

Efforts Made by Government and Private sectors in India for Scouting and Promoting Sport Talent

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Abstract

Objectives were to find out various schemes of preparation of sport talented children and youth in India and to analyze different sports training program in India. This descriptive research involves a comparison of the various schemes of sports talented children in India. **Procedure of the study** was analyzing five governmental, three public sector and two private sector schemes of sports talented children in India, researcher unfolds their specialties. **Results & Discussion was** in India, all sports talent children were spotted in school or education based organizations. But many talented children who do not go to school might not be spotted. So Indian scenario of Sport Talented children is Education based and biased also. The career in sports is just like dream without education in India. Also no scheme apply all sports science like Intelligence test, Personality test etc. and the entire entrance test were westernized. No scheme educates the parent attitude, sports player's knowledge about sports and integrated system of sports and education in one campus, one authority head. An age criterion was from 8 years onwards, but before 8 years, no scheme provides basic education. There were some recommendations like indigenous entrance test, after age 14 years structure and objective evaluation of scheme.

Key words: - sports talented children, sports school

Introduction

Talent Identification

To prepare an international athlete who will achieve high performance, sports talent has to be hunt in early stage. A diamond shines only when cut and polished. So are sports talents. It is drawn out that talent search is designed to identify promising young athletes or players (12 years and older) and prepare them for participation in domestic, national and eventually international competition. The program utilizes information across all disciplines of sports sciences to identify young athletes with characteristics associated with elite performance. Athletes are then guided to sports and games that best suit their attributes and provided with the opportunity to realize their potential in a high quality talent development

program. Sports talent is the sum total of pre-requisites and possibilities of their development possessed by a person which will enable him to achieve high performance in a sport in future. The pre-requisites include motor abilities, technical skills, tactical efficiency, physique, personality traits, motives, interests etc. (Singh H. , 1983)

Talent identification process in India was initiated by Indian Sports Policies, some of which were stated below.

National Sports Policy, 2001, stated high priority will be accorded to the development of Sports in the rural areas to harness the available talent and potential. In this context, the Village Panchayats / Gram Sabhas as well as rural Youth and Sports clubs will be mobilized to facilitate development of the requisite infrastructure and **for the identification of talent through an appropriate competition structure in the rural areas as also in the disadvantaged and remote parts of the country** which appear to merit special consideration under various schemes including for the North East. Efforts will also be made for tapping such potential as swimming in coastal areas and Archery in tribal areas. **The available talent will be nourished and actively supported.**

Comprehensive Sports Policy 2007

Excellence in Sports: To achieve the highest levels of performance at the highest levels of international competition, a well-formulated, target-oriented and need-based approach will be adopted incorporating the following elements:

Ensuring fair and reasonable opportunities to all talented young sportspersons, irrespective of economic background, social origin, gender or regional location, to fully realize their potential, and win laurels for themselves and glory for the nation. This would also enable sports administrators to cast their net wide enough to spot talented young persons of both genders in different age groups in different games and sports from all over the country.

Talent scouting pool: SAI and every State government, educational institution and sports federation would be encouraged to create and maintain a pool of seasoned talent spotters to identify talented youngsters in different age brackets from the sub-district and district level competitions. Special emphasis would be given to identifying the disciplines that are most popular in certain areas or regions due to geographical or cultural reasons, including indigenous sports and games. Special

camps would be held to identify children below fourteen years of age with special motor and speed capabilities or with particular bone and muscle structure that is suitable for certain sports or games. It would be ensured that the selection base is kept large enough to cater for drop-outs.

Sports nurseries: Identified youngsters would be exposed to short-duration specialized coaching in sports nurseries in different disciplines to verify their potential and commitment, including the family support for a more structured and long-term training regime.

Significance of the study

In India various attempts have been made by Government bodies, Public and Private sector bodies, Non Governmental Organizations, Private Clubs and some schools to prepare sportsmen of national level in a limited number. These efforts or Sports Programs are as follows. For this purpose, researcher carried out “**Study of the Preparation of Sport Talented Children and Youth in India.**”

The main **purpose of this study** was to find out various schemes of preparation of sport talented children and youth in India and to analyze different sports training program in India.

Method

This study was a descriptive type of research. It provides a method of investigation to study, describe and interpret what exists at present. This descriptive research involved a comparison of the various schemes of sports talented children in India.

Preparation of Sports Talented Children - Indian Scenario

Government Agencies

SAI Training Centres (Sports Authority of India, 2012)

The Governing Body started in May, 1995 ‘SAI Training Centre, (STC) Scheme’. Objectives was to enable SAI to nurture junior sports talent scientifically who had attained excellence at Sub Junior level under NSTC Scheme and induct them into the STCs / Centres of Excellence, for further scientific and in-depth coaching on a long term basis. To attain these objectives, process was as follows.

- Selection of trainees is done on potential and performance basis. Trainees who are medal winners in State/National Level Competitions are automatically admitted into the Scheme subject to their being found medically fit. Trainees who are medal winners at District Level Competition or have participation in

State Level Competitions are admitted, subject to their being found fit medically or physically and also have the required potential which is assessed by battery of tests.

