

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE UNIVERSITIES OF KARNATAKA STATE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON SPORTS PERFORMANCE AMONG UNIVERSITY SPORTSPERSONS

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This study was conducted with the purpose of identifying the available infrastructure facilities in the Karnataka universities and the factors influencing the university sportspersons related to their performance. The possible areas of identification were playing equipment, play field, available of grants for organize inter-collegiate and inter- university level of tournament or competitions, providing playing kits to the sportspersons and incentives to the national achievers, an effort was done to recognize the role of coaches and the clashes of dates of internal examinations are conducted in the colleges with the dates of university sports calendar, award of grace marks for the internal-examinations to the athletes participating in the inter-collegiate or inter-university tournaments/ competitions are the major influence of the athletes and thereby escalating their already existing performance conditions.

- The tools for this study was the questionnaire which included open form, according to needs and requirements of this study which relevant questions for identifying causing factors performance in university sportspersons. The questionnaire was finalized after getting it duly approved and modified on the basis of suggestions of experts in physical education both in India and abroad.
- The subjects of this study were six major universities as respondents belonging to Karnataka state, from which suggestions and opinions were collected from the concerned University Administrators/Director of Physical Education during the year 2007-08 to 2011-12. The five years of data was collected from University of Mysore (Mysore), Bangalore University (Bangalore), Karnataka University (Dharwad), Gulbarga University (Gulbarga), Kuvempu

University (Shimogga) and Mangalore University (Mangalore). The analyses and interpretation of the results were carried out in the form of tables and graphs.

Sports Achievement

- This area might have to be looked in a serious matter to develop and assist to the sportspersons to improve their performance, which could be done by participating in more and more competitions, so as to get a chance to perform and reach the elite achievement.
- In this context it has to be noted that the university were providing the full fledged facilities in the field of sports to a great extent hence alleviating the sports tensions of the athletes by systematically promoting, or sponsoring an athlete, but these facilities should be provided compulsorily by the institution.

Universities

- Another major hurdle affecting the performance of an athlete's is the lack of coaching facilities provided by the institution. Neither there are sufficient coaches appointed in the colleges, nor there are adequate coaches being provided for each game. Only a few games are provided with coaches. This is a media direct link with university, athletes were shown their best performance at inter-collegiate level that has to carry up to the inter-university level, after some extent is alleviated by the employment of coaches from outside agencies. This is usually done so as to provide coaching facilities to prepare the team or athletes for the competition. Lack of coaches and long term coaching facility are major factors for upcoming sportsperson to adopt regular practice for proper execution of skills.
- Even though all the universities are providing facilities of jerseys, TA and DA, during the coaching and competition session university will not provide sophisticated accommodation. But, still they are expecting better performance from the sportspersons at inter-university competition. Usually the organizers provide unfurnished accommodation,

many a times accommodation will be provided in the dormitory and this is barely suitable for better performance. Similarly grace marks for the sportspersons are not provided in most of the colleges and the athlete has to attend one more examination to get pass over the subject.

- Lack of incentives, grace marks and scholarships negatively impact sport participation. Participation in sport may not hold much significance, thus reducing practice time and seriousness in competition. In India, usually sport is not taken as a profession; ultimately it is the academic qualification that provides bread and butter for the athletes. If facilities like grace marks and scholarships are not provided, sportsmen in the instance of not succeeding in sports up to the expected level and who are usually poor in studies will be left without a career either in sport or in studies. Therefore academic incentives are essential to reduce the tension of the sportsmen and allow them to concentrate more on sport.

Performance Factors

- Some of the factors directly affect to the performance. All the universities of Karnataka state have sufficient sports equipment for training and coaching of sportspersons in the coaching camps hosted by the universities so that the sportspersons can efficiently participate in the south zone as well as All India Inter-University competitions especially in athletics. This type of facilities has to be provided for the athletes not only in the coaching camps but also during their regular practice sessions. If this occurs, then we can surely expect best performances from the athletes.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the discussions and findings of the study the following conclusions can be drawn and measures to combat the performance enhancing factors can be prescribed.

Researcher has clearly shown the infrastructure facilities available in the Universities of Karnataka State. Normally all the Universities have indoor facilities to provide regular coaching as well as practice, for coaching camps at university level or may be to conduct Inter-Collegiate competition and selection trials. Hence all the universities of Karnataka state have playfield except for boxing and squash, since these two facilities need more financial assistance and less member of sportspersons participate in the state, hence no university has shown any interest in providing these facilities.

All the universities belonging to Karnataka State have fulfilled their basic needs of sports infrastructure facilities, for the purpose of conducting all sorts of sports activities in the universities. It shows that, in All India Inter-University competitions, our teams as well as individual events have brought laurels to the Universities. This has been possible, as all the universities have fulfilled their minimum infrastructure facilities in their respective campus.

