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Geeta Devi
Research Scholar, House no-61,
Huda Sector, Bawani Khera,
Haryana, India

Status of women in sports: An academic view

Geeta Devi

Abstract

Female participation in sports rose dramatically in the twentieth century, especially in the last quarter, reflecting changes in modern societies that emphasized gender parity, although the level of participation and performance still varies greatly by country and by sport, women's sports have broad acceptance throughout the world. In a few instances, such as figure skating, rival or exceed their male counterparts in popularity.

Keywords: Women, sports, society, social value, social awareness, social stigma, male participation etc.

Introduction

In our Pride India, percentage ratio of men and women is 52, 48 and percentage ratio for the literacy among the men and women is 70 and 48, respectively. Woman play vital role in development of India. Hence she should get the representation in all area like education, employment and sports. But even after the 62 Years of the independence, women are still deprived in this male dominant culture and her participation is very negligible in sports. Even considering the ratio of men and women at Olympic it is 58:42. Also the number of games which are dedicated to men is more that the games that has been played by women. Even at local level like school level or intercollegiate level, women's participation in sports is very less as compare to men. The reasons for this less participation could be (1) less% of literacy, (2) male dominant culture, (3) family and social level abstraction, (4) less availability of women coach, (5) no independent games facilities for women, (6) child marriage, (7) low health conscience, (8) more emphasis on study, (9) cut through competition in education, (10) more emphasis on tuition classes, (11) less importance to sports at society level, (12) lack of government plans for sports person and (13) lack of incentive marks Women, who adds to the beginning of life playing a varied role in complex Indian society in all aspects of life. Despite facing the killing social stigma of female feticide in Indian society, women almighty celebrates 21st century as a women empowerment era by proving their mettle in almost every field of area. Their caliber is recognized form countryside's field to the height of moon. Although the women population is lesser as compare to their male counterpart, noted down by Indian sex ratio which is 1000:933 (933 women per thousand men) but their deeds are multiple that overwhelm their paucity. They excelled in all direction into every field at both national and international levels such as polity and economy, organization and administration, art and drama, civil services to defense services and so on. Similarly contribution of women in the vast field or sports can't be ignored. They toiled hard to attain the peak and put forward their supremacy by fetching bagful of medals at national and international arena from time to time. But unfortunately they are not highlighted at fullest as still the birth as women pilling

Historical of the status of the women participation in sports

There has been a particular disguised and compressed living style pattern for women in Indian society the time of iniquity. Historically speaking women and women sports both have enjoyed a low status in classical Athens the status of the women was low and their participatory was similarly low. As it is evident participated in sports in ancient Greece, yet they were not permitted to participate in the Olympics and even in witness the Olympic Games. It was prohibited for the women to enter the stadium. Those who broke the rule were severely punished.

Correspondence

Geeta Devi
Research Scholar, House no-61,
Huda Sector, Bawani Khera,
Haryana, India

According to Simri (1970) [8] in 1986 when Olympic Games were re-established even Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games did not permit the women to participate in Olympic Games. He fought tooth and nail to keep women out of Olympic competition ultimately he failed women were permitted to participate in 1990 Paris Olympic games. But they were very few in numbers. Women were not permitted to expose any part of the body till the first decade on 20th century in Europe and America. Revealing even the ankle was considered indecent exposure.

When expose in the presence of men. However women participation in Olympic games went on increasing from Olympic to Olympic but at slow rate on compare to male and the participation ratio between both the sexes has been low in Olympic games. Contemporarily in India the condition of women sports were at low level. Because of the colonial Kingdom, the Indian women were confined up to the wall of home. Since that the time women have been dominating to run along male activities. Even the Olympic evident are reveals the truth that the participation of women have been lesser as compare to male participation.