- Facilities provided to the trainees were boarding, sports kit, stipend, competition exposure, education expenses, medical, insurance and others.
- Age Criterion: Sports persons of age group of 14-21 years.

National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)

This Scheme was launched during 1985 for spotting talented young children in the age group of 8-14 years from schools and nurturing them by providing scientific training.

Objective of this scheme was to Play & Study in the same school with scientific scouting of talent at optimum age, essential for converting the genetically and physiologically gifted children into future medal hopes in various competitions at National and International levels. Under the Scheme, schools having good sports infrastructure and record of creditable sports performances are adopted by SAI. Trainees in the age group of 8-14 years are inducted under the scheme. Under this scheme, various sub- schemes were as follows

- Regular Schools (NSTC)
Facility is provided to adopted schools
- Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV)
To expand the coverage of sport talented sports in the age group 8-14 years
- Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA)

Objective of this scheme was to promote indigenous games and martial arts which are traditional, the schools in rural and semi urban areas are chosen for scouting of talent in these games. Under the Scheme, the scouting of talent in indigenous games and martial arts are done on the basis of open competitions organized for scouting and spotting of talent. The retention or weeding out of existing trainees was also on the basis of their performances in these competitions. For organizing competitions by adopted schools for scouting of talent, grant is made available by SAI towards meeting expenditure towards organizational expenses including rentals, medals, refreshments etc. In addition to this, the schools are also provided the services of experts for imparting training to the inmates subject to availability of coaches in the particular disciplines. Trainees in the Scheme are

provided with stipend, Sports Kit, apart from an annual grant to the school for purchase of sports equipment and for organizing competition for scouting of talent as well as insurance for its trainees. Indigenous games and martial arts in the disciplines of Archery, Athletic, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Kalariapayatu, Mukna, Silambam, Thangta, Thoda and Wrestling.

- Akharas

Objective was keeping in view the peculiar nature of wrestling, Akharas having minimum specified infrastructure such as a hall for wrestling/ hostel accommodation etc. are being adopted on the recommendations of the concerned State Government and Regional Director of SAI. Based on laid down norms 15-20 wrestlers per Akharas are selected and admitted

They are given assistance in the form of Wrestling mat and/or multigym stipend per trainee per month to supplement their diet.

- Sports Centres on the Pattern of Akharas

Objective was to encourage sports centres across the North Eastern States, J&K and other scheduled tribes area where schools, colleges, voluntary bodies and other block and village level organizations are running sports centres specially for disciplines such as Athletics, Judo, Wrestling, Boxing, Swimming and other recognized martial arts, sports centres were started in 2006. The adopted Akharas, in addition to the services of an experienced coach, is also provided required equipment as per norms. Further monthly stipend is also paid to the selected trainees. Sports disciplines covered in Sports Centres on the pattern of Akharas under the Scheme are Football, Judo, Hockey and Taekwondo.

Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (Sports Authority of India, 2012)

The main objective of the Scheme was to achieve excellence at international levels by making use of good infrastructure and efficient administrative and disciplined environment of the Army. The Scheme is a joint venture of the Army and Sports Authority of India. Boys in the age group of 8-16 years of age are inducted under the Scheme. After attaining the required age of 17.5 years, the trainees are also offered job in the Army.

The selection of trainees was done on potential and performance basis.

- State or National Medallist and District Medallist and qualifying battery test.

- For selection of raw talent from remote, tribal & coastal areas the trainees are also selected by organizing competitions among participants. Under this criterion, for both team as well as individual games, the participants are made to play and selection done by a Selection Committee consisting of representatives of SAI, Army & SMC coaches.
- The sports persons are identified on the basis of the Specific games or Skill tests, Age between 8 to 16 years, Battery of tests and Medical examination.

At present, there are 15 Centres in India wherein trainees are being trained, in the above mentioned disciplines.

Army Sports Institute (ASI) (Army Sports Institute, 2012)

In July, 2001 Army Sports Institute was established to tap vast talent pool of the Army, located on acres of lush green landscape in Pune. The Army Sports Institute is a unique, multi-disciplinary Sports Institute. The institute imparts training in seven sports: archery, athletics, boxing, diving, wrestling, fencing and weightlifting. Training is given by internationally renowned foreign & Indian coaches and qualified physical trainers of National Institute of Sports (NIS).

- Boys Sports Company (BSC)

At ASI the Boys Sports Company (BSC) enrolls young talent. Children (10 to 16 years of age) are selected after series of tests. They are provided free boarding, lodging, kit and education with assurance of enrolment in the Army on coming of age.

- From Army & Selected Civilians

The Institute draws its talent from the various Training Centres and Regiments of the Indian Army. Proven civilian talent are also taken and directly enrolled as Havildar (National Medallists) and as Junior Commissioned Officer (International Medallists). At ASI, primary intention is to produce sports talent in the pursuit of creating sportsperson of international (Olympic) standards, through our sports science based program. Training was designed in such a way that every sportsperson receives the technical, tactical, physical and mental training with an optimum learning environment to 'to win'.

