



Championing Virtues and need for ethics in sports: time for promotion of a sports culture

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Abstract

Indian sports arena is under severe pressure for revitalization as there have been serious debates over the global performance of Indian sports. The Indian sports thought is always brim with the notion of both social and elite pathways for athletes, coaches, officials and administrators. Even Indian government underlies sport's effective planning processes with the inclusion of sports ethics as a code of conduct. A sport should display integrity, honesty, and genuine dealings. Sports championing good sportsmanship, providing safe, fair and inclusive environments for all involved. It will be also expected to 'play by the rules' that are defined by its code. When sports are devoid of these rules it leads to immoral tendencies among them. This paper considers the sports ethics as a part of the sport event & emphasizes on Indian traditional values which highlight on ethics in every component of life.

Key words: *sports ethics, traditional values, immoral tendencies, need for clean sports, promotion for a sports code*

"The moral virtues that are often referred to under the umbrella of sporting behavior are revealed in acts of fair play. Such virtues as magnanimity, fairness, politeness, respect for rules, are the qualities of character displayed and developed by those who play well. Often these virtues and their exhibition are the hardy perennials that have become embedded in and partly define the traditions of sport that are produced and reproduced by those who play." - Carwyn Jones

Introduction

Sports is an integrated participatory event which leaves a great impact on community & society. Sporting event always leaves a message for society as it engrosses the whole community (Report on National Council of Educational Research and Training. 2012, 2013, 2014).

The message the sports carries represents the nation's heritage globally. A country is recognized by these ideals & the country gains global acclimatization through good ethics it follows in sports. Hence ethics in sport is very much necessary. Sports integrity is balanced through following ethics in sports. (Report on National Council of



Educational Research and Training.
2012, 2013 , 2014).

Causes Leading to unethical Sports

1. Abuse of Child sports players
2. Atrocities against women players
3. Behavioral changes due to success/ failure
4. Bidding for players sports persons
5. Blank calls sports persons
6. Bribery given / taken for selection to teams
7. Bullying co-players / opposite team member
8. capriciousness & unpredictable behavior of the sport organizations
9. Disloyalty of clubs while selection of players
10. disproportionate management of sports personnel
11. Extreme / underutilization of player's stamina
12. Game fixing sports persons
13. Gender discrimination
14. Gruesome behavior of caches
15. Hacking / rescheduling / deferment / suspension punishments
16. Harassment Sports persons through irregular sporting events
17. Illegal contract of sports persons through coaches / club owners/ organizations
18. imbalanced sports facilities for women sports players
19. inconsistency /contradiction / variation in sporting rules
20. indecisiveness of coaches
21. Maltreatment Sports persons through false promises
22. Manipulation of players at the will of coaches / club owners/ organizations
23. Mental retardation for under performance
24. mismanagement of remuneration for sports personnel
25. Misuse of contracts sports persons through coaches / club owners/ organizations
26. Physical manhandling by sports coaches / club owners/ organizations for underperformance / failure / mistakes
27. Pressure by coaches / club owners/ organizations to indulge in over drug intake /energy drinks / horrifying medicines / energy boosters / stimulators etc.
28. Sex scandals & discrimination against women players
29. Sports persons being cheated while selection to teams
30. Sports bids which are success oriented not performance oriented
31. Spot fixing
32. Uncalled for interventions
33. uncertainty of sport events
34. Undue Advantage for specified players
35. Unequal representation status for sex/ caste / community /race in sports



36. Unethical behavior in selection process of players
37. Unprofessional conduct of sports personnel

Sporting activities should be in accordance with moral values, beliefs and principles of the country's heritage & legacy. A sporting event played with integrity can be trusted because it displays certain inner values. (Report on National Council of Educational Research and Training. 2012, 2013, 2014). A key to integrity, therefore, is consistency of actions that are viewed as honest and truthful to inner values. A sport that displays integrity can often be recognized as honest and genuine in its dealings, championing good sportsmanship, providing safe, fair and inclusive environments for all involved. It will be also expected to 'play by the rules' that are defined by its code. A sport that generally displays integrity has a level of community confidence, trust and support behind them. The impact of this on sports business is so massive that it cannot be miscalculated. (Report on National Council of Educational Research and Training. 2012, 2013, 2014).

