



EDUCATION 5.0

PERSPECTIVES

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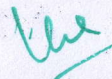
PREVIEWS

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DR D. THOMAS ALEXANDER

DR S. AMALADOSS XAVIER

22.	Privatization of Education In India	<i>Fr. Martin George S.J.</i>	81
CLASSROOM ECOLOGY			
23.	Essentials of Classroom Ecology In Making A Personality	<i>Dr. D. Thomas Alexander</i>	85
24.	Flipped Classroom - Teacher's Role From Sage On The Stage To Guide On The Side	<i>Dr. A. Punitha Mary</i>	90
25.	Importance of Flipped Learning Mathematics Classroom In The Present Scenario of Students And Teachers	<i>N. Rajkumar</i>	95
26.	Successful Technology Integration Inside The Classroom	<i>A. Nicholas Jegan</i>	98
ASSESSMENT IN EDUCATION			
27.	Assessment of Learning: Test Construction Principles	<i>Dr. A. Michael J Leo</i>	101
28.	Assessment And Best Practices In Teaching And Learning	<i>Dr. R. Sasi Priya</i>	107
29.	Assessment And Development of Soft Skills: Scope And Feasibility In School Education	<i>V. Eugin Dellas Leen</i>	110
RESEARCH IN EDUCATION			
30.	Methods of Qualitative Research	<i>Dr. M. Antony Raj</i>	113
31.	Self Regulated Learning in Rural Schools	<i>Dr. Praveen Dhar T.</i>	118
32.	A Study On Social Maturity And Role Confusion Among Higher Secondary School Students of Kottayam District	<i>Dr. Shaiju Francis</i>	121
33.	Brain Dominance And Emotional Intelligence of College Students in Tirunelveli, Madurai and Virudhunagar Districts.	<i>*M. Avoodaiammal @Abirami,</i>	125
34.	Online Tools For Data Collection - A Study	<i>Dr. T. Raja, Librarian</i>	129
TEACHER EDUCATION			
35.	Competency Based Teacher Education	<i>Dr. Sajith Lal Raj S.T.</i>	133
36.	The Current Challenges of Teacher Education and Possible Solutions	<i>Dr. Praveen.O.K,</i>	137
GOVERNANCE IN EDUCATION			
37.	E-Governance: The Need of Era	<i>Dr. R.J.Beena Florence Donark</i>	139
38.	Sports Governance In India: A Perspective	<i>Dr. R. Sathesh Franklin</i>	143


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SPORTS GOVERNANCE IN INDIA: A PERSPECTIVE

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Introduction

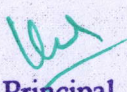
Sport governance refers to the exercise of power, with consideration given to influence, authority and nature of decision making. (Hums & MacLean, in press). The framework and culture within which a sports body sets policy, delivers its strategic objectives, engages with stockholders, monitors performance, evaluates and manages risk and sports to its constitutions on its activities and programs including the delivery of effective sustainable and propionate sports policy and regulations. Governance is the system by which organizations are directed and managed. It influences how the objectives of the organization are set and achieved, spells out the rules and procedures for making organizational decisions and determines the means of optimizing and monitoring performance, including how risk is monitored and assessed.

The recent few years have seen matters of Indian sport and its governance move from the back pages to the front pages of newspapers, shift from sports segments to prime time news on television and become a regular trending topic on social media. Members of the cast have included a colorful rainbow of individuals, politicians of all hues, businessmen, career sports administrators, sports ministers and, most recently, judges and retired judges of the country's highest courts (Kamath, 2017).