In the case of athletic track facilities available in the universities of Karnataka states, it is clear that no university in Karnataka have 400 meters standard synthetic track to compete in the modern technology, but only 66 percent of them have mud track and 16 per cent have cinder tracks in the same case. This facility provided by the university, is not up to the mark for the future sportspersons to prepare the sportspersons to participate in the inter-university competition and hence expecting qualitative result is highly impossible.

The first and foremost is the lack of competitions and poor participation at the national level, and also the years of sport participation is not at the required levels. The reason for this could be that the athletes start at an older age due to lack or absence of proper guidance. It is an agreed fact that an athlete matures with competition and therefore to tackle such a situation it should be ensured that the sportspersons gets an exposure into sports at an earlier age. Additionally the sports coaches, incentives, grace marks, cash awards as for the achievement in the national competition and teams should be allowed to participate in the inter-university competition, which can persuaded the athlete financially and morally to participate in more number of competitions and can result in making the athlete compete at the national level.

It would be beneficial to the talented sportspersons if educational institutions spot them and take them under its wing regarding financial and coaching assistance. Similarly educational agencies, government and private agencies could educate the people about the job opportunities that sports might provide their children and thereby upgrade their economic subsistence. Another suitable way to lighten the load of the sportspersons with poor economic conditions would be to find sponsors or try to get government assistance by getting admissions into sports hostels etc.

There by promoting the talented athletes and ensuring that such athletes do not fall by the wayside for the want of promoters. Similarly the clubs and associations need to provide psychological and other auxiliary sources of support through periodical counseling, access to expert and accomplished coaches and above all, more number of competitions.

The availability of Velodrome cycling track, in our Karnataka cycling sports persons are few, even though Bijapur district has more cyclist participating in the national tournaments. But in south-zone and all Indian Inter-University competitions, the number of participants in the competitions in Karnataka Universities, out of five recorded years was zero, this is the main

reason, why no university tried to have a velodrome stadium. This stadium may not be useful for the other sports activity and also the construction of stadium itself needs huge investment.

Universities should try to make way for the athletes so as to have a smooth carrier. Though they do their utmost in trying to support the athlete, he is facing as a result of lack of ancillary support such as boarding facilities or direct support such as provision of coaches. Though it is not clear that the facilities are up to the standards or not, it is found that the numbers of coaches appointed are not at all sufficient. The institutions and universities should go one step ahead and try to support the talented athletes either by directly providing coaches or at least by assisting the athlete to get access to better coaching by sponsoring or allowing him/her to take coaching under an expert coach with the universities financial support. Similarly the athletes could be given special scholarships to support themselves and it could be ensured that comfortable lodging and boarding facilities are provided during competitions. It would be wonderful from the sportspersons point of view if full time coaches at least in the most popular games be appointed in the institutions and universities so that there is no dearth of guidance for the talented athletes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This Study is a pioneer in finding out the relative infrastructure facilities in the universities to contribute to the field of sports and games to utilize service and enhance their performance by the sportspersons, which an athlete of reasonable stature, in this case an Inter-University participant, is subjected to. Colleges are the foundation stones for the future of any nation and the health of the youth is a sound indicator of the development of that nation. Thus the role of University sportspersons in furthering the sports ambitions of it state and nation is all the more important. In this context the identification of available infrastructure and conduct nation and inter-collegiate tournament or competition and organization of coaching camps in the campus as well as facilities provided for the inter-university participate and awarding grace marks for the internal

examinations were creating lot of problem to the sportspersons. If the university provides all the facilities, a new history may be created in the field of sports to attract more number of sportspersons and encourage them to achieve as well as enhance their performance to represent national and inter-national competitions. Additionally further studies could be done to find out similar conditions on different populations and in allied contexts. Therefore the following recommendations are made:

1. All the parents should realize that, representing the university is the base on which their children's future sports achievements can be built up on.
2. This study can be taken as the guideline for the Directors of Physical Education in the universities to assess the sportspersons
3. A similar study may be conducted for Medical and Technical Universities separately.
4. A similar study may be conducted for Indian universities, coaches and trainers to find out the level of achievement and the problems they are facing in their day to day functioning of promoting sports in their respective universities and areas.
5. Noting that sport and physical education in many countries have increase marginalization within education systems. They are a major tool not only for health and physical development but also for acquiring values necessary for social cohesion and inter-cultural dialogue, studies could be done on the different roles that sports play and influences the educational system.
6. Studies could be done to assist the role of sport and availability of infrastructure for all thus furthering their development programs and policies, to advance health awareness, the spirit of achievement and to entrench collective values of sports and education.
7. An investigation could be done to recognize the contribution of sport towards the encouragement of building and restarting of sports infrastructure.
8. To further promote sport and physical education infrastructure on the basis of locally accessed needs, as a tool for health, education and social development.

9. This study can contribute towards strengthening cooperation and partnership between all members including government bodies, Human Resource Development, and University Grant Commission, in order to ensure complementarities and infrastructure available to everyone.
10. The same study can be conducted for each and every university separately to find the exact reason for fall of performance and percentage of level of performance on the basis of their games/events.
11. Similar studies could be done on sportsmen participating in team games and in individual games, so as to improve their performance.