



DOWNFALL OF HOCKEY IN PUNJAB: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Introduction

The Period of hockey is considered as old as the human civilization. It was first introduced in India in the early eighties of the 19th century. Hockey has been played in Punjab since primitive era. 1928-80 period is considered a golden period in history of Indian hockey. During this period when our country won many international tournaments. In special reference, Major Dhyan Chand (29 August 1905 – 3 December 1979) was an Indian field hockey player. He is widely regarded by many as the greatest field hockey player in world history. He was known for his extraordinary ball control and goal-scoring feats, in addition to earning three Olympic gold medals, in 1928, 1932 and 1936, during an era where India dominated field hockey. However, Indian team lost its winning habits after 1980 and since then we have not won any Olympic medal to date. The position of India with regard to hockey has degraded and Punjab, which has been cradle of Indian hockey, once upon produced great players now facing a drought. Therefore the fortunes of Indian as well as of Punjab hockey declined. "For many years, Indian hockey had been at its glory in the world. From dizzy heights of the world hockey, it has been fallen from grace to the humiliating bottom. It has lost its distinct identity and pioneering recognition. It has been mercilessly killed by those who were supposed to uplift and boost it up." (Mohinder Singh, 2008).

Methodology

For the present study, Punjab was selected. Five districts of Punjab-Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Faridkot and Patiala were selected. From these five districts, 60 respondents were selected from each district and a total of 300 respondents sample was taken. Only those respondents were taken as sample those who have participated at least up to university, international and national level.

Social Reasons Responsible for the Downfall of Hockey in Punjab

The present study investigates the social reasons responsible for the downfall of hockey. The process of socialization plays an important role in the development of the personality of an individual. The society, family, peer group, school, neighbourhood, community are the main agencies in the process of socialization. This paper will trace out the role of these agencies in motivating or demotivating an individual towards the game.

Role of Family

The role of the family in encouraging the youngsters towards the game is decreasing. Respondents did not get encouragement and support from the family members. Respondents stated that "ki sanu ghar deya to vi support

nhi mildi kyonki ghar deya nu hockey khedna pasad shi hai. Oh kehnde han ki hockey ton kuch nhi milna, padai kar lawo tan ki naukri mil jawe joli hockey khedan nal nhi mil sakdi." Those who were getting support and encouragement from their families were getting moral support and no financial support. Respondents stated that "ki ghar de sanu paise nhi dinde kyonki oh kehnde han ki hockey de vich paisa lagana befaizul hai te iss paise nu padai de vich ya koi kam karan de lyi vartaya ja sakda hai. Respondents also stated that "ki ghar di financial halat bahute wadiya nhi hai ge jis kar k ghar de sanu paisa nhi dinde." Respondents said that they face conflict at home due to their involvement in the game. Parents do not seem to be happy and they do not have any interest in hockey.

Inspiration towards Hockey in Punjab

Respondents mentioned that they got inspiration from the peer group rather than from the family members. Respondents mentioned that "ki international players, Olympians te renowned hockey players kade v nhi ande ground te sanu inspire karan lyi, jad ke ena kol bahut sari knowledge hai sanu den lyi." During my field work I also observed that neither the Olympians nor the international hockey players come to the ground for motivating the hockey players. As one of my respondents narrated his personal experience "ki usnu international player ton hockey nal related kam si te oh us de ghar duphar nu chala gaya te ago us international player ne keha ki eh kehda time hai ghar aa ke kam karwan da, je kam si tan aa ke ground mil lenda." My respondent stated to me "madam gi eh attitude hai sade international players da te ehna ne sanu ki inspire karna hai, jad ki international players nu tan hockey players da kam karan lyi tatpar tiyar rehna chahida hai, eh ki inspire karange sanu!!!" This clearly depicts the behaviour as well as attitude of the Olympians as well as international hockey players.

