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## A survey of tennis infrastructure personnel and programme in public schools

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### Abstract

In recent years, Tennis has become quite popular sports in India due to advent of many tennis sports achievers. Availability of Tennis infrastructure, programme and qualified Tennis personnel is a key to enhance the performance of grass roots tennis players and to spread a sports culture in the society. Keeping this fact in mind and to find the current status of in tennis infrastructure, programme and personal in India the present research has been taken up. A self-made questionnaire was prepared with the help of expert of physical education and sports to investigate the status of Tennis infrastructure, programme and personnel in public school of Delhi. Thirty Head of department of physical education/Physical education Teacher/Coach were selected randomly as the participant of the study. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data. Findings of the study revealed that the sixty percent of the schools have tennis infrastructure and also have tennis programme, however there is lack of qualified tennis personnel in the schools. Further the schools that do not have tennis infrastructure are willing to construct sports facilities. It was concluded that qualified sports personnel are essential to run better tennis programme as the schools which have sports infrastructure and organize tennis programme with qualified sports personnel have good result in sports performance and have sports achievers with AITA national ranking. Finally school administration and management is promoting sports culture at their premises.

**Keywords:** Tennis infrastructure, coaching

### Introduction

Tennis is a racquet sport which can be play individually or between teams of two players. The object of the tennis is to play the ball in such a way that the opponent is not able to play a good return. Tennis is played on rectangular court with a racket and a hollow rubber ball.

It is an Olympic sport and is played at all levels of society and at all age group. International tennis federation is the governing body of the game which oversees the administration, regulation, organizes international competitions, developing and the promotion of the game. There are four Grand Slam tournaments in tennis popularly known as

- The Australian Open.
- The French Open.
- The Wimbledon.
- The U.S. Open.

International tennis federation also controls the tennis events of all age group ([www.itf.com](http://www.itf.com)).

In India Tennis started through the influence of Bruisers in 1870's. First tournament in India held in 1885 at Lahore, Punjab. All India tennis federation is the governing body which controls the administration and promotion of the event in India. AITA was established in 1920 at Lahore ([www.AitaTennis.com](http://www.AitaTennis.com)).

Tennis is played on different surfaces and natural surface of grass has its own limitation like due to weather, maintenance demand. This fact has led to the development of manmade surface like cement, Asphalt, synthetics surface and clay. Along with the sports equipment's like racket, Ball the tennis surface also play a major role how tennis is played. Surface of the court influence how the players move around the ball, the Style of the player, the pattern of the swings in a tennis stroke and how much bounce ball. Every surface has its own speed and friction. Presently tennis is played on many surfaces which may include like clay, synthetic,

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grass, cement, and wood etc.

As per the national sports policy (2001) [6], central government in conjunction with state government, Olympic association and sports federation should concentrate on twin objective broad base of sports and achieving excellence in sports. The policy also highlights that sports and physical education should be integrated more with the education curriculum. The mass media has also spread awareness amongst the people and youngster to participate in sports and be concern about health issues.

Schools are considered to be the grass root platform for children to learn and develop skills in any game. Infrastructure or facilities are essential to assist the programme of physical education and sports and especially in tennis which an individual sports availability of tennis courts in school is utmost important. Beside the infrastructure availability of qualified tennis is vital for implementation of tennis programme. In Tennis only good infrastructure is not sufficient there should be some provision of coaching Programme. Availability of good infrastructure, programme and coach make a complete triangle for sports promotion and spread of sports culture.

In the present circumstances the rise of Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati, Sania Mirza and various promotions strategy of AITA and ITF has boost up the participation in tennis at grass root level. There are various Coaching Programme being run at National and State level. In Delhi State there are many private academies which are running tennis Coaching Programme at school and club level. Good infrastructures and Coaching programme by qualified Personnel have a direct influence in encouraging the students to join tennis. In tennis coaching education programme there are end numbers of certification, diploma and qualifications become a qualified Tennis professional Coach. National Institute of Sport conducts Diploma in Sports Coaching. There are also certification Course run by All India tennis association and United State Professional Association of coaches

There have many survey research that have been conducted about sports infrastructures, sports facilities at govt. school, public school, and college level in India and abroad. Many researches have also concluded that good facilities have a positive impact on sports performance. It has been observed that availability of sports infrastructure, sports personnel and programme influence the participation and performance of children (Sethu. S, 2016 [7], Neeraj Chawala, 2016 [5], Kulbir Singh and Manmohan Singh, 2013 [4].

