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Arjuna awardee Suman Sharma as an outstanding basketball player: A case study

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to highlight the contribution and achievements of Arjun Awardee Suman Sharma, towards the promotion of sports in the country and her socio-economic conditions, sports background. The data for investigation were derived from Personal Records, Official Records, Interview, Pictorial Records and Published Records. Survey Techniques were used to obtain responses and reactions about Arjun Awardee, Suman Sharma from Family members, selected eminent sportspersons, contemporaries, coaches' physical educationists and her students from all over the country through opinion self-made Questionnaire to get desired information. Suman Sharma has usually played the centre Position in India National Basketball team. She has also become the youngest player to captain the Indian international.

Basketball team in the 1981 in Asian Basketball Championship Tournament, She got an Arjuna Award in the year of 1983. She was awarded 'Arjuna Award' by the president of India Gyani Zail Singh. She also got Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award for her excellent game performance. Suman Sharma maintained her superior performance in the years of 1975 to 1985 at national and International level. The present study will highlight the sports, social and psychological qualities of Arjuna Awardee Suman Sharma which could be highly motivated and beneficial all the sports persons.

Keywords: Contribution, achievements, pictorial record, qualities.

Introduction

Hard work is the key to success. Not all are born heroes. It is with their sheer grit, determination and focused attitude that a person is able to create a niche. This gradually turns them into legends.

The world is full of people who have achieved milestones in their journey of life. They are the role models that inspire, motivate and stimulate others to follow their examples in achieving target objective. Among varied extraordinary achievers, they are quite a few sports persons who have excelled in different games and sports and are role models to follow by budding and aspiring young sports enthusiasts. The case study is a complete analysis and report on the status of the particular individual subject, school, institutions, playgrounds, community or city with a view to insure possible improvement of status of the case under investigation. The idea is to know the reality to ascertain weakness and strength and finally to bring about desirable changes or improvements. In other words, the aim is to understand the life cycle of an important part of the cycle of an individual or institution or social groups or a community. The case studies aim to intensive investigation of the natural development of a unit.

The history of basketball begins with the invention of the game in Springfield, Massachusetts in the United States. The Canadian James Naismith invented the first basketball game. The game progressed first in U.S.A. and then throughout the world. As the basketball game has become popular in American colleges, the professional games followed:

- The American National Basketball Association (NBA) grew to a multi-billion-dollar enterprise by the end of the 20th century, and the basketball became an integral part of American culture with the passage of time.
- FIBA (the International Basketball Federation) founded in 1932.
- Basketball became an Olympic Sport in 1936.

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Invention of the game

The game of basketball, as we know it today was created by Dr. James Naismith in 1891 in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was meant to condition young athletes during the winter seasons. It consisted of peach basket and a soccer style ball. He published 13 rules for the new game. He divided his class of 18 into 2 teams: 9 players each and set about to teach them the basics of new game. The objective of the game was to throw the basketball into the fruit baskets which was nailed to the lower railing of the gym balcony. Every time a point was scored, the game was halted so the janitor could bring out a ladder and retrieve the ball. After a while, the bottoms of the fruit baskets were removed. The first public basketball game was played in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 11, 1892. World basketball was growing, but it was on June 18, 1932 that a real international organization was formed, to coordinate tournament and teams: that day, Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Greece Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland founded the International Basketball Federation (Federation international basketball amateur, FIBA) in Geneva. Its work was fundamental for the first inclusion of basketball in the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936.

Methodology

A case study was designed to investigate the contributions and achievements of Arjun Awardee Suman Sharma towards the promotion of Basketball in India and his philosophy towards sports as a profession in India, her quality as a player, his professional qualities and her contribution to the game of Basketball at National and International level. Data or information for this investigation was derived from the primary sources i.e. personal records, pictorial records, interview, official records and secondary sources. Investigator personally contact with Arjun Awardee, Suman Sharma for interview by taking prior appointments with her. The aim of interview was mainly to know her family background, environment influence, childhood, education, sports participation, sports career and achievements. Self -made Questionnaire was used to obtain responses and reactions about Arjun Awardee, Suman Sharma from selected the eminent sports person from all over the country. Especially self-made questionnaire regarding Arjun Awardee Suman Sharma was constructed with the help of experts. A questionnaire was formed and constructed by investigator in consultation with the experts. An extensive review of literature and research studies conducted on case studies up to 2018 was used for collection of the items of questionnaire. Also, formal and informal discussion was done with the experts. Almost all care was taken to ensure maximum coverage of the data needed for the study along with worthwhile and meaningful responses for Respondents.

Sports career of Arjuna Awardee Suman Sharma

- Suman Sharma was youngest player to Captain India Basketball team in the 1980 in won Asian Basketball Championship tournament and Panjab basketball team captain in National Tournaments.
- She had six time continually Gold medallist in National tournaments and one-time silver medallist Player from Panjab.
- She has been the member of Indian selection team. Now she is chairperson of selection Committee of Basketball.
- She has been vice-president of Panjab Basketball Association Ludhiana (Panjab)

Honours and awards

Arjuna Award

Suman Sharma is a recipient of Arjuna Award announce in 1983 but got 1986 for achievement in the field of Basketball. Suman Sharma is only first lady in basketball player she got Arjuna Award.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award

Suman Sharma has been honoured with Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award in 1985.

Women Festival award

Suman Sharma has been honoured National Sports Festival for Women in 1979.

Arjuna Awardee Suman Sharma as a Captain

Suman Sharma was the youngest player to captain the Indian National Basketball team in the 1980 Asian Basketball Championship (ABC). Under her captaincy the Indian Basketball team won 1980 ABC. She was also Panjab National team.

Results and Discussion

To evaluate the changed personality dimensions of Arjuna Awardee and captain of Indian Basketball team. Suman Sharma, open ended questionnaires Interviews conducted. Almost forty-five eminent sports persons who has been associated with her as a Players, admirers, colleagues, coaches, her students, family members and her contemporaries were chosen for the purpose. For the content analysis for the data.

Conclusion

- Arjuna awardee Suman Sharma is first basketball women player to captain the India Basketball team.
- Arjuna Awardee Suman Sharma is an outstanding basketball player India has ever produced.
- She was very efficient, honest dedicated, punctual hard worker and strict disciplinarian.
- Arjuna Awardee Suman Sharma was very friendly cooperative hardworking and regular in daily exercises.
- She was very good relation with her teammates, coaches, management and competitors.
- She has member of Basketball federation of India (BFI) and Vice-President of Panjab Basketball Association PBA (Ludhiana).
- The outstanding player Suman Sharma has always been role model for other.

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