kom also has started a female-only fight club at Imphal to teach girls to defend themselves against sexual violence in India. To spread her academy all over the country Mary Kom wants Priyanka Chopra to become its brand ambassador. Kom was born in Kangathei, in Churachandpur district of Manipur. Her parent, Mangte Tonpa Kom and Mangte Akhtam Kom, Moirang, up to her class VI standard and attended St. Xavier Catholic School, Moirang, up to Class VIII. She then moved to Adimjati High School, Imphal, for her schooling for class IX and X, but was unable to pass the matriculation exam. Not wishing to reappear for them, she quit her school and gave her examination from NIOS, Imphal and graduation from Churachandpur College.

### Olympic Games

Mary, a five-time world champion, had won several medals in the 46 and 48kg categories. She was forced to shift to this category and gain weight two years ago after the world body decided to allow women’s boxing in only three weight categories- the lowest on being 51 kg. At the 2012 AIBA Women’s World Boxing Championship, Kom was competing not just for the championship itself but also for a place at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, the first time women’s boxing had featured as an Olympic sport. She was defeated in the 51 kg quarter-finals by Nicola Adams of the UK (to whom she would eventually lose in the semifinal of the London 2012 Olympic Games as well), making this the first year since the championship began that Kom did not win a medal, but did succeed in getting a place for the Olympics. She was the only Indian woman to qualify for boxing event, with Laishram Sarita Devi narrowly missing a place in the 60 kg class.

Kom was accompanied to London by her mother and husband. Kom’s coach Atkinson could not join her at the Olympic Village as he didn’t possess an International Boxing Association (AIBA) 3 Star Certification, which is mandatory for accreditation. The first Olympic round was held on 5 August 2012, with Kom defeating Karolina Michalczuk of Poland 19-14 in the third women’s boxing match ever to be fought at the Olympics. In the quarter-final, the following day, she defeated Maroua Rahali of Tunisia with a score of 15-6.

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She faced Nicola Adams of UK in the semi-final on 8 August 2012 and lost the bout 6 Points to 11. However, she stood third in the competition and garnered her first Olympic Bronze medal. Manipur Government decided to award Rs 50 lakhs and two acres of land to Kom in the cabinet meeting held on 9 August 2012. She carried the Indian tricolor during the closing ceremony of the 2012 synner categories. She was forced to shift to this category and gain weight two years ago after the world body decided to allow women's boxing in only three weight categories- the lowest one being 51 kg.

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Achievements

Year	Place	Weight	Competition	Location
2001	Second	48	Women' World Amateur Boxing Championships	Scranton, Pennsylvania, USA
2002	First	45	Women' World Amateur Boxing Championships	Antalya, Turkey
2002	First	45	Witch Cup	Peccs, Hungary
2003	First	46	Asian Women's Championships	Hisar, India
2004	First	41	Women's World's Cup	Tonsberg, Norway
2005	First	46	Women's World Amateur Boxing Championship	Podalsk, Russia
2006	First	46	Women's World Amateur Boxing Championship	New Delhi, India
2006	First	46	Venus Women's Box Cup	Vejle, Denmark
2008	First	46	Women's World Amateur Boxing Championships	Ningbo, China
2009	First	46	Asian Indoor Games	Hanoi, Vietnam
2010	First	48	Women's World Amateur Boxing Championship	Bridgetown, Barbados
2010	First	46	Asian Women's Championships	Astana, Kazakhstan
2010	Third	51	Asian Games	Guangzhou, China
2011	First	48	Asian women's Cup	Haikou, China
2012	First	41	Asian Women's Championships	Ulan Bator, Mongolia
2012	Third	51	Summer Olympics	London, United Kingdom
2014	First	51	Asian Games	Incheon, South Korea

### Objective of the study

The objective is to study the performance to Indian women boxer Mary Kom in National and International competitions.

### Research methodology

In the Study following research methodology is used:

### Research Design

To investigate the contribution and achievements of Mary Kom towards the promotion of women boxing in the country a case study was designed in which historical biographical, analytical and interpretive techniques will utilize.

### Data Collection

The required secondary data will be collected through personal records (degree, honours, books and articles), published material (books, pamphlets, articles, newspapers and reports on Mary Kom), pictorial records and official record.

### Statistical Techniques

Data was analyzed, interpreted and evaluated with required statistical tools like tabulation, graphic presentation, and percentage.

### Result and Interpretations

Indian women boxer Mary Kom won a silver medal at the 2008 Asian Women's Boxing Championship in India and a fourth successive gold medal at the AIBA Women's Boxing Championship in China, followed by a gold medal at the 2009 Asian Indoor Games in Vietnam. In 2010, Kom won the gold medal at the Asian women's Boxing Championship in Kazakhstan, and at the championship. She competed in Barbados in the 48 kg weight class, after AIBA had stopped using the 46 kg class. In the 2010 Asian Games, she competed in the 51 kg class – the lowest in the contest – and won a bronze medal. In 2011, she won gold in the 48 kg class at the Asian Women's Cup in China, and in 2012 took the medal in the 51 kg class at the Asian Women's Boxing Championship in Mongolia. On 3 October 2010, she, along with Sanjay and Harshit Jain, had the honour of bearing the Queen's Baton in its opening ceremony run in the stadium for the 2010 Commonwealth Games of Delhi. She did not compete, however, as women's boxing was not included in the Commonwealth Games. On 1 October 2014, she won her first Gold Medal at the Asian Games held at Incheon, South Korea by beating Kazakhstan's Zhaina Shekerbekova in the flyweight (51KG) summit clash. The medal is also the first Gold for any Indian woman at Asian Games.

### Conclusion

Mary Kom had a keen interest in athletics from childhood, it was the success of Dingko Singh that inspired her to become a boxer in 2000. She started her training under the close eye of M. Narjit Singh, Manipur State Boxing Coach at Khuman Lampak, Imphal. After a two- year break, she won silver medal at the 2008 Asian Women's Boxing Championship in India and a fourth successive gold medal at the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championship in China, followed by a gold medal at the 2009 Asian Indoor Games in Vietnam.

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