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Inter college sports journey of Lakshmbai College in two decades: An appraisal

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Abstract

In today's scenario, Lakshmbai College is known for its excellent performance in the field of women sports in University of Delhi. It has covered a long journey step by step to be on top throughout the years. The college is known as a nursery for the budding talent, which provided atmosphere of learning and training, in which both beginners and established players are nurtured to hone their skill and optimise their sports potential to the maximum. Being a student and teacher of the same college, it inspired me to conduct a case study and appraise the performance of the college in a long period of twenty years. Hence, the present paper attempts to compile, present and analyze the sports journey of Lakshmbai College in last two decades.

Keywords: Lakshmbai College, sports, performance

Introduction

Lakshmbai College is one of the 91 constituent colleges of University of Delhi, which aims at providing higher education to women. It was established in 1965 as Women's College and later renamed as Lakshmbai College. The college offers various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes under the aegis of University of Delhi.

Physical Education and sports have been a part of the college since beginning. The college offers a number of indoor games and outdoor sports that includes archery, athletics, baseball, basketball, boxing, cricket, judo, kabaddi, Kho-Kho, netball, power-lifting, shooting, softball, taekwondo, volleyball, weight-lifting, wrestling, and yoga etc.

Inter college sports competitions are the first platform for sportspersons to showcase their talent and skills to excel further at Inter University, State, National or International level, and hence the most awaiting events. The college also gets recognition for its sports culture and excellence during these tournaments. Lakshmbai College (LBC) has been amongst the top two best performing college in women sports in the University of Delhi in recent times. With only four teams participating in the inter college tournaments organized by the University of Delhi in 2001 to more than 20 sports in 20s, it becomes a point of interest that how the college has grown with the times. Hence, the present paper aims to compile and analyze the sports achievements of the college for last two decades only at the inter college level.

Method

The data has been obtained from the secondary source i.e. the compiled and published Annual Reports of the college, available in the library and the website of the college.

The collected information about the sports participation and achievements of Lakshmbai College (LBC) from 2001-02 to 2021-22 was analyzed on the following points: number of sports, name of sports, individual medals won and team positions won.

Findings and Discussions

On the basis of available data, the findings have been presented the tables from 1 to 4; and illustrated vide figures 1 to 5.

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Table 1: Number of Teams in which LBC Participated in DU Inter College Tournaments (2001-02 to 2020-21)

S. No.	Session	No. of Sports/ Games
1.	2001-02	06
2.	2002-03	No Data Available
3.	2003-04	08
4.	2004-05	11
5.	2005-06	17
6.	2006-07	17
7.	2007-08	18
8.	2008-09	18
9.	2009-10	19
10.	2010-11	19
11.	2011-12	23
12.	2012-13	23
13.	2013-14	23
14.	2014-15	25
15.	2015-16	25
16.	2016-17	25
17.	2017-18	25
18.	2018-19	21
19.	2019-20	16
20.	2020-21	Covid-19

