

The Policies of Indian Government in Promoting Physical Education”

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Abstract

Sports, games and physical fitness have been a vital component of our civilization. The performance in sports and games is one major yardstick of a nation's quality of human development. There has been increasing recognition of the role of sports in Development. The United Nations General Assembly celebrated 2005 as the "Year of Sport and Physical Education". Scheme are formed to achieve organizational goals; the goals are the targets which are to be achieved and polices and schemes device ways of reaching them. In 2015, promotion and development of sports in the country was being carried out through following three schemes. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) are merged into a single scheme - Khel India National Programme for Development of Sports. The Government has launched several schemes and initiatives in the field of sports and games. They aim to mainstream sports as a tool for individual and community development, economic development and national development. Corruption, mismanagement and lack of infrastructure are some of the most important factors for the apathy of the sport in India. In September 2017, the Union Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs.1,756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. NPFAI has leveraged for preserving and promoting open play spaces for community sports requirements. A one-time seed money of up to Rs.50 lakh has been given to Statelets for setting up playfield associations. An amount of Rs.25 crore has been set aside for the purpose.

KEYWORDS -: -French Pedagogue, Olympic Games, Physical Education, Pierre de Coubertin, Schemes, Sports Authority, S.A.I.

Introduction

Physical Education as an integral part of the academic agenda was an anathema till the dawn of the last century. But what prompted its growth and transformed this negative school of thought was the success of the Olympic Movement in Europe, under the benign leadership of the French pedagogue, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who revived the Olympic Games at Athens in 1896. Sports, games and physical fitness have been a vital component of our civilization, as is evident from the existence of highly evolved system of yoga and a vast range of highly developed indigenous games, including martial arts. In modern times; there has been increasing recognition of the role of sports in Development. The United Nation's adopted the theme of

"Sport for Development and Peace" in its Agenda in 2001. The United Nations General Assembly celebrated 2005 as the "Year of Sport and Physical Education" thereby emphasizing the need to integrate sport and physical education into the overall development agenda. The World Development Report 2007 entitled "Development and the Next Generation" published by the World Bank also conveys a categorical message to government's and policy maker's across the world for investing in young healthy youth and their development. Excellent performance in sports and games at national and international levels is a matter of pride for all nations of the world. Countries have been utilizing sizeable resources and providing best of facilities to develop and sustain sports talent at the highest level. The performance in sports and games is one major yardstick of the nation's quality of human development. The Youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the youngest nations in the World, with about 65% of its population being under 35 years of age. The youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5% of the population. to encourage sports all over the country thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. In 2015, promotion and development of sports in the country was being carried out through following three schemes: -

- I. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan - To provide infrastructure in rural areas and to encourage sporting culture in the country through competitions.
- II. Urban Infrastructure Scheme - To provide quality sports infrastructure in urban areas so as to provide facilities for talent to hone their skills.
- III. National Sports Talent Search – To identify young talent.

To promote mass participation in sports and achieve effective implementation, the existing schemes of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) and National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) are proposed to be dovetailed into a single scheme to be named as “Khelo India National Programme for Development of Sports”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- i. Play Field Development
- ii. Community Coaching Development
- iii. State Level Khelo India Centers
- iv. Annual Sports Competitions
- v. Talent Search and Development
- vi. Utilization and Creation! Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure
- vii. Support to National Regional State Sports Academies
- viii. Physical Fitness of School going Children
- ix. Sports for Women
- x. Promotion of Sports among persons with disabilities
- xi. Sports for Peace and Development

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Currently, the dearth of supporting infrastructure, absence of encouragement to young people to participate in sports, lack of organized system of talent search, Corruption &

Mismanagement of sports authorities, Social and economic inequalities, Policy lacunae, Meager allocation of resources, and many more are the reasons due to which India faces underdevelopment of sports.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Sports play an important role in everyone's life, be it athletes, sportspersons, students, youth or adults. It is essential for physical as well as mental development. Considering the importance of sports, the Government has launched several schemes and initiatives in the field of sports and games. Some are mentioned below:-

❖ Fit India Movement:

The scheme will be launched on 29 August on the occasion of National Sports Day 2019 by Prime Minister Modi himself at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

❖ Khelo India Scheme:

The scheme strives to promote "Sports for All" as well as "Sports for Excellence". The scheme was revamped in the year 2017 with an aim to mainstream sports as a tool for individual and community development, economic development and national development.

