



## Sports participation of Women: Need for an inclusive policy for women sport

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### **Abstract**

*Gender ratios in sport remain highly unequal across the globe there is a urgent need for reduce the reduce the marginalization of women in sport activities an integrated approach towards increasing their participation in sports should be implemented. Gender participation in sports is a multi-dimensional topic which needs a review very immediately. All stake holders in the community should make this point & help the government to frame polices which are beneficial in bridging this gender gap. Women can contribute towards bridging this gap in sports arena by their active involvement all government policies go in vain when women do not understand & identify the significance of their participation. Western countries have come up with various research studies over enhancing women participation in sports .But in India such a developmental research has not geared up. The approach to women's empowerment can be considered through augmenting women participation in sporting events. But creation of a safe & secure sport atmosphere is also a dire necessity. Women can help themselves through public private partnerships in women sports.*

**Key words:** *Gender deprivation, increasing, Unequal access, Gender participation, government policy, public private partnership*

### **Introduction**

Gender participation in sports is a multi-dimensional topic which needs a review. Indian government is proposing women empowerment through a series of welfare measures .Government is persuading all stake holders in the community to strive towards women empowerment in every possible way. The government has taken serious steps to augment the women participation in sporting events. It has been

framing polices which are beneficial in bridging this gap.

Women inclusion in all sporting activities will ensure proper propagation, proliferation & rejuvenation of sport. Their approach to women's empowerment can be considered through sporting event is a new phenomenon which is being considered by countries across the globe. Women's participation in all categories of sporting activities can promote the application of practical skill as it enables them to acquire



individual competency, team building, personality building & health improvement. This facilitates in women empowerment, empowerment of community & socio cultural inclusion with confirmatory consequences. (Report of the Sports Authority in India - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports 2013).

### Areas of concern

1. Gender participation in sports events remains marginal
2. Gender participation in some selected sports are very insufficient
3. Gender participation in sports needs a review
4. Gender participation in sports should be enhanced through policy

### Shortfalls of Government / Sport Organization

1. Absence of women sports journalists , women sports commentators , women sports analysts , women sports columnists , women sports media reporters etc.
2. Absence of committed women sport personnel like coaches , trainers, managers , wardens
3. Absence of women sports channels / mass communication operates.
4. Ill management of women sports fields / sports equipments / sports resources
5. Lack of sport facilities hostels ,academies, universities, colleges meant only for women
6. Lack of technical inputs to women sports

7. Negligence towards rural /tribal / aboriginal / indigenous sports where women participate
8. No structural support to pursue women sports as a career option
9. No support for sports as inclusive growth for women
10. No timely organization of women sporting fests/ events/ meets
11. Non consideration of women sports as an alternate educational source
12. Paucity of funds to establish sports as a parallel capacity building aptitude for women
13. Poor funding for women sports even at local / village / district /state levels

Women sports can improve when women become aware of their capabilities. ( Ramkrishna . H .The Emerging Role of NGOs in Rural Development of India). Their involvement needs to augment through universal awareness programs , orientations, audio visual clippings etc.

### Global Steps

The Fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Sport and Physical Education moved forward by adopting a proposal for the creation of an 'Observatory of Women, Sport and Physical Education. The establishment of the UNESCO Observatory was approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO in its 175 Session. UNESCO is cooperating with the Government of Greece in



the establishment of this web-based Observatory to gather, analyze, organise, and disseminate information worldwide. (UNESCO Report 2012)

### **Indian Government Steps towards Improving**

Indian government & nonprofit organizations are taking following steps to improve

1. Promoting the integration of gender issues within the policies of sport so that women can participate without any hassles.
2. Raising awareness to women on the importance of guaranteeing a safe and healthy environment for women involved in sport.
3. precise actions must be taken for gender mainstreaming through documentaries , real life achievers galleries short films etc
4. Taking the support of media in the diffusion of this positive information & making the media to spot light women sport events & highlights their achievements.
5. The establishment of quality physical education programmes through formative schooling period & creating an awareness of young women to the advantages they can get through the practice of sport (Bharat Jhunjunwala and Madhu Jhunjunwala – Indian approach to women’s empowerment 2013).
6. The participation of women in sport should be guaranteed of a safe and healthy environment
7. State & central governments should extend financial support to research within the field of women’s sport
8. Introducing women sport as a subject of study with theoretical implications will help women to realize the concept of women sport & its significance (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014).
9. The feminization of ruling bodies proves to be a main element for a policy leading to stronger diversity within the sport movement.
10. The introduction of quotas in view to assuring the participation of women in ruling bodies appears as an efficient way to eradicate this discrimination. (Bharat Jhunjunwala and Madhu Jhunjunwala – Indian approach to women’s empowerment 2013).
11. Recognizing and rewarding sporting successes through Award of Excellency to women sports students’ needs to be enhanced .
12. Government can start capacity-building initiatives for selected women athletes & sports players , to identify & accrue the benefits conceived through sporting activities



Gender ratios in sport remain highly unequal around the globe. There is an urgent need to reduce the marginalization of women within the sport milieu and to increase their participation in sport programmes. (Report Of The Sports Authority In India - Ministry Of Youth Affairs & Sports 2014 ).

Gender dimension within sport policies remains marginal and even insufficient. This integration of gender issues within public actions in favour of sport and the attribution funds must reduce the marginalization of women within the process of sport development, increase their participation within sport programmes, and throughout their implementations. ( The Report Of The Sports Authority In India - Ministry Of Youth Affairs & Sports 2013 & 2014).

A sport system that provides quality sporting experiences, where women and girls are actively engaged and equitably supported in a full range of roles. women and girls should have meaningful opportunities to become involved in and develop in sport according to their interests, abilities, talents and choices,

1. *Strategic Leadership* – proactive promotion of complementary measures to strengthen quality sport experiences for women and girls through participation in multilateral and bilateral instruments
2. *Program Improvement* – alignment and refinement of

programs and activities to enable sport organizations and other sport system stakeholders to deliver innovative quality sport experiences for women and girls;

3. *Awareness* – promoting the benefits for individuals and organizations of meaningful involvement of women and girls; and
4. *Knowledge Development* – expansion, use and sharing of knowledge, practices and innovations concerning the sport experiences of women and girls through research and development.

Conclusion- A sport system that provides quality sport experiences, where women are actively engaged and equitably supported is the need of the hour .All women should have meaningful opportunities to become involved in and develop in sport according to their interests, abilities, talents and choices, throughout a lifetime's involvement. The element of progression in women sports field can only be achieved with a better understanding of & management of common sustainable concerns and shared responsibilities towards community development & sustainability.

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