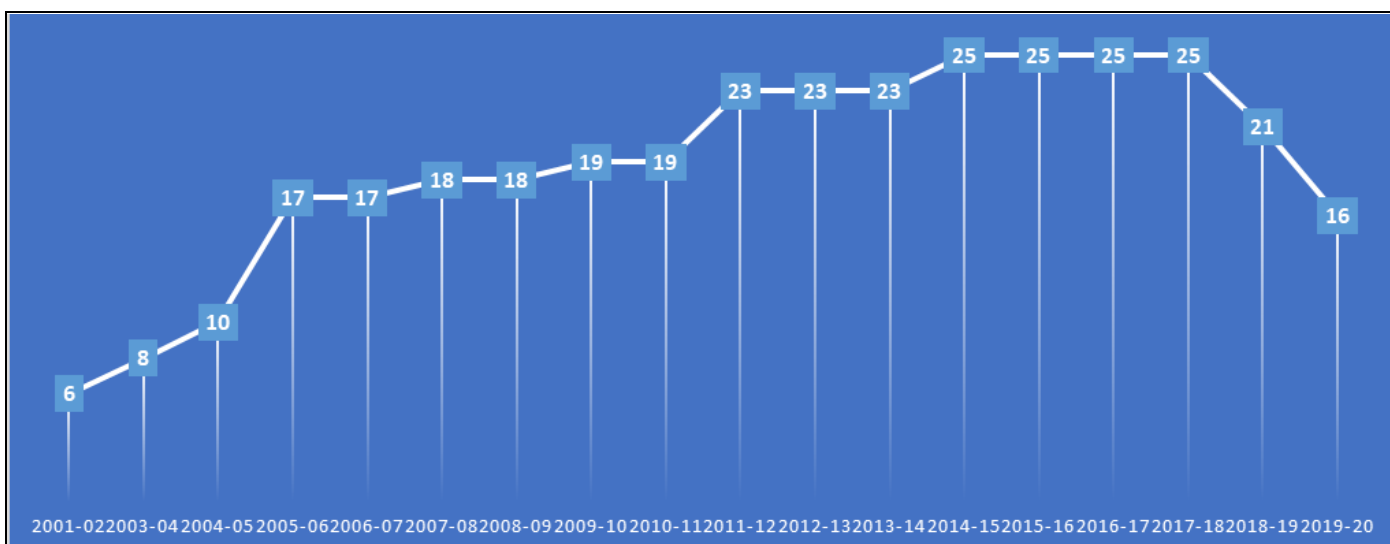


Fig 1: No. of Sports/ Games at Lakshmibai College In 20 YEARS

The analysis of data in Table-1 which is illustrated vid Fig-1 reveals that the number of LBC sports teams that participated in DU Inter College Tournaments (2001-02 to 2020-21) has been gradually and progressively increased. With only six teams in 2001-02, the college has taken firm steps in creating marks and maintained the top participation of 25 games in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2018-19. The sharpest increase was in the session 2005-06. However, a decline in the number of teams participating in the Inter College Tournaments organized by Delhi University Sports Council can be observed in the session 2018-19. The reason for this decline in 2018-19 was that the non-performing teams were removed to be able to provide better facilities to the

continuously better performing teams due to budget restrictions. A major reduction in the participation at Inter College level can be seen during the session 2019-20 as Delhi University Sports Council stopped its participation in the All India Inter University Competitions in the following sports for women: (1) Ball Badminton, (2) Baseball, (3) Cross Country, (4) Fencing, (5) Power-lifting; and (6) Yoga. It affected our sports performance also by reducing the teams' participation and also the students got affected. Since March, 2020 the colleges are under Lockdown due to COVID-19 and has affected all sports badly, not only in our College or University but all over the World.

Table 2: Participation of LBC in different Sports at DU Inter College Tournaments (2001-02 to 2020-21)

S. No.	GAME/ SPORT	01-02	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
1.	Athletics	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
2.	Judo	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
3.	Kabaddi	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
4.	Volleyball	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
5.	Softball	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
6.	Cross Country	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
7.	Swimming		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
8.	Table Tennis		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
9.	Netball			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
10.	Chess			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
11.	Cricket			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
12.	Baseball				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
13.	Kho-Kho				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
14.	Power-lifting				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
15.	Weight-lifting				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
16.	Wrestling				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
17.	Yoga				√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
18.	Badminton						√	√	√	√	√								
19.	Basketball									√	√	√	√	√					
20.	Boxing											√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
21.	Fencing											√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
22.	Gymnastics											√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
23.	Shooting											√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
24.	Taekwondo											√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
25.	Archery														√	√	√	√	√
26.	Handball														√	√	√	√	√
27.	Ball Badminton														√	√	√	√	√
	Total	6	8	11	17	17	18	18	19	19	23	23	23	25	25	25	25	21	16