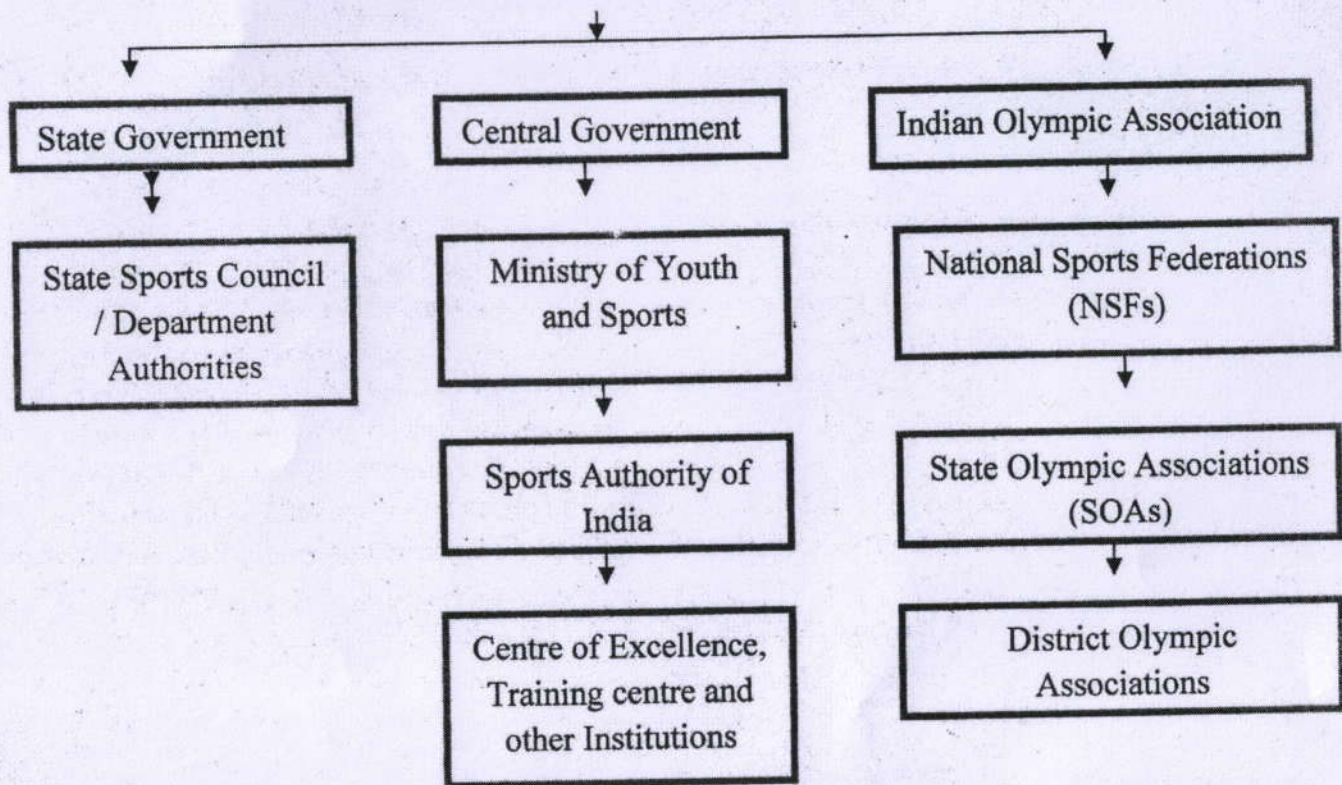
Traditionally, sports governance regulation has been positioned as a system of reasonably basic, structural and institutional restrictions on the otherwise free reign of 'autonomous' sports regulators. The apparently universal principles of 'good governance' of sport have largely been designed by sports bodies for sports bodies - limitations they must suffer and endure so as to enjoy their broad powers and privileges. The norms have included matters such as age and tenure restrictions, conflict of interest and ethics codes. Monitoring of compliance with these is either by the body itself or by other inter-related sports bodies such as regional and international federations. In that sense, extant good governance regulation has tended towards being window-dressing.

The State of Sports Governance:

The current Indian model of sports governance has various stakeholders such as the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), the State Olympic Association (SOA), the National Sports Federations (NSF) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) with well-defined roles (Singh & Sarkar, 2017). The Indian sports governance infrastructure consists of two spate bodies managing sports in the country, The MYAS on and the IOA. As per the Olympics charter, the IOA should be an autonomous body and free from the administrative control of the government of India (Dhanuraj & Kumar, 2015). However, the Association receives support in the form of finance and infrastructure from the government. The federal government too has been continuously offering a nominal amount to the sports sector in India on training, coaching, infrastructure, grants and initiatives.