Agencies of Unethical Behavior

1. Sports clubs / organizations cheat players. Players are deceived through inconsistent membership, false attraction of sponsors and funding grants . Attraction of players who want to be associated with a healthy, successful brand are made to enter into contracts which cost heavily on player's morality.(Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014).
2. Sports these days is bugged by anti-social behaviors as demonstrated by parents, spectators, coaches and players which is spoiling the entire ethos of sports. Such behaviours may include bullying, throwing tantrums, bad temper, irritability, petulance, grumpiness etc. this behavior is sometimes exhibited on ground itself sometimes leading to violence, aggressiveness etc.
3. The integrity of a sport will be judged by its participants, spectators, sponsors, the general public and more often than not, the media. The survival of a sport therefore relies on ensuring that 'the sport is the same on the outside as it is on the inside' and remains true to its values, principles and rules.
4. Ethics is the system that reinforces acceptable behaviors or values thereby ensuring a level of integrity or good character is maintained.
5. Ethics helps to perceive differentiate right from wrong.
6. They break the ethical code of sport by being dishonest and cheating. Their integrity is bought into question through their actions.
7. Such systems in sport include defined values; codes of conducts, bi-laws, rules, policies and the implementation of these policies and rules should be framed.



Need for forming Sports Culture

A healthy culture is generally displayed in those sporting organizations that recognize the paramount importance of maintaining their integrity. This recognition is owned by the leadership group and trickles down through all levels of the organization. (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014). A sport with a positive culture will demonstrate energy, commitment and effort in developing systems to ensure their sport is one that all members are proud to participate in and support. The key to a positive sport culture is consistency of action. Championing good sportsmanship can make the sport system adorable & delightful. (Report on World Development Indicators Participation In Education World Bank Report 2014).

Prospective Strategies

In order to make sports arena clean & morality based certain stringent strategies are needed.

1. Facilities to boost participation of both the gender is needed this avoids gender discriminatory attitude of certain sports clubs.
2. Framing code of conduct for players by each club uniformly can also solve sporting errors.
3. Funding of school sports with ethical considerations can leave a good impact on young minds & helps to evolution of a good sport culture.
4. Increasing resources for learning a good sport culture in schools is necessary this will act as a solid foundation for youngsters.
5. Involving peers / academicians / celebrities people in the management of the sport organizations / clubs can add to the inheritance of the good sporting behavior.
6. Involving all stake holders in framing a good sport culture mirroring the legacy of morality is needed
7. It is important that the government should regularly review and update sports policy.
8. Judicial involvement & legal protection dispute resolution
9. Membership protection for club members can solve several of the sporting errors.
10. Parents should be made to take interest in those sporting activities which has ethics. Parents should be made to realize that helping to development in sporting excellence is also possible through adoption of good sports
11. Schools should be linked with sports clubs with good ethical values
12. Starting clubs
13. Strong sports policy with a strong emphasis on sports ethics can make the sports



personnel imbibe great traditional values.

14. Taking the help of volunteer organizations NGOs
15. Tough sports policy aimed towards inculcation of a good sport culture should be framed
16. The notion of both social and elite pathways for athletes, coaches, sports officials and administrators lies at the heart of a sport's effective planning processes

Conclusion

Thus sports ethics should become a part of sporting policy. The whole community has to wake up to the significant impact of ethical values in sports on community welfare & developmental process as a whole. Sports played with good human values can create a strong impact on whole nation. Even the policy makers should note the unethical behaviors & reschedules the whole sport policy to reorient their resources & energies towards ethical sport activities. Socially as well as culturally a nation can advance towards progression & consistency if the sport field is spotless & blunder free. The uniformity of vision towards maintaining the

merits & worthiness of the sport thus calls for an ethical based sports culture. This calls for a change in policy making & notion of the whole community towards sports. The significant impact of unethical behaviors in sports should immediately be reduced through a vigilant sport policy because the youth & future generations need a great platform to pursue sports as a cheerful participation.

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