



Role of government in promoting sports in India: A critical evaluation

Vijay kumar and Mallikarjun C Pujari

Physical education, Guest Lecture govt, Firsted Grade Degree College Humanabad, Karnataka, India

Table Tennis Coach, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India

Abstract

The Government plays a major role in promoting and developing sports in a country. The Government and Governmental organizations constitute the Public Sector of the sports industry which is responsible for making sports policies, allocating funds for developing infrastructure, nurturing talents, designing specialized programmes like dope control etc. The Planning Commission of India estimates that the country will be the home of approximately 510 million people of the age group of 15 to 35 years by 2019. The role of Government, therefore, is extremely important in providing participation opportunities to the youth of India for the overall development of sports.

Keywords: Sports, Athletic, Government

Introduction

The government plays a crucial role in promoting sports in a country. The government and governmental organizations constitute the public sector of the sports industry, which is responsible in making sports policies, allocating grants for developing infrastructure, nurturing talents and designing specialized programmes for overall development of sports. The objective of this article is to discuss critically the role of government in promoting sports in India.

Political responsibility for sport in India is with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, which is headed by a cabinet minister and managed by National Sport Federations. The only major exception is the BCCI which is the administrative body of Cricket, is not a NSF. Presently there are more than 70 recognised national sports federations (NSF), of which 38 have politicians at the helm.

Sports Authority of India, the field arm of the Ministry, supports and nurtures talent in youth, and provides them with requisite infrastructure, equipment, coaching facilities and competition exposure. Dorabji Tata, with the support of Dr. A.G. Noehren, then director of YMCA, established the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in 1927. IOA is responsible for the Indian continent's participation in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games (outdoor, indoor and beach), and South Asian Games. Each Olympic and non-Olympic sport has a federation at the national level.

The selection of the national teams is done by the respective national federations and then recommend to IOA for official sponsorship for participation in the games conducted under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee, Olympic Council of Asia, Commonwealth Games Federation, and SAG. A special feature of the Indian Olympic Association is that the National Federations and the State Olympic Associations are affiliated with and recognised by it. The main task of the State Olympic Associations is to promote the Olympic sport and to ensure co-ordination among the State Sports Associations. In 2010–11, the total budget for sports and physical education schemes is 31,176.9 million (US\$480 million). Hockey, in which India has an impressive record with eight Olympic gold medals, is said to be the national sport [8]. The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and the Arjuna Award are India's highest awards for achievement in sports, while the Dronacharya Award is awarded for excellence in coaching.

India has been criticised for neglecting women in sports, as depicted in the film "Chak De! India", where women's sports associations are under-sponsored and out of funds.

1982 was a landmark year in Indian sports when India organized the Asian Games. Prior to 1982, hardly any emphasis had been given to sports in Public Policies. Funds had been allocated to sports in different Five Year Plans, mainly for building infrastructure and nurturing talents at the grass root level.

Table 1: An increase in allocation of funds for Sports in different Five Year Plans can be observed from the following table:

Five Year Plan	Duration	Allocation for Sports (INR million)
6 th	1980-1985	270
7 th	1985-1989	2,070
8 th	1992-1997	2,100
9 th	1997-2002	4,730
10 th	2002-2007	11,450
11 th	2007-2012	46,360

In spite of a significant increase in the allocation of fund, it is important to note that not more than one percent of total budget is allocated to sports. Hence, there is a scope of improvement in terms of fund allocation for the promotion and development of sports in this country.

Considering the developmental aspect of sports, the Panchyat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) had been introduced to generate sports culture at the grass root level. The objectives of the scheme are to provide sports infrastructure/ equipments at the Panchyat level and to encourage youth in rural areas to participate in sports. Various competitions are organized from block level to national level to achieve these objectives. Rs. 1,500 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission for this project in the 11th Five Year Plan and a budgetary allocation of Rs. 92 crore was provided in the scheme for 2008-09 while Rs. 160 crore was provided for 2009-10.

The effectiveness of these initiatives should be evaluated on the basis of the success of Indian athletes at the international level. It is relevant to mention that the result is not enough convincing. Therefore, a few recommendations can be made for making the system more effective.

Recommendations

- i. The allocation of funds to sport, as a percentage of budget, can be increased for broad-basing sports in this country.
- ii. Periodic evaluation of various projects initiated by the Government and Governmental organizations for making those initiatives more effective.
- iii. Integration of sports with education to introduce sports culture in India.
- iv. Sports is a state subject and therefore uniformity in sports specific activities of various states in India is extremely important for providing equal sporting opportunities to all the citizens of the country.
- v. A structure of good governance should be incorporated to make the system transparent and accountable.

Conclusion

As we see sports have traveled a long journey on the way of their upliftment in the Indian society. Government and Non-Government agencies have worked a lot for the broad basing of sports in the country, but a lot is to be done yet in this regard. People are also getting attracted toward games due to many incentives offered on various stages in the form of cash prizes, and reservation in jobs under sports quota etc. It is a good omen for the country that we are receiving positive results in all the sports especially in athletics. With such sincere efforts on the part of both government and public, we can hope that Indian Tri - colour will soar high because of sports achievements.

Best facilities are required for producing a best sportsman. The Govt. should come forward to build good avenues for the development of sports and games in our country. The funds allotted to the sports ministry in various States and the Union Government is always meagre. The Governments do not feel it necessary or important to provide adequate funds for sports. Even the funds allotted are seldom spent properly. The Sports Authorities in many states are mere ornamental organizations. They should be filled with people who have adequate knowledge of sports and interest to promote sports.

Even there are some active persons, what can they do with meagre funds.

References

1. <http://www.cppr.in/article/government-is-a-spoilsport/>
2. Sports Authority of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports – Government of India. [Sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in](http://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in). Retrieved 1 August 2010.
3. Indian Olympic Association. [Olympic.ind.in](http://olympic.ind.in). Retrieved 1 August 2010.
4. <http://yas.nic.in/writereaddata/linkimages/6831719428.pdf>
5. Dr. Ramakrishnan KS, Vidyalaxmi V, Dr. Sarathbabu V. Development Sports Profession As A Life Time Professional Career In Sports - A Prospective Study. *Shodh Sangam 2. special 2012, 248-255. Uttar Pradesh, India.* <http://shodhsangam.org/article/january-2012-special-issue-volume-2/8.html>. Retrieved 13 May 2015. External link in |publisher= (help)
6. Abhinav Bindra. wins 10m air rifle gold
7. Medalists. India, The official website of the Beijing Olympic Games, 2008.
8. New York Times. With India's First Gold, Suddenly a Billion People Notice the Olympics
9. mystery of the missing medals.
10. Track and failed: the making of a sleeping Olympic giant.