Causes of low participation of women in sports

As it is evident by the Olympic history of the world that the participative capacity of Indian women have been low and but gradually started increasing at low ratio in comparison to their male counterpart therefore. There has been manifold caused, social stigma and mandatory obstacles for them to come out and spread in the field of games and sports. Such concrete hurdles are: The comfortable wearing of the sports

- 1) **Less sex ratio:** India is the vast leading populated country in the world but there is variation in the sex ratio of the country. That is an every 1000 males there is only 933 females. So initially this is the root cause that due to less female population their participation in sports cannot be beyond males as they are less prediction members.
- 2) **Female Feticides:** Now a day in India female's feticide is the common social stigma especially in the northern region. Which is considered as nursery of the Sports. So due to the effects of this female killing act we are losing numerous Olympians and elite athletes every day. Thus automatically we are losing female medals by losing them.
- 3) **Social Stigma with regard to sports:** After lot of the awareness of the sports still the Indian Society is buried in their backward rituals and dominated girl's females' up to the boundary of kitchen and home. People feels girls would lose their physical values by having their body in sports that may leads to further physiological problems.
- 4) **Social bondage:** It is perceived by much of the families that the sports as professions not suited for female, because much of the outdoors due to the existence of joint, conservative and nuclear families.
- 5) **Less lucrative:** People think participation in sports is not profitable and fit for carrier opportunities because there are many personal expenditures incurred sports goods, diet training and coaching etc. But it has been seen that despite performing well Indian women could not get satisfactory rewards. Thud less return in case in winning and zero output in case of failure, they get low profile jobs in civil departments and defence services after proving their potential and mettle at fullest.
- 6) **Sexual harassments:** Women also withdraw them back from sports because of molestation and sexual

harassment by the sports mates and authorities including coaches, trainers and physicians etc. if they opposes the concern then her carrier is limited is or even shattered.

- 7) **Not royal and recognizable for women:** After high level performance at commonwealth games, Asian games and Olympic games still the women do not get eminent reorganization, royalty, and respect as compare to their male counterpart. E.g. as Vijender is much more famous than M.C. Marykom. There is the difference between the status are reorganization of the boxers.
- 8) **Sports as man's heritage in India:** Since the time of participation in international arena in India in Olympic Games (1900 Paris Olympic) there were no participation of women had been found in records. Therefore it shows there has been less participation of female as compare to males but still being the number two populated country in the world the condition of the female participation is same as it was the in the past so reveals the domination of the male legacy is being proven.
- 9) **Participation of poor class and lower class:** Almost the females that take part in sports are less in numbers and this very less participation of female population belongs to poor families or lower class. they put their dedication, work hard and gone beyond the barrier of society to gain respect, name and fame, but unfortunately due to lack of technical coaching, training and lack of other sources and facilities their performance stagnate up to a certain level and then society criticized them. Than other class of the society perceive that sports for female is just a wastage of time and it is for lower class people only. This breaks the Up rise population in the field of sports.
- 10) **Disguised exploitation:** Physical and mental exploitation are being faced by the women for not giving cooperation to the authorities. Exploitation also give birth to biasness in selection procedure and favourism occurs, which lays psychological set back to the athletes that lead to numerous problems and performance deteriorated and finally female herself quit and end up her sports carrier.
- 11) **Unsuccessful despite being successful:** In India dignity of sports women are not being treated as equal to dignity of sports men, despite performing outstanding in international arena. This leads to frustration and resultant losing interest in games. E.g. Jwala Gutta of badminton a prominent player after giving out class performance in so many international championships now days is being criticized by the badminton federation for her personal life and stipulated decision for her playing.
- 12) **Inadequate availability of the basic infrastructure in rural area:** In agriculture based country in India, where 70% of the population are settled down in rural area that have much talent and potential but it has not been exploited due to the non-availability of the coaches, gym, stadium and lacking in sports awareness that tend to reduce female participation in sports events.
- 13) **Misconceptions:** It has been a wrong and vague notion among the masses that sports deteriorates academic performance of the students by creating physical tiresome, rather sports increases the study efficiency and capacity by making body fit and fine and break the fatigued monotony of study, so instead of living or avoiding sports female should join at least some sort of games and sports for physical and professional purposes.

Conclusion

Though the women now have been started taking part in

sports but it is not at par with male, and there are still many obstacles in their path towards sports ground created by the society by this effect they are unable to show their potential in sports arena very less of them reaches up to national and international level and rest of the talent are not being groomed well rather wasted in time money and future.

Implication

- 1) This is conceptual idea of situating women in sports can be used for further historical Based research work.
- 2) With the awareness of this paper the female participation in sports can be increased.
- 3) There would be impact on society regarding female participation in sports.
- 4) Various workshops should be organized pertaining to female participation in sports in deferent rural and urban area that will spread enlightenment and increase female participation in sports.

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