


Casket Literaria



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PREFACE


The realm of Arts contains an enormous range of ideas, theories, perceptions, interpretations, critical analysis etc. Keeping this in view, as to make it helpful for the learners of GEMS Arts and Science College, this book titled "Casket Literaria" on Arts analyses a variety of subjects in the best way helping the Learners or faculties art related Research Works and thereby the future course of their Life. This venture can, indeed, ensure an advanced level of supports with selected subjects coming under the Purview of Arts.

Casket Literaria is a collection of varied articles of the well experienced faculties which published under the strict scrutiny of the Expert Committee appointed by the Management Governing Council. Hence quality and relevance on the content of the book have been ensured. The contents includes Social issues, Literature, Creativity, analytical study, views and previews on different matters and so on. Special care also has given to keep the entries correct with the incessant change being taken place in the day today life of the society. Besides, this edition has equally considered the new google generated Era's nature and scope in Art works.

Indeed Art, like life itself, opens the unfathomable depth of the possibilities for any learner or researcher of the coming future as well.

DR. Mohammed Nazeer. K.E.




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GENDER AND SPORTS: QUESTION OF EQUITY AND WOMEN ATHLETES

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Though studies on sports and gender inequality in India indicate visible transformative and inclusive changes, the field of sports is still dominated by gender dualism. Additionally, an intersectional perspective addresses the semi-feudal and caste-based social structure, sports and exemptions in these studies. In a state with a semi-feudal and caste-based social structure, sports become an elite activity. The growth of an inclusive sports culture is inhibited by corruption, nepotism, inaccessibility, inequality and prejudices associated with the field. Hence, it is high time to address gender and sports from a politically sensitive, intersectional perspective. Participants belonging to underprivileged positions are discouraged and thus systemically expelled from pursuing sports professionally. This study tries to bring to light the discrimination and injustice perpetrated against women athletes belonging to the underprivileged class and caste in self-financing colleges in Kerala. A holistic, inclusive and equity-based education system becomes a utopian idea for the students belonging to the underprivileged sections under private colleges that fail to provide coaching and assistance, specifically to women athletes. By using the case study method for this study, this paper will be able to address the insensitivity, neglect and lack of provision of infrastructure, a safe environment for women athletes to explore their potential.

INTRODUCTION

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisages

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equitable and inclusive education for all, with a special focus on children and youth, especially girls, from socially and economically disadvantaged groups. NEP's vision seems to be unrealistic and far-reaching as far as struggling students in private institutions are considered. In a state with a semi-feudal and caste-based social structure, sports become an elite activity. The growth of an inclusive sports culture is inhibited by corruption, nepotism, inaccessibility, inequality and prejudices associated with the field. Hence, it is high time to address gender and sports from a politically sensitive, intersectional perspective.

Sports is a universal, holistic activity that plays a vital role in the holistic development of a person. Multi-purposed, sports are not limited to mere recreation, and considered as a parameter when calculating the overall development of society. Headlines of success that capture the limelight is still haunted by the regressive nature of system rather than the inclusivity. Alongside the lack of sports culture, the existing prejudices and patriarchal cultural norms inhibit the potential growth and advances of women athletes in India. Sports as a profession is a thought that is still marginalised, and elitist from a socio-economic perspective. Despite the patriarchal nature of sports, the rising number of female athletes indicates a radical change in general attitude towards sports culture. Female athletes belonging to underprivileged sections of society are discouraged and systemically expelled from pursuing sports professionally owing to various cultural factors including the stigma associated with women in the field. Hence, the challenges become multi-folded in the case of female athletes from disadvantaged socio-economic conditions studying in Kerala's various unaided/self-financing arts and science colleges. In addition to the prejudices, female athletes face neglect and trivialisation by the college administration with regard to coaching. The study further investigates the impact of male-dominated coaching spaces among female athletes and the attitude of male coaches towards female athletes.

Sports in Self-Financing Colleges

Self-finance/ unaided college play vital role in the field of Indian higher education. They differ from state and state



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funded institutions on the basis of grants, financial assistance and benefits. A self-financed college does not receive any financial aid from the Central Government or from the State Government. Additionally, it receives no forms of grants or financial assistance from University Grants Commission. Therefore a self-financing college solely depends on the fees paid by the students enrolling in various courses. Often, these colleges are run by single individuals or groups in forms of charitable or related trusts. They also receive funds from the external organisations and individuals. Ironically, private sector owing to its capitalist nature is profit oriented, consequently education is commodified.

Academic and unacademic area within Self-financing colleges in Kerala requires immediate attention. Matters regarding the faculties and students are often disregarded and rarely represented in academia. The organisational autonomy, multi-dimensional forms of exploitation and discrimination recurrent in these institutions receives less public attention. Though private self-financing colleges contribute to the educational economy of the state in more or less same degrees, the welfare and concerns of students, more often than not does not frequent the limelight. Recent the studies on culture of unaided self-financing colleges indicates a lack of cordial relationship between students, colleagues and management.

The paper summarises the result of an investigation on the gender discrimination faced by female athletes from under privileged backgrounds in terms of coaching in context of selected self-financing colleges of Kerala. The study investigates the organisational factors which affect female athletes. Majority of the institutions that claimed to be inclusive and gender sensitive failed to achieve its goal when it comes to sports. Underprivileged female athletes are systemically alienated within the institution due to the existence of systemic barriers, which includes masculinised working environment, lack of female co-participants, lack of female coaches etc. Though some of these female athletes, have been taken into custody of private coaches, most suffering from insufficient economic stability, takes accountability on themselves and their inability to have private coaching rather than challenging the administration to



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provide them sufficient infrastructure.