Krida Prabodhini – Maharashtra State (Directorate of Sports and Youth Services Maharashtra State., 2008)

Under Governments of Maharashtra Sports Policy, to nurture the skills of various sports events, residential Krida Prabodhini was formed to provide the facilities to Students of 8-14 age groups. In this Krida Prabodhini, students are selected through Battery of Test, conducted on District, Zonal, & State level. The objective of the Krida Prabodhini is to develop players of international standards. It is required to adapt the alternative recruitment process to attract hardworking and skilled players. To develop more and more players of International and Olympic level, selection of skilful players and providing Technical & Scientific training, appropriate diet & modern sports facility and to develop a culture of sports and planned efforts.

Public Sector Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Sports School (Andhra Pradesh Sports School, 2006)

Andhra Pradesh Sports School Established by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in November, 1993 at Singaipally and Thoomkunta (V) of Shamirpet, A.P.

Aims: To nourish the children to excel at National and International Competitions

Vision: To achieve excellence in coaching and teaching, to preserve and generate the knowledge and talent, to cultivate and resolute the moral values, to develop and enhance the human resources, to improve the quality of life and contribute a sustainable development of the Region and Nation in harmonious with our culture, heritage and environment. Motto was Service to the Society through Sports. The school is running on totally residential pattern from IV class to Intermediate with A.P. State Syllabus (English Medium). Teacher - Student ratio is 1: 20. Master Plan of Sports Training Program in this school consisted nine years overall plan from std 4th to std 12th (age 9 - 17).

Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation Krida Prabodhini.

P.C.M.C. has also residential sports school "Krida Prabodhini". It provides the academic & sports facilities to nearly 130 students.

Private Sector Agencies

The great reputed and well established institutions have safeguarded traditional practices. Since they are unaware of modern science they are lagging behind in the competitive world. All the autonomous and Government organizations have limited independence in the fast changing and unstable political situation of the country. It is a general opinion that they lag behind in extensive study, far sighted

thinking, and selfless service. The resources are not utilized properly. A major portion of resources are spent on cricket which is played by only 12 countries in the world.

Usha School of Athletics (Usha School of Athletics, 2008)

Usha School of Athletics was formally inaugurated in May, 2002 at Koyilandy, Kerala.

The vision of U.S.H.A. was to nurture talent to achieve excellence in every field of athletics and to place India firmly on the international sports map.

Values were U.S.H.A. will pursue excellence while maintaining organizational and personal integrity and focusing on technological enhancement of talent. U.S.H.A. will develop talent based purely on merit, and will maintain transparency in all operations.

A 20 Crores Rupees project, the school, Usha says, would be the country's premier institute for training young talent. The Government of Kerala came out with an offer of 30 acres of land and a financial grant of 15 lacks for the project. Usha School was incepted in Koyilandy near Kozhikode on rented premises with twelve students. The students live and train under the guidance of P.T. Usha from day one based on a pre-planned time schedule in the school. At present, the school coaches eight trainees - all girls. The method of study, exercise, diet, psychological counselling attitude building etc. are carefully planned and scientifically devised with the help of internationally acclaimed experts in the respective fields. Teachers who know and understand their students, know their sports, and possess developmentally appropriate philosophies help nurture the budding talents. A full time Certified Athletic Trainer provided medical care to their athletes.

Kridakul Program of Jnana Prabodhini, Pune

The Kridakul Program of Jnana Prabodhini, Pune is the Nursery of India's Future Gold Medallists which was started in 1998 at Jnana Prabodhini Navnagar Vidyalaya, Nigdi, Pune. It is a special sports school which is committed to prepare sportsmen of national and international calibre. This needs a separate education system. There are some limitations for the normal schools, as they have to maintain a balance in studies and sports. The Kridakul Program is trying to set up an independent educational system with the aim of grooming sportspersons. They

have started from standard Fifth. There is a separate division of selected students and they are trying to keep all the obstacles away from their daily routine. To give minute attention towards all the students, the number of students selected in a class is restricted to 30.

Conclusions and Findings

- There is no sports scheme in India concentrating on cognitive development (i.e knowledge and understanding of sports) of an athlete.
- There is no integrated sports scheme available in India which caters education and sport for career in one campus under one authority head. Athlete needs to change institute for higher education as there is no facility available in campus.
- All schemes in India have common objective of producing sports talented players of international level.
- All government sports talent children training schemes are based on their school or organizational level structure like Army, for age group 8 to 14 years and country wide spread. (not local level)
- All schemes in India are having entrance test criteria like Battery test for Physical fitness, medical examination. But except Kridakul Program, no other schemes have Intelligence test.
- Major government schemes are only for sports medallist players at district, state or national level.
- All government schemes in India provide stipend, food, sports kit, training equipment and coaching with rewards also. Schemes from army provide service also.
- USHA scheme was for only athletics. It was focused scheme. (like private club)
- Major government schemes are residential type and funded strongly.
- All public and private sector schemes actually train from basics. As they nurture talented players and not directly admit the medallist players but the case is not same with the government schemes..

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