

Sports in Children's Lives

Does India's New Sports
Policy Create New
Opportunities for Youth?



The Other India

- ✦ Poverty is still an issue. India's global hunger index has not improved much: Only 8.7 per cent in the last 20 years.
- ✦ Hundreds of thousands of children are still out of school.
- ✦ Child labour is a persistent problem.
- ✦ Bias against girls persists.



Sports in School and College

- ◆ Only half the primary school in the country have playing fields (VII All India Educational Survey 2002)
- ◆ Access to playing fields in secondary schools has actually gone down in the last 5 years.
- ◆ The high point of competitive sports is surprisingly at the 7-9th grades!
- ◆ Participation declines as the levels--interschool, district level, state meets--increase. Between interschool and district level participation declines by 80 per cent – that is proportionately.

----Chelladurai, P and others, 2003: Sport in Modern India: Policies, Practices and Problems in Manga J.A and Fan Hond edited *Sport in Asian Society*, CASS.

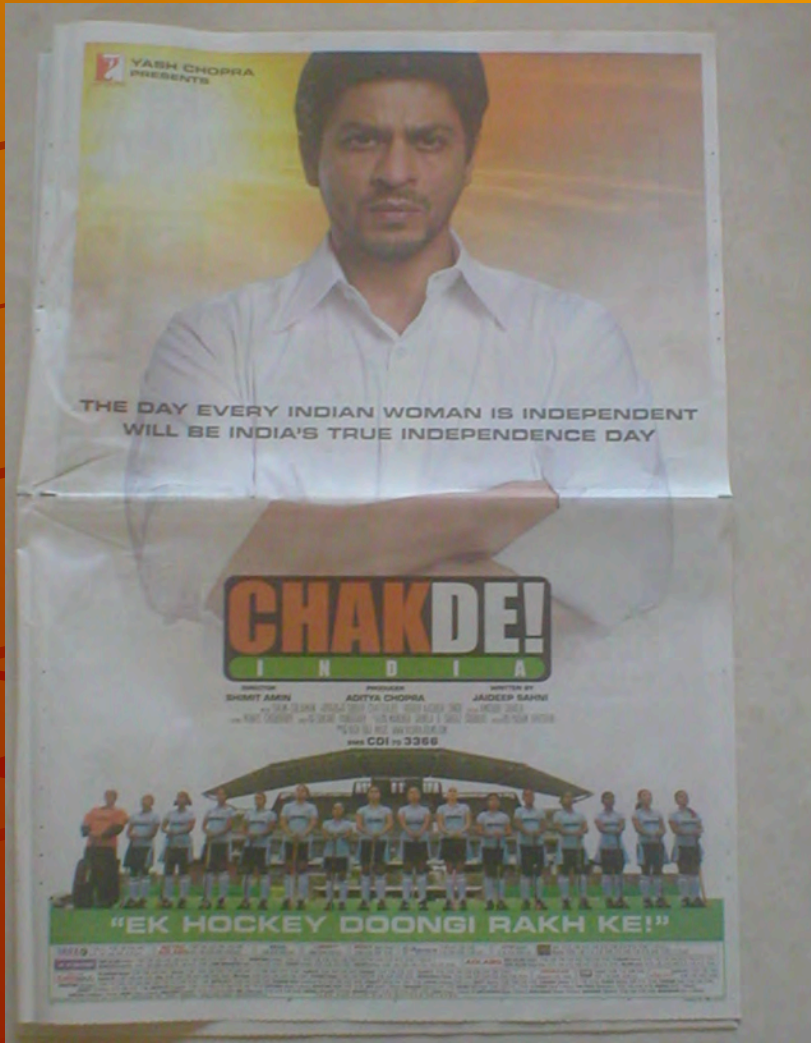
The Analysis I

No	Description	No
1	No of items on local sports	69
2	Percent of items <10 col cm	49
3	Percent covering boys school football	80
4	No of items covering college (over 16 years)	0
5	No of items covering women's sports	16

The Analysis II

- ◆ The Mumbai newspaper, DNA, has 40% more items > 25 col cm.
- ◆ 14 of the 16 women's sports items were about Sania Mirza's tennis achievements. The other 2 were about sports politics.
- ◆ There were other local events going on like off-season road races and women only events.
- ◆ As a rule, newspapers do not send reporters to local meets. They depend on press releases.