## Material and Methods

### Objective of the study

1. To find out the availability of Tennis infrastructure and facility in the school
2. To assess the status of coaching programme of tennis.
3. To find out the availability of Tennis personnel/Coach.
4. To enquire about the interest of school administration towards sports environment and promotion.

### Selection of the participants

The participants were selected by simple random method. The list of public school situated in the south Delhi was taken from yellow pages. The H.O.I. of the physical education department/teachers/tennis coaches working there in these public schools served as the participant of the study.

### Instrument

A self-made questionnaire was prepared, which went through the standard protocol of Initial draft, experts review, rewriting, trail run, tabulation and modification and final draft. Content validity of the questionnaire was obtained with the help of review of experts of physical education profession and tennis coaching. Reliability of the questionnaire was established with the help of split-half method.

### Administration of the questionnaire

The final questionnaire along with a covering letter was given to the all selected participants for their responses. The scholar had visited personally in all the selected schools. All the subject of the study were informed about the purpose of the study and assurance will be given to them that all the responses given by them will be kept in confidential, and the data of the study will be used only for research purpose.

### Statistical procedure

To analyze the data descriptive statistics, frequency and percentage was calculated with the help of SPSS 16.0 version. Percentage and frequency was then further analyzed to obtain the clear understanding of Tennis Personnel, programme and infrastructure in Public Schools of south Delhi. Graphs e.g. Pie and Bar Diagram were used to present the data.

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1:** Descriptive status of infrastructure and programme response from head of the department/physical education teacher/coach (N=30)

Variable	Response	N	%
Availability of tennis court	Yes	18	60%
	NO	12	40%
Availability of tennis programme	Yes	18	60%
	NO	12	40%
Number of tennis Court	Not available	12	40%
	One	8	26.70%
	Two	5	16.70%
	Three	3	10%
	Four	2	6.70%
Court Surface	No Tennis court available	12	40%
	Synthetic	9	30%
	cement	6	20%
	grass	1	3.30%
	clay	1	3.30%
	wood	1	3.3

It is evident from the Table -1 that the majority of Public School (60%) of south Delhi has Tennis Court available at their premises with 60%. Only 40 % of School in south Delhi has no Tennis Court available at their premises. Further the findings of the study revealed that that eighteen school that have Tennis court available in the school also Organize Tennis coaching classes. Twelve schools where there is no Tennis court don't have Tennis coaching either. In the case of numbers of tennis court and surface is concerned it was found that the 40% schools don't have tennis

courts.26.7 % schools have one tennis Court available in their Premises. Further 16.7% schools have two Tennis Courts available and Three Tennis courts were found in three schools. Only two school in the south Delhi having Four Tennis Courts. With regard to surface majority of School have Synthetic Tennis Court with (30%). The second highest surface which was found in the school was Cement court with 20 %. Grass, Clay and Wood were the least available surface with one school each.