❖ Sports Talent Search Portal:

this scheme allows young people to upload their achievements Applicants who get shortlisted are then called for trials and the qualified candidates then get to take part in the schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

❖ National Sports Development Fund:

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was formed in November 1998 by the then Government to promote sports and games in India. The Fund was established under the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 to administer the funds for sports activities, tournaments, competitions, infrastructure and training of the sportsperson

❖ High-level committee to address grievances of women sportspersons:

The committee resolves the complaints and grievances of women sportsperson. The committee is also comprised of athletes, advocate, a senior officer of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and a sports journalist.

❖ Empowered Steering Committee on Sports:

The Committee is responsible for preparing a comprehensive action plan for effective participation of Indian players in the Olympic Games of 2020 (Tokyo), 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles).

❖ Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI):

SAI also runs several schemes for promoting sports at junior and senior levels. Local people are encouraged to play sports and games at the SAI sports centers and trained by SAI Coaches.

❖ **National Sports Awards Scheme:**

Every year, the Government acknowledges and honors sports personalities with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards, Dhyanchand Awards, and Dronacharya Awards for their achievements and contributions as sportspersons and coaches in the field of sports.

❖ **Sports & Games for Persons with Disabilities Scheme:**

Under this scheme, the differently-abled sportspersons are trained in their field for conducting sports competitions and assisting schools and institutes having differently-abled sportspersons.

LIMITATIONS:

- 1. Corruption & Mismanagement of sports authorities:** Corruption has become synonymous with sports administration in India. Whether it is the most popular cricket or hockey or weightlifting, most of the sports authorities in India have come under attack due to corruption charges.
- 2. Social and economic inequalities:** Social and economic inequalities have a negative impact on the Indian sport. Denial of access to sports infrastructure due to poverty, concentration of stadiums and other sports avenues only in cities, lack of encouragement to girls to participate in sports, etc, have impaired the development of a positive sports culture in the country.
- 3. Lack of infrastructure:** This is one of the most important factors for the apathy of the sport in India. Since infrastructure is necessary for training and organizing games, its non-availability and its access to only a few sections of the society have adversely impacted the sport participation and the quality of sports persons.
- 4. Policy lacunae:** For the development of any sector, formulation and execution of an effective policy is a sine qua non. This is true for sports also.
- 5. Meager allocation of resources:** Compared to other developed and developing countries, allocation of financial resources is meager in India.

DELIMITATIONS:

- In September 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the revamped Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs.1,756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- In March 2017, 12 Indian players of international eminence were appointed by the government as National Observers for the first time for the development of various sports in the country. Among other responsibilities, they assess the existing sports infrastructure/ equipment, etc
- Under the scheme of “Assistance to National Sports Federations”, the government has been providing financial assistance to the recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) for supporting girls/women’s exposure, training and participation at national/ international level.

- In order to provide best possible help and support to athletes in their training for the upcoming 2020 Olympics, the government approved the appointment of foreign coaches and supporting staff.

FUNDING:

The platform of NPFAI will be leveraged for preserving and promoting open play spaces for community sports requirements. A one-time seed money of upto Rs.50 lakh will be given to States/UTs, depending upon size and population, for setting up playfield association, in case a State Playing Field Association has not already been set up by the concerned State/UT, Funds will also be provided for meeting recurring expenditure of such Associations at the rate of Rs.12 lakh per annum as well as for development of model playing fields .States/UTs. An amount of Rs.25 crore will be set aside for the purpose.

CONCLUSION:

Despite the above mentioned measures taken by the government, the sports ecosystem is of poor quality in the country. For a country of over 1.25 billion, the existing sports infrastructure is not satisfactory. The lack of world-class infrastructure and the inadequate support of the government is reflected in poor performance of Indian athletes in major international events like the Olympics. Tiny countries like Cuba, Croatia and Lithuania performed better in the 2016 Olympics compared to India. It is high time, the public and private sector should come together to lift the Indian sport sector from the present deplorable situation. Extension of Justice Lodha Committee recommendations on BCCI to all other sports bodies will be a right step in this direction.

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