The sports in which Lakshmbai College participated in the Inter College Tournaments organized by Delhi University Sports Council are demonstrated in Table-2. It reveals that Athletics, Judo, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Softball and Cross Country are the games that continued to be there since 2001 up to 2020. Swimming and Table Tennis have been there in the list for most of the years as preferred by both the sports and non-sports but were stopped by the college in 2018-19 as these two teams remained non-performing for long and also in view of the budget constraints. Netball, Chess and Cricket were started in the year 2004-05 and continued to be offered and practiced. Baseball, Kho-Kho, Power-lifting, Weight-lifting, Wrestling and Yoga were started in 2005-06 out of which, Baseball, Power-lifting and Yoga were discontinued by Delhi University Sports Council (DUSC) in the year 2019-20. Badminton was introduced in 2007-08 on students' demand, but discontinued later in 2012-13 as we have no indoor facility for practice. On similar lines i.e. students' demand, Basketball was started in 2010-11 after the Court construction, but it also had to be discontinued after five years in 2014-15. Boxing, Fencing (University Trials only), Gymnastics (University Trials only), Shooting and Taekwondo were started in the year 2012-13, out of which Fencing was discontinued in 2018-19. Archery, Handball and Ball Badminton were introduced in 2015-16. Out of these three, Handball was discontinued by the college while Ball Badminton was dropped by DUSC in 2018-19. In 2018-19, six out of our games were dropped by DUSC.

Table 3: Sports Achievements at DU Inter College Tournaments (Individual Medals) in Two Decades (2001-02 to 2010-11 & 2011-12 to 2020-21)

S. No.	Session	INDIVIDUAL MEDALS			
		Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
1.	2001-02	2	-	3	05
2.	2002-03	No Data Available			
3.	2003-04	1	1	2	04
4.	2004-05	1	3	5	09
5.	2005-06	8	8	5	21
6.	2006-07	5	8	5	18
7.	2007-08	12	5	7	24
8.	2008-09	8	6	12	26
9.	2009-10	8	8	7	23
10.	2010-11	CWG 2010 (No Inter College Tournaments)			
11.	2011-12	18	5	6	29
12.	2012-13	18	11	15	44
13.	2013-14	23	14	20	57
14.	2014-15	21	16	14	51
15.	2015-16	22	11	10	43
16.	2016-17	20	16	15	51
17.	2017-18	9	17	20	46
18.	2018-19	8	17	11	36
19.	2019-20	17	7	16	40
20.	2020-21	COVID-19 (No Inter College Tournaments)			

* DU discontinued Inter College in Ball Badminton, Baseball (W), Cross Country, Power-lifting, Yoga, Archery (Compound), Archery (Recurve)

