



A Comparative Study of Social Influence on Sports in India in Ancient and Modern Era

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Abstract:

This study shows the comparison of the social influence on sports in India in the ancient and modern era. From the ancient era to the modern era, vast changes have been seen in sports. Social influence has left a great impact on the players; the ancient era gave birth to sports. Given and society's continued influence on sports. Today in the modern era, sports have been presented to the world as a strong pillar. Study shows that today the player has developed as an independent entity. The positive impact on sports is immense, the ancient civilization of India has developed sports which included chess, wrestling, judo, archery, yoga in ancient times, and players were dedicated to social customs, entertainment and the country. Whereas in the modern era, technology, infrastructure, electronic media, sports channels and political power etc. have taken over sports.

Keywords: Sports, Social Influence, Ancient Era, Modern Era

Introduction:

The history of the beginning of sports in India is the gift of ancient civilization. Man is a social animal; his roots are very deep in the society. In the Vedic period, people used to hunt animals, dance, sing, yoga, meditate, etc. for their entertainment. Gradually, Vedic civilization developed, due to which various sports were born. Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata played an important role in Indian sports. Sports like horse racing, horse riding, archery, fencing, chess, wrestling, Chaturanga, swimming etc. were included in our social life considered an integral part of life. Small games like gulli-danda, hide and seek, swinging, acrobatics etc. were included in the Indian society. In the 7th BC Takshashila Nalanda University, students were taught warfare, scriptures, Ashvavidya fine arts etc. In the ancient history of Indian sports, the important role of Buddhism in the society is unforgettable; Gautam Buddha had knowledge of archery, various postures, hand signals and meditation etc. A Chalukya book from 850 years ago depicted a gymnast with Malakhamb performing aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane or rope. During the Mughal period, polo, horse racing, horse riding, archery, fencing, boxing, pigeon fighting, swimming and various physical games were played by the soldiers, which are popular even today. In the modern era, the nature, structure and interpretation of sports has been completely changed by the society, in which the British era played the biggest role. The British first introduced cricket and modernized sports in India, including the establishment of football clubs

and world victory in badminton, hockey, kabaddi, chess and billiards games. India won a medal in the first Olympics in the year 1900. A sport has more influence on modern era than the ancient era. It is seen in the modern era that sports have become a weapon where every human wants to learn and use this tool. The conclusion of the study is that people of India have made sports an important part of their life. Sports have greatly improved the economic, political, social, physical, artistic, spiritual, and emotional condition of India today. In the modern era, India has incorporated new technology and modernization in sports to become a strong country considering the importance of sports. The 2020 Olympics is a testimony to the fact that the Games have been taken to new heights, the influence of sports is increasing in India.

Methodology:

The purpose of the study was to analyze comparison of the social influence on sports in India in the ancient and modern era. To achieve the purpose of this study data was collected from various Books, Web Sites, Reports and Research Papers, Journals, Google and Wikipedia. Study shows that today the player has developed as an independent entity. The positive impact on sports is immense, the ancient civilization of India has developed sports which included chess, wrestling, judo, archery, yoga in ancient times, and players were dedicated to social customs, entertainment and the country. Whereas in the modern era, technology, infrastructure, electronic media, sports channels and political power etc. have taken over sports.

Analysis Of Social Influence On Sports In The Ancient Era In India:

In the ancient era, many evidences of physical strength and body shape are found in Indian literature, which shows that ancient people used to organize various sports for their entertainment. History of India dates back to the Vedic period (3250 B.C.- 2500 B.C.) It is believed to be from the medieval period (1000 A.D.- 1757 A.D.) In the evidence found in the excavation of Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Culture) before the Vedic period, it is known from the recovery of pieces, sculptures, war tools and weapons that the people there Dancing, fencing ball, dice, etc for entertainment in your daily life. They played games like marbles, dicing, animal fighting and boxing etc. Yoga was established in the Vedic period (2500 B.C- 600). In the Vedic period, Suryanamaskar was performed by Aryans and non-Aryans. Aryans used to gain proficiency in dance, hand fighting, javelin throwing, boxing, war arts etc. for their entertainment. Men Women's participation was also equal compared. Hindu calendar (600 B.C- 300 A.D.) Epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata played an important role in Indian sports. Sports like horse racing, horse riding, archery, fencing, chess, wrestling, Chaturanga, swimming etc. were included in our social life considered an integral part of life. In the 7th BC Takshashila Nalanda University, students were taught warfare, scriptures, Ashvavidya fine arts etc. A Chalukya book from 850 years ago depicted a gymnast with Malakhamb performing aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane or rope. During the Mughal period, polo, horse racing, horse riding, archery, fencing, boxing, pigeon fighting, swimming and various physical games were played by the soldiers, Sports had great importance in the social life of ancient times. It would be fair to say that sports were born in ancient times which we have inherited today.