Satisfaction by choosing hockey in their life

Respondents were not satisfied by Sat & Fafgey Life- choosing hockey their life. They stated that hockey le k galti kiti hai kyonki is vich kise vi tarah da benefit nhi hai te hun asi pachtaonde han. The incident which I am going to narrate happened before my eyes when I was conducting field work, "a hockey player who had played at the national level took his luggage and left the game and on being asked from me he stated that "ki koi faida tan hai nhi te mein padna chahunda han, te hockey khed ke mera tan kuch vi nhi ban na kyonki mein India khedna chahunda si par nhi khed sakya othe tak te hun menu ewe lagda hai ki mein hockey nu choose kar ke satisfied nahi han kyonki iss vich kise vi kisam di job security nhi hai." In this way he left the game due to his dissatisfaction. The respondents gave following reasons for their dissatisfaction in hockey. They stated that less opportunity for the jobs; people prefer those games which are easier, no commercial status; lack of facilities and support on the part of the government; the organization of F.LH. is very weak; lack of recognition by society; lack of rewards in the game; and selection procedure is very faulty.

Objective in Life Hockey Player in Punjab

Respondents mentioned that they wanted to get a job and they were playing only to get a job rather than to make it familiar game in the eyes of society and to achieve the lost glory of hockey. The attitude of the players has changed as compared to previous hockey stars. Gone are the days when the hockey players played for the game's glory so that they can improve with putting up too much hard labour the status of the game in the society and they did it. That's why with their higher ambitions, they planted the game on the top of all the games which was considered as a national game once upon a time. This attitude is absent which can be considered as the main drawback of Indian hockey.

Physical Fitness and Status of Hockey Player

Hockey players are not properly recognized in the society. Lack of recognition, popularity and respect has lowered the status of hockey players in the eyes of society. Respondents stated that "ki na tan samaj de vich sanu koi puchda hai ten a hi ghar vich. Jado ghar jande han tan ghar de kehnde han padai kar lawo kyonki hockey waleya nu samaj vich koi jagah nhi mildi te na hi thohada kuch banna hai." One of my respondents stated that his friend who is an international player came to him and he wanted a car with number 13. When both of them went to the D.T.O. officer, the officer did not recognize the international hockey player and did not provide him with that particular number which he demanded. Respondents gave the following reasons for not getting respect in the society. They stated that other games have become more popular, lack of commercialization of the game; continuous poor performance at the international competitions; lack of propaganda by media ("jine marji akhbar dekh lawo ya television ute channel dekh lawo ohna vich thohanu cricket hi cricket miluga te hockey tan bicahri kunje vich lagi hundi hai ya nhi hundi); indiscipline in the field as well as outside the field; and malfunctioning of FIH has spoiled the status of hockey as well as the hockey players in the eyes of society (the role of regionalism, casteism, religionalism and no financial rewards are being given to the players for motivation).

Garden should not be their children to play hockey ?

The respondents have given various reasons for not sending their children to play hockey. Uncertainty for settlement in life; decreasing popularity of the hockey as compared to other games; more preference is given to education; everyone cannot play hockey because it is very expensive game; people play only to get certificates so they prefer other easy games; hockey needs more skill, endurance and hard training and is also prone to injuries; due to small size of the family and they stated that almost in majority, there is one or two kids in the family so families do not want to take risks for the future of their kids so they do not want to send their children to play hockey.

Whether they will Allow their Family Member to Play Hockey

Respondents mentioned that they would not permit any of their family members to play hockey in future. They also stated that "ki asi apne bacahya nu oh game khidwage jehdi samaj de vich lok jada pasan karan te jis vich ohna nu popularity te benefit dono milan."

Dedication towards Hockey

There is lack of dedicati dedication among the hockey playrespondents mentioned few The regarding the lack of dedicatis a tradition in the villages that elderly pports culture is reasoning (once upon a time, there was the ground some that players and othe decension of the community used to visit thalmost all of them used to guide play, some of them used to do the job of umpire of referstens to love to lefthanded to the youngster used to dast experiences, and youngsters too lose entend they pay more respect to the elderly tothers of the community. This culture is almost dedication for young players are lagging behind playersonly players are loosing commitmente da nothing free posters prefer to at in front of television instead of going to the field; nothing fruitful is expected from the gami decreasing faith in the selection patterns (as one of the respondents mentioned that jiniya marj lata tudwa lawo, age tan sifarshi hi jange); and lack of dedicated coaches.

Conflict with the Coaches

The respondents gave various reasons for conflict with the coaches that is