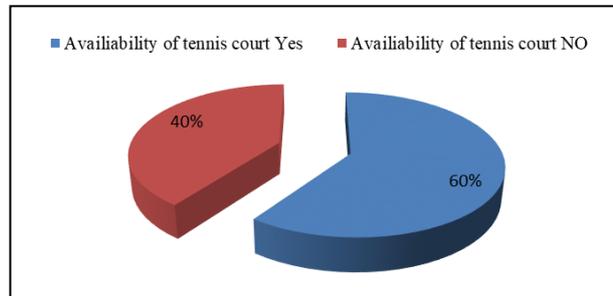


Fig 1: Availability of Tennis Infrastructure

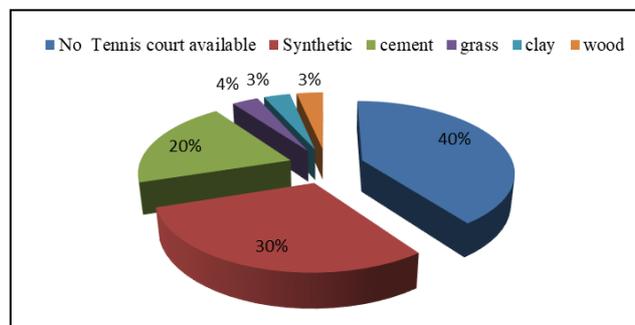


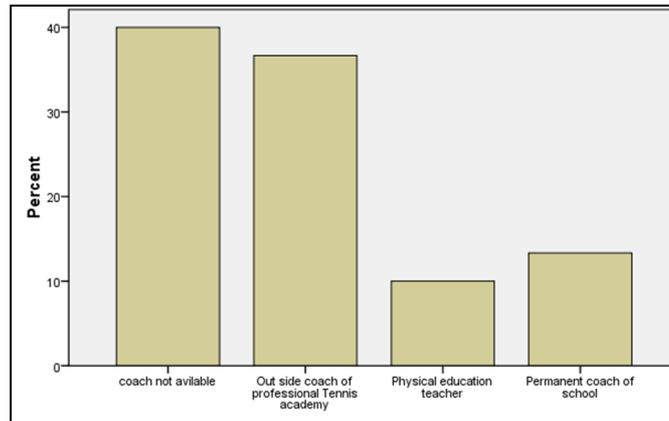
Fig 2: Status of tennis court surface

Table 2: Descriptive status of tennis programme and personnel response from head of the department/physical education teacher/coach (N=30)

Variable	Response	N	%
Timing of tennis class	No coaching classes	12	40%
	After school hours	6	20%
	Both (During and after School hours)	12	40%
Status of Tennis personnel/tennis Coach in School.	coach not available	12	40%
	Outside visiting coach	9	30%
	Physical education teacher	6	20%
	Permanent coach of school	1	3.30%
Qualification of Coach	Coach Not available	12	40%
	NS NIS diploma in tennis Coaching	5	16.70%
	Certificate course in Sports Coaching NSNIS	1	3.30%
	AITA Level I /Level II	6	20%
	USPTR certification	6	20%

Table 2 discloses the status of tennis programme and personnel in schools. As per the finding of the study twelve schools (40%) have Tennis Coaching classes both during and after school hours. Only 20% School have Tennis coaching classes only after school Timings. However 40% Twelve Schools do not have Tennis Coaching Classes. Further the findings of the study revealed that majority of school are have outside coach of some profession academy to conduct coaching classes with 30%.Only one school have permanent Coach of the School. There are six schools where Physical education teacher conducts Tennis Coaching Classes. On the other hand 40% school does not have tennis

coach. As far as qualification of tennis coach is concerned. It was found that only Five School has Coach who qualified NS NIS Diploma in Sports Coaching. There were 20% schools six coaches each who have qualified ALL India Tennis Association Level I or Level II Certification and united state profession Tennis Association (USPTA) Tennis coaching certificate respectively. One coach have qualified six week certification course in sports coaching. Personnel who conduct Tennis Coaching is Graphically Exhibited in Figure-B.



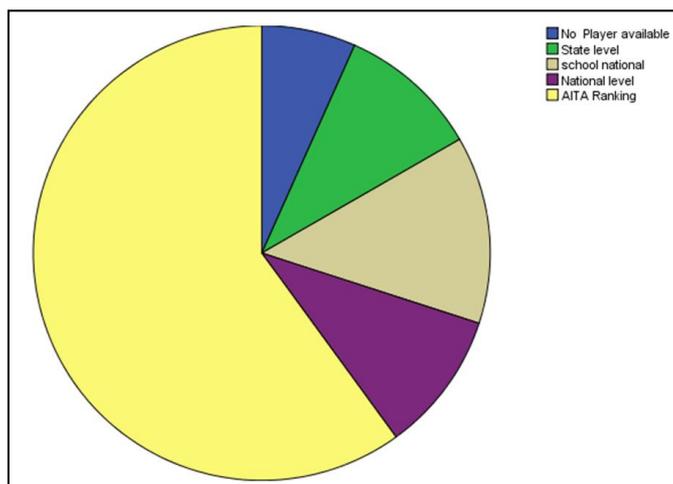
**Fig B:** Who conducts tennis coaching classes in the school?