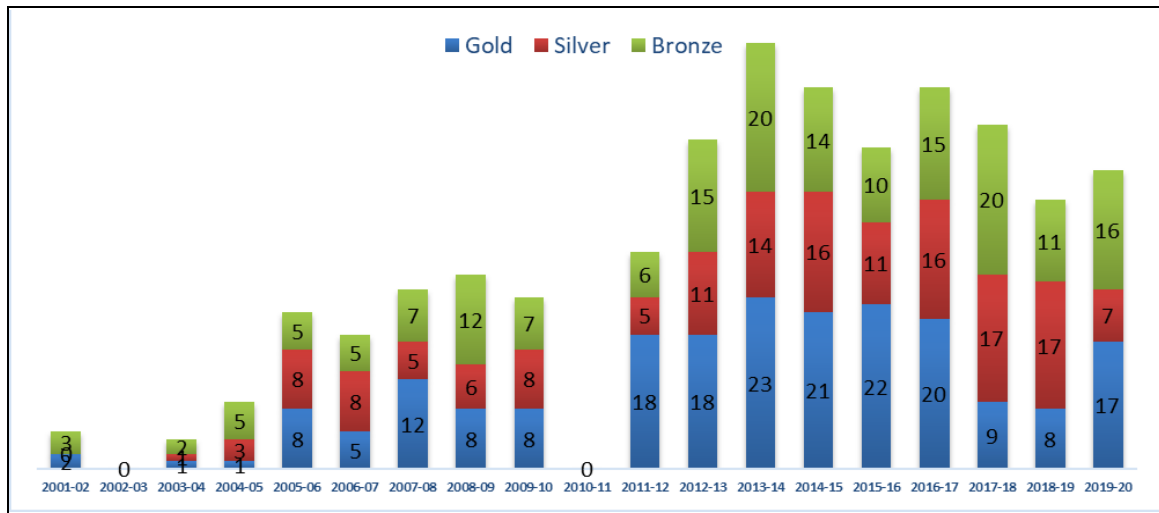


Fig 2: Distribution of Individual Medals Won by the Students of LBC in DU Inter College Tournaments

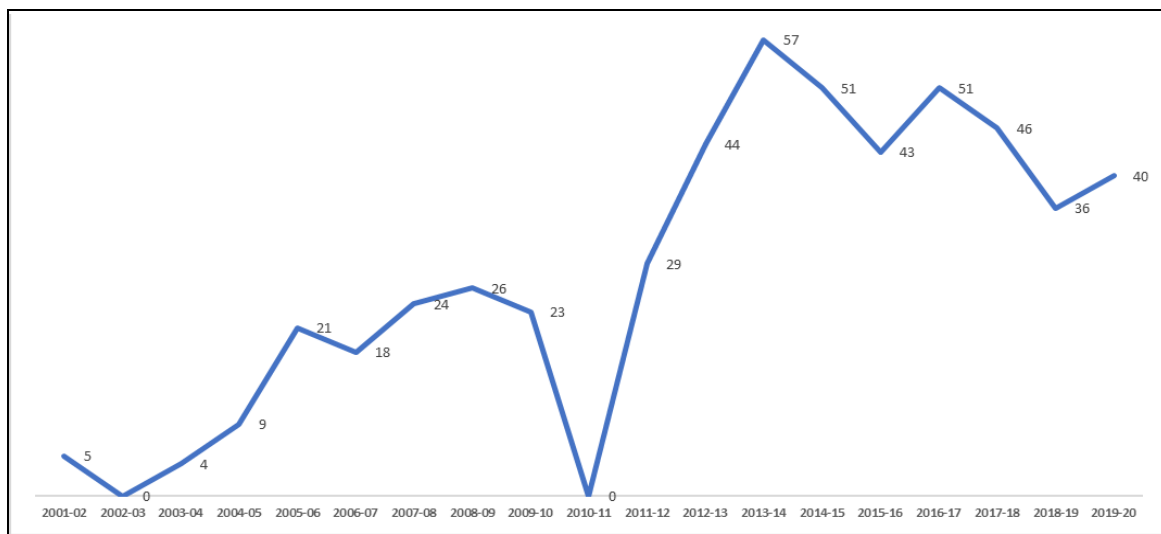


Fig 3: Total Individual Medals Won by LBC Students in DU Inter College Tournaments

The compilation of data in table-3 revealed that the College won a total of 527 medals from 2001-02 to 2019-20 including 201 Gold, 153 Silver, and 173 Bronze. The data has been graphically illustrated vide Fig.2 and Fig.3. Out of these 20 sessions, Inter college tournaments were not held in 2010-11

due to the CWG 2010 and other issues and in 2019-20 due to COVID-19, while data could not be retrieved for the session 2002-03. The figures clearly reflect the performance increasing trends over the years, however, some fluctuations have also been observed.