Media Case Study: Women's Hockey



Draft Sports Policy 2007: The Preamble

- ✦ The draft is based on the recommendations of Ministerial Parliamentary Standing Committee that points to:
 - ✦ • the lack of sports culture in the country;
 - ✦ • the non-integration of sports with the formal education system;
 - ✦ • the lack of coordination between all stakeholders;
 - ✦ • the inadequacy of sports infrastructure;
 - ✦ • the inadequate participation of women in sports; and
 - ✦ • the lack of effective sports systems for talent identification

Draft Sports Policy 2007: The Preamble

- ✦ It, therefore, recognizes the need for sport to permeate all sections of society and become a way of life.
- ✦ The Policy aims at adopting a holistic approach to sports development taking into account the health benefits, recreation benefits, educational benefits, social benefits, economic benefits and source of national pride that it offers.

How it addresses youth issues

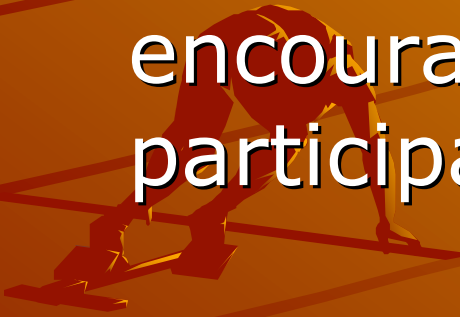
✦ The participant/athlete occupies centre-stage in the Comprehensive National Sports Policy, with all other stakeholders playing a role towards achieving the goals of mass participation, expansion of the talent pool, enhanced performance in competitive sports.

✦ In other words, the policy “provide(s) a conducive framework within which sports can develop and thrive.”

Principles of Sports Policy 2007

Sports for All

- ◆ Provide universal access to sports and physical education for all classes of citizen...to provide for substantially enhanced public investments and encourage the corporate sector participation.



Universalize sports in education

- ✦ Make physical education and sports an integral part of the curriculum up to the higher secondary level from the academic year 2010 and encourage school managements to provide adequate resources for sports and to make use of existing facilities.

Sports facilities in rural and urban areas

- ✦ A new authority is to be created to manage rural level sports and its implementation
- ✦ To ensure that the socially and economically disadvantaged, have access to safe and secure facilities.



Encourage mass participation

Youth development and sports:

Introduce physical education and sports as a core activity in all youth development programs.

Promotion and advocacy of sports
through various means and
measures



Brickbats

- ✦ The Indian Olympic committee: *Inefficient or inappropriate deployment of funds; mistakes in management; non-accountability for results; prejudice in selection procedures for national teams have not been addressed.*
- ✦ But the fact remains that even IOA has not said anything about getting the masses to participate.

Stakeholders Issues not addressed

I: Athletes

- (1) Sports teachers poorly trained;
- (2) Selection process politics;
- (3) Sexual Harassment;
- (4) Lack of information;
- (5) encouragement from schools to participate;
- (6) poor facilities at events;
- (7) no financial backing.

Stakeholders issues not addressed

II: Coaches

- (1) High drop-out rates;
- (2) No state or other support available;
- (3) It's an either/or decision. Either you can be a full-time sports person or not do sports at all.
- (4) Lack of information about academic benefits.
- (5) Corruption that effects performance
- (6) Sexual harassment issue; too few women coaches

In Conclusion

✦ This forms

0.073%

Of the total Union
Budget!

Government of India 2007:
Comprehensive Sports Policy
2007, Ministry of Youth Affairs
and Sports.
[<http://yas.nic.in/yasroot/tenders/Draft.pdf>]