**Table 3:** Descriptive status of School administration towards sports environment and promotion response from head of the department/physical education teacher/coach (N=30)

Variable	Response	N	%
Encouragement of School administration encourage towards sports environment and participation	Yes	26	86.70%
	NO	4	13.30%
Interest of School administration for Tennis coaching class and construction of Court	Yes	23	76.60%
	NO	7	23.30%
Sports achievement of Tennis players	No Player available	2	6.70%
	State level	3	10%
	school national	4	13.30%
	National level	3	10%
	AITA Ranking	18	60%

Table 3 depict that the 86.7 % school administration encourage sports environment and sports participation. Further 76.7% school administration are interest in tennis coaching classes and construction of tennis surface. In the case of sports achievements of tennis players is concerned eighteen schools have AITA Ranking Players with 60 %. Further three schools each have state and national Level Players. Further 13.3% schools have players participated in SGFI events. However 6.7% schools don not have any sports achievement in tennis.

Level of Sports Achievement is graphically exhibited in Figure–D



**Fig D:** What level of achievement they have?

**Discussion of findings**

The finding of the present study revealed that a more that sixty percent of Public school in south Delhi have Tennis Infrastructure. Mostly Schools in south Delhi have either one or two tennis court at their premises only three Schools have

three court and Two Schools have four tennis courts in their premises. Synthetic and cement are the most common available surface in the south Delhi public school. The finding of the study is in consonance with the study conducted by the Kulveer Singh and Manmohan Singh (2013) [4], where researched conducted survey on Sports infrastructure in elementary school and it was observed by the researcher that more than fifty percent school had the Infrastructure. Tennis is becoming a very popular game in India in this century after the rise of Tennis stars like Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati, Sania Mirza, Yuki Bhamri and many more has inspired not only the children to play but also the school administration to construct the infrastructure at their premises.

Result of the study also highlight the fact that all the schools where there is Tennis infrastructure available there is also a Tennis Coaching programme. Majority of the schools in the south Delhi have tennis Coaching programme during and after School hours. Public school in Delhi who conduct sports Programme and encourage sports participation in competitions and have Players who have sports achievement. Further the Schools who don't have the tennis Infrastructure and programme their students also take Coaching from outside tennis Academies. The result of the study is in consonance with the study conducted (Sethu S. 2016, Neeraj Chawala, 2016) [7, 5] where the researchers concluded that Sports Infrastructure and programme encourage participation of the children in various games.

The findings of the present study also revealed that presence of Qualified Personnel may help in getting good result and encourage participation in various sports competition Public School in South Delhi have either a NIS Diploma in Sports coaching qualified coach or have a Coach with All India Tennis Association and United State Tennis Professional Association Certification In coaching. Schools in south Delhi have players with participation at various level e.g. State levels, School national, SGFI Games, AITA Ranking

Tournament and International Tennis federation ranking. This Result is in conformity with the studies conducted by Dilip N Londhe (2013) [2] where the results conclude that availability infrastructure and Qualified Coaches helps in sports participation and getting good result in sports competitions but if there is no qualified personnel then there will be less participation and achievements.

### Conclusions

1. It was concluded that majority Public school in South Delhi have Tennis Courts available. Mostly schools in south Delhi have either Synthetic or Cement surface.
2. It was concluded that School who have Infrastructure have also conducts tennis coaching programme but School lack permanent qualified coaches. Further Tennis programme is mostly run by the outside coaches of private academies. Tennis coaching is conducted both during and after normal schools working hours.
3. It has been observed that that majority of school encourage sports participation to their student and in result of this policy they have good players who have achieved Local's at certain level of competitions.
4. Study also conclude an encouraging fact that most of the schools who don't have tennis court and tennis Programme are very much interested and willing to construct tennis court in their schools and also like to start tennis coaching programme which reflects the popularity of the tennis games in Delhi state..
5. It was further concluded that Schools having facilitates in coaching have sports achievers also. Many schools have National AITA Ranked players.
6. The study also concluded that School administration provides motivation to tennis players by giving concession in form of Attendance, in academics and fees as well.

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