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Model of Sports Governance in India



The existing model of governance of sports in India has two wings. One is which government bodies are controlled by the MYSA. This wing has institutions like the Sports Authority of India (SAI), and other institutions working towards promoting sports training under SAI. The other wing has the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) under IOA comes the State Olympic Associations (SOAs) and the National and Sports Federations (NSFs and SFs). However, the MYSA provides financial and infrastructural support to the National and State Sports Federations and indirectly control these federations through political representations. The sport's governing bodies in India are registered as societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1980 and are entitled to government support in the form of aid and tax benefits. In order to receive such support of a body required to have government officials in the organization, which observes and checks the utilization of funds, team selection and administration. This limits the freedom of a sporting body to grow and restricts its development.

Code for Sports Governance:

A Sports Code is a set of rules that establishes standards and protocols for national sports federations, that is, the bodies governing various sports in the country. These rules can be issued as administrative directions, in which case they are called a Code; or may be in the form of legislation passed by the Parliament, in which case it would be known as a Sports Act.

Needs of Sports Code:

The Sports Code establishes criteria, obligations and standards of conduct for sports federations that they must comply with in order to retain their recognition and status, field Indian teams and receive public funding. These are seen as essential norms for bodies

2017. It is understood that the Committee has submitted its report and it is expected that the draft of the Sports Code will be made available for public comment in the coming week.

New Sports Code:

The Committee was tasked with updating the Code to reflect recent court decisions and national and international developments on sports governance. It is, therefore, likely that the Sports Code will be a comprehensive document covering a wide variety of subjects that will focus on accountability, corporate governance, transparency and professionalization of sports federations.

Proposed Sports Code in India

The following sports code has been proposed in India:

- Aimed at achieving accountability, transparency and good governance in the functioning of the National Sports Federations (NSFs)
- The NSFs and the IOA will be considered public authorities and come under the Right to Information Act 2015.
- Limit on the size of the office-bearers and governing board members of the IOA and NSFs in order to check nepotism.
- Limit on the age and tenure (of the office-bearers) to check the culture of treating sports federations as some individual's freedom.
- Debarring ministers and government officials in service from taking up posts in any sports body.
- Making people who have been charge-framed or convicted (for two years or more) for a criminal offence ineligible to contest polls of sports bodies.
- Putting all information on its websites is mandatory for a sports body.
- The NSFs and the IOA have to constitute an Athletes' Commission.
- Appointment of an ombudsman for redressal of grievances and resolution of disputes.
- Code of Ethics for everyone working in a sports body.

Suggestions for the implementation of Sports Code:

Former Sports Minister of India Vijay Goel said that, "there needs to be at least 5 per cent jobs reserved for sportspersons. Different ministries need to chip in. That will encourage parents also to allow their kids to pursue sports." Our next target is to contact the 400 odd universities of the country and then identify 10 universities which would be interested in building Centers of Excellence in sports. (The Indian Express, 2016).

Sports Minister of India Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said the government was in the process of finalizing a National Sports Code to efficiently run sports organizations. "Our focus is to ensure that sports can reach to every child. We have started the 'Khelo India' programme to achieve this target. Under various schemes so far, the funds have been spent on infrastructure (Times of India, 2017).

The 'Khelo India' initiative, thousand players will be chosen each year and will be provided scholarship of Rs 5 lakh for a continuous period of eight years. National Sports Code will be brought to ensure transparency in the sports organizations, "Under the code we will have the provision of transparency to run the federations and sports organizations efficiently." (India Today, 2017)

The sports minister reiterated that the Sports Authority of India (SAI) will undergo a structural reform in the coming years in wake of enhancing the efficiency of the body. By the year 2022-23, the strength of SAI will be reduced to almost 50 per cent (The Asian Age, 2017).

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