Table 4: Sports Achievements at DU Inter College Tournaments (Team Positions) in Two Decades (2001-02 to 2010-11 & 2011-12 to 2020-21)

S. No.	Game/Sport	1st position (Gold)	2nd position (Silver)	3rd position (Bronze)	Total Medals
1	Wrestling	8	4	1	13
2	Weightlifting	7	2	2	11
3	Power-lifting	7	2	2	11
4	Softball	7	0	2	9
5	Cross Country	6	1	0	7
6	Baseball	5	2	3	10
7	Volleyball	4	4	2	10
8	Kabaddi	4	3	3	10
9	Yoga	4	2	2	8
10	Athletics	4	1	3	8
11	Cricket	3	4	4	11
12	Boxing	1	2	4	7
13	Judo	0	7	5	12
14	Archery	0	4	4	8
15	Kho-Kho	0	3	4	7
16	Netball	0	2	1	3
17	Taekwondo	0	1	1	2
18	Ball Badminton	0	1	0	1
19	Chess	0	0	3	3
	Total	60	45	46	151

The analysis of data in table-4 revealed that the Lakshmbai College has won a total of 151 positions in the Delhi University Inter College Tournaments from 2001 to 2020. This includes 1st positions (60), 2nd positions (45) and 3rd positions (46).

When we talk of the overall positions throughout the two decades, reflecting consistency of teams' performance, then Wrestling is the sport in which the Lakshmbai College has won maximum number of times (13); followed by Judo (12); Weight-lifting, Power-lifting, Cricket (11 times each); Baseball, Volleyball, Kabaddi (10 times each); Softball (9);

Yoga, Athletics, Archery (8 times); Cross Country, Boxing, Kho-Kho (7 times each); Netball, Chess (3 times each), Taekwondo (2 times); and Ball Badminton (once). This analysis is reflected in Fig.-5.

When we compare the teams' performance in terms of quality of medals, Wrestling topped the list with 8 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze; followed by Weightlifting, Power-lifting, Softball, Cross Country, Baseball, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Yoga, Athletics, Cricket, Boxing, Judo, Archery, Kho-Kho, Netball, Taekwondo, Ball Badminton and Chess. This is well reflected in Fig.-4.