Analysis Of Social Influence On Sports In The Modern Era In India:

India has gone ahead among the developing countries of the world. Modern India has created a new identity in sports. Sports in India have got a new flight, in which the biggest contribution is from the players and Indians. Sports in India have affected all sectors including government, social media, national and international Sports federations, private and government sports academies, sports brand companies, film personalities, businessmen, etc. The number of national sports federations in India has gone up to 62. India has hosted various international games in modern times, the first being the Asian Games in 1951 and 1982, 2010, Commonwealth Games India set a record of 107 medals in the Asian Games 2023, which included 28

gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze medals. The Indian national hockey team dominated the Olympics for a long time between 1920 and 1980. Meanwhile, out of the twelve games held, India won eleven medals, of which 8 were gold medals and had won six gold medals consecutively from 1928-1956. As of 2021 India's rank in the Summer Olympics 2021 was 48th. Therefore, it would be fair to say that the impact of social modernization on sports is continuously increasing in India, due to which the importance of sports and its recognition has increased a lot.

Comparison Between Ancient And Modern Influence On Sports:

1. In ancient times, players played in Olympics with an amateur mind set whereas in the modern era Olympics is played to earn money and fame.
2. In ancient era players used to be awarded through things of necessity whereas in the modern era they are awarded with medals, trophies, money and government job.
3. In ancient period more emphasis was laid on the armed forces and security of the country whereas in today's time more emphasis was laid on sports.
4. In ancient era corruption was less and people used to have less stress whereas in modern era the crime rate has increased therefore through sports the stress and tension is reduced.
5. The study of ancient India shows that there was a lack of good stadiums, grounds and equipment in the country. Today there has been a modern revolution in sports, new stadiums are being constructed to play at national and international level. Use of new equipment and establishment of national and international sports federations and new rules of sports have been implemented, which show the increasing development and influence in sports,
6. In ancient times, various sports competitions were organized for the entertainment of the country's soldiers. In the modern era, this is done to strengthen the prestige and economic condition of the country.
7. In ancient period people were slaves to various malpractices and customs whereas in modern era people have got a new direction, curriculum, coaching, training, sustainable infrastructure, equipments, professionally managed programs, socio-economic inclusion and growth, gender equality, holistic education, inculcate a professional attitude towards sport and development or to personal academic and sporting development etc. There is a new revival in sports world.
8. In ancient era, sports were played to entertain the royal household and it was played as a custom. Today in modern era social values,

nationalism, women's sport is actually encouraging the development of sports on a global level and more importantly it has acquired a strong position in the society.

Conclusion:

This complete analysis brings forth few points if considerations which are as follows:

1. In the ancient era when sports were organized, only the people of that city, state or country participated and enjoyed but now there is a complete change all because of social media in such a way that sitting at any corner of the world, we can enjoy the sports held in any part of the India by just the pressing of a button on Television.
2. In the ancient era, only amateur players used to play whereas now in the modern era any sports person has the freedom to participate in any sport because now the sports are not played for entertainment but also played for adding revenue to the economy and has grown professionally in India. The growing influence of sports in India is known from the fact that professional sports in India IPL- T20 (Cricket) in 2008, PKL in 2014 (Kabaddi) and UKK (Kho-Kho) were started in 2022. India has made a lot of progress in professional sports; it is fully justified to say that the influence of sports in India has increased tremendously. Thus we get to know that in the social scenario, money and power was taking a toll on everything and this is a clear example of Social impact on the sports.
3. In ancient times, due to lack of rules at the time of competition in Indian sports, there were many flaws in the conduct of sports. But in modern India, due to the formation of sports associations and strict adherence to rules, today there is less corruption in the country, in which TV and the contribution of media is commendable.
4. The social impact of the Games, both in the ancient and modern eras, is a positive fact that the earlier Olympics, which were held in Athens in 1896, saw only 14 nations, 24 athletes participate in 43 events and 9 sports, whereas in the modern era when we analyze after so many years and look at the figures of the Olympics held in 2020(held in 2021) with the motto 'United by Emotion' 205 nations and 11,326 athletes participated in 33 sports and 339 events which clearly shows the advanced status of the Games.

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