The athletes suggested the lack of sufficient infrastructure, unavailability of gadgets etc. Most of the female athletes who specialises in track and field, complaints of the insufficient training gadgets along with the unavailability of proper tracks or constructed play environment for basic training. Students of private colleges are confined within the administrations rigid rules are regulation which is not a hindrance to students in government or aided educational institutions. Contrary to the popular belief that economically affluent students might be the majority that may opt for self financing colleges, the reality is otherwise. Majority of the aided and government colleges in Kerala are filled by students with high marks from affluent families. The students that remains belongs to middle class family with socio economic disadvantage chooses self-financing colleges, under the unavailability of govt colleges.

The socio-economic factors influence the admission and success rate of students. Self-financing colleges, under a private ownership primarily focuses on profit depending on the generation of income through students. Those students who belong to socially and economically disadvantaged group seeking admission in colleges fully depend on the college for the infrastructure. Yet, the failure from the administration leaves the athletes helpless and deprived. In addition, the athletes also strive to overcome the discouragement from family and relatives in general, owing to the stereotypical prejudice associated with women in field in particular.

In place of a democratic a rather autocratic approach of the self-financing colleges creates a fear within the minds of the demanding athletes. Scared of the collateral damage most difficulties are left unchallenged, moreover accepted, by the athletes. Consequently, the underprivileged students in self-financing colleges could be considered as the most vulnerable students in field of higher education with their agency for protest, even those at times of human right violation, becomes a unaffordable privilege in itself.

Most of the colleges were found to recruit no trainer as part of physical education. Majority of the coaches are males. The



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patriarchal mindset regarding the physical inferiority could be accounted for as a major reason behind the systemic neglect and discouragement by majority of the college administrations.

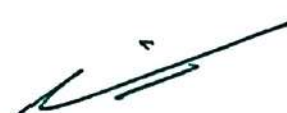
Coaching and gender discrimination

Coaching in sports is a domain that has still been overrepresented by men. Inability of male coaches to engage with female athlete with full efficiency has been discovered as one of the major hurdles that restricts athletes from accessing sports (MacKinnon, 2011; Norman & French, 2013). Coach-athlete exchanges are shaped by assumptions and ideas about coaching and teaching relationships. Interactions are complex because sport makes a number of (at times competing) demands on participants. Varying individual characteristics increase this complexity. Yet within this multifaceted context, gender relations appear constant and problematic, particularly with respect to coaching. Evidence suggests that while male and female athletes share many similarities in what they want and prefer in terms of their coaching needs and expectations, there are specific nuances and differences that must be understood to facilitate an effective relationship. Furthermore, the evidence also suggests that male coaches, unwittingly, play a role in the perpetuation of the stereotype of women as the less able, less competitive and frailer athlete.

Accounts from the female athletes are no different from that which was founded by Felton and Jowett (2013), according to which male coaches tend to have a winning mentality towards the male participants, while females athletes are treated leisurely with a 'try your best mentality', which insinuates a bias undermining of the female athletes' competency. The athletes also associate the general underestimation which reflects in the policies of the college administration which doesn't give due importance to the field and female athletes in general.

The research also suggests that, male coaches has a greater preference towards assisting male athletes than females, in case of a common coach for all categories. "Every girl, no matter where she lives, no matter what her circumstance, has a right to learn. Every leader, no matter that he or she is or




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the resources available to him or her, has a duty to fulfil and protect this right." (Malala Yousafzai, 2016). Hence, the gap in men-women ratio with regards to coaches also tends out to be one among the many multidimensional barriers confronted by female athletes. Research also indicated unavailability of female coaches in educational institutions. Similar to that of many European nations, there is a lack of underrepresentation of women coaches in educational institutions. Organisational autonomy of self-financing colleges discourages athletes from further demanding the implementation of sufficient coaches, maintaining female representation.

The research shows that the general tendency is no different than in European nations in the case of women coaches across all fields of sports. According to a report commissioned by the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (2011), women coaches tend to attend sports that are primarily less masculine. On the other hand, male coaches are overrepresented in areas that are primarily considered masculine and preferred by men. Self-financing colleges report the unavailability of female coaches which confirms the larger speculation that sports, in general, is trivialised and limited to a recreational activity, if not for women. This acute unbalance may be explained by stereotypical perceptions about coaching being a male (professional) occupation requiring traditional masculine traits and by a prevailing hegemonic masculinity in sports settings. Indeed, research indicates that the masculinist culture of sports is segregating female athletes. Consequently, their motivation and self-assurance are brought down.

CONCLUSION


Participation in sports is primarily considered to be a masculine activity. Female athletes have to overcome this mentality grounded in a patriarchal mindset, deeply rooted within themselves and have to struggle with it within the family and relatives. On a personal level, the athletes. Participation in sports helps women in many diverse aspects and keeps them fit and healthy besides it enhances their cognitive abilities and their endurance which will help them to keep working all day



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long. The study also finds that in addition to the above-discussed constraints and socio-economic disadvantage, female athletes are affected psychologically as well. The discrimination and lack of support indicate fear of failure, lack of confidence, self-esteem, lack of achievement motivation etc. which demotivates the athletes from pursuing sports and manifesting their potential in successful ways. Campaign for all women sport's participation should encouraged in schools, colleges and universities. The government should conduct an awareness programme for women's sports participation and for their encouragement. These findings evidence the need to include a greater focus on gender-responsive coaching.




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