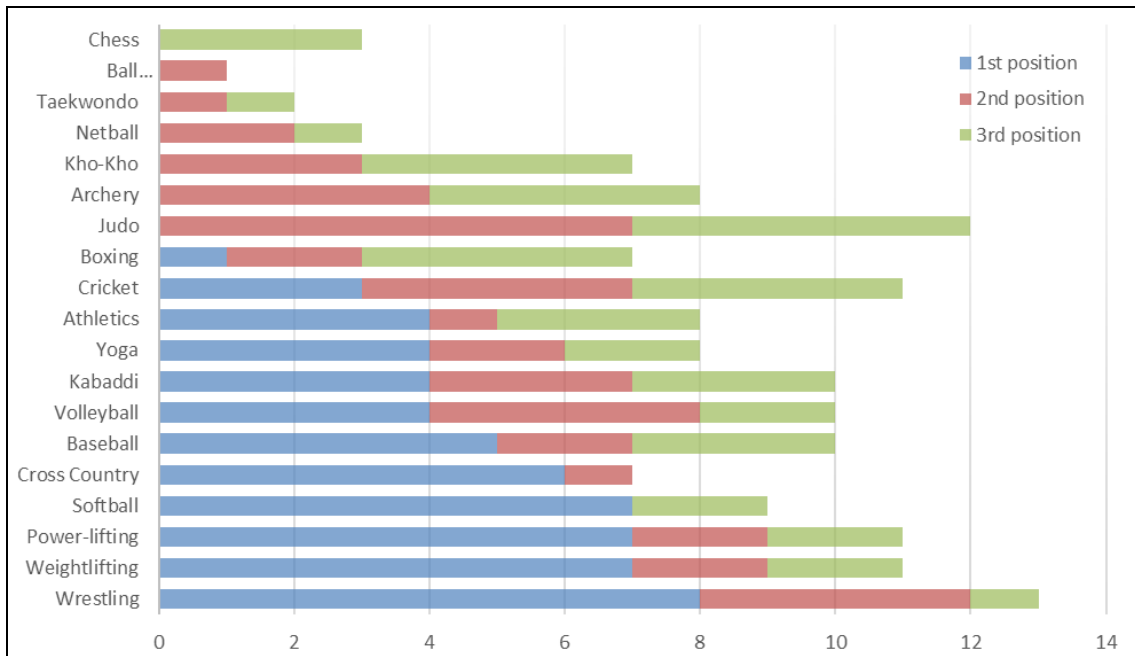


Fig 4: Team championships won by LBC students in different games/sports

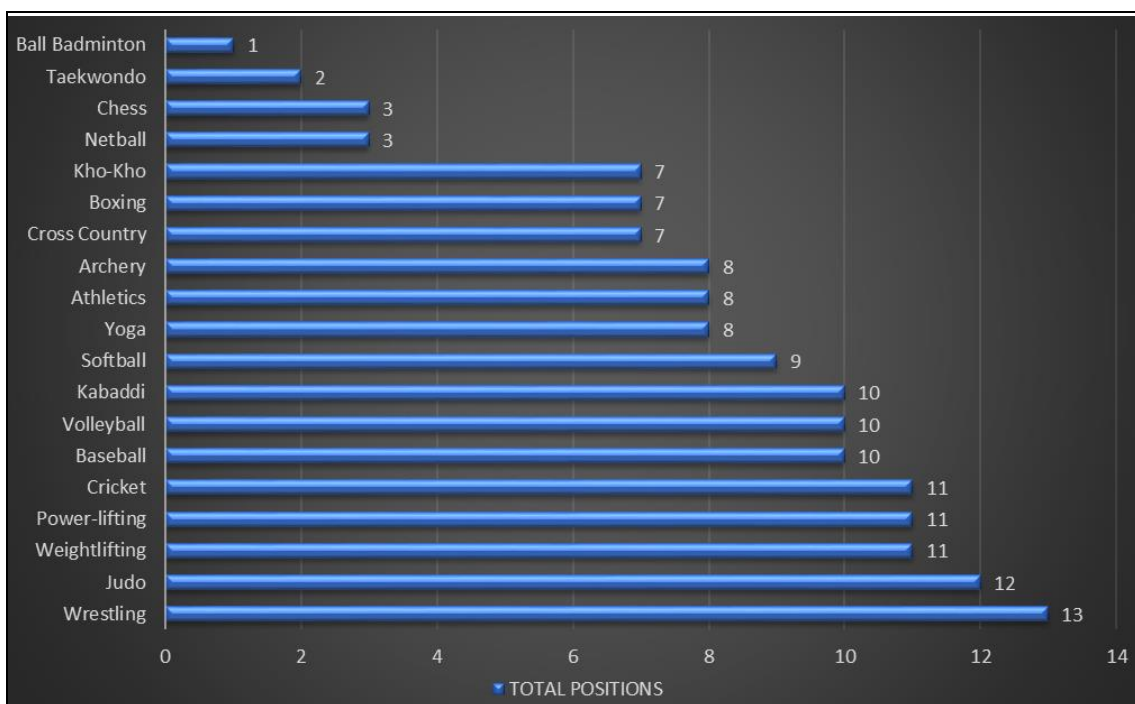


Fig 5: Sports in which LBC secured positions in DU inter College Tournaments (2001-02 to 2019-20)

Conclusion

Sports, as a facility, enjoy being the Hallmark of Lakshmbai College. The college has obtained supreme position in sports in DU, after travelling a long way. Beginning from the Inter-

College, sports women of the college have travelled the journey to Inter-University, State, National and International level. The college offers specialized coaching to develop the capacity of students from absolutely nascent stage to achieve

highest level of performance. Whether admitted on the basis of sports or on merit basis, any student of the college can join sports and practice to achieve excellence at various levels of competition and choose to make it a career option.

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