

Sport, an Empowering Force for Indian Female Players: The Opportunities and Social Constraints

Dr. Sadhna Srivastava
PDF, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology, FSS
BHU, Varanasi

Abstract :

The present paper attempts to shed light on the women's players status and highlights the triumphs, challenges and opportunities those have been facing by Indian female players since prolong. The aim of this study is to find out the major social- cultural constraints and major motivational and promoting factors that play a crucial role to fill the gender discrimination gap by Indian female players. The study has focused on reaching a solution to social and cultural barriers that retard women from free participation in sports, with a liberated mind-set. More specifically, the present study try to find out the constraint perceived by female players in their sports participation and explore the factors responsible for gender discrimination in sports. The present study has guided by Social Identity theory and Social Dominance theory. Several other theories are also employed to develop the aforesaid theories and construct a suitable theoretical framework for present research.

Despite numerous policies by governments to promote Indian female sportspersons in all forms of life, it has noted by researchers that the participation of women players are still fewer in sport activities. The focus of this study is to find out the major socio- cultural barriers and major motivational and promoting factors that play a crucial role to fill the gender discrimination gap by Indian female players. There are limited academic researches those have been done on the gender discrimination especially on the discrimination in sports especially in Indian Context. Women faced several challenges that retarded them from actively participating in sport. Some researches have identified the social barriers, but these have not come up with strategies to remove the barriers that disturb women from fully taking part in sport whether at familial,

community and national level. In India, there is more coverage for male athletes in various sports but it has not followed in the case for female athletes.

In view of the above, the present investigation has planned to throw reasonable light on the various pointers of Indian sports women with the specific objectives:

1. To identify the major factors those have inspired Indian female players to achieve the socio-economic upliftment and to create a new identity in sports and games by gaining worldwide recognition.
2. To analyze the crucial social barriers and to identify the hidden social constraints, that retard women from participating in sports and games since prolong span.
3. To review the role of mass media, public policies and performance of Self-Help-Group for the Indian women and girls players.

This study would not explain the different type of sports but the main objective of this study is to just investigate the factors which are responsible for gender biasness or which are the further causes for gender discrimination and restrict women participation in area of sports. The main research question of this study is to investigating the social - cultural barriers and to find out the major factors those have fill the gender discrimination gap in sports field. The present study is based on the secondary sources. The study would be qualitative as well as quantitative in nature. The main tools of this study is to focus on various case studies of Indian female players. The research is also based on content analysis. Secondary data has been collected from books, thesis, journals, related bulletins, articles, magazines, newspaper and other reports, centre for monitoring Indian economy, planning and development documents, census and internet etc.

The paper has reviewed above are relating micro to macro level and they are dealing with higher participation of Indian women players. The studies on Indian Women players are either at the international level or at the national level and the studies at the micro cum macro level are scanty. The available studies are related to find out the crucial social barriers and to identify the hidden social constraints, that retard women from participating in sports and games since prolong span.

Keywords: Indian Female Players, Sports and Games, Social constraints, well-being, self-esteem, social inclusion, Gender equality and Gender disparity, Socio-Economic Development, Mass Media, New Identity, Gender Discrimination, Indian Orthodoxy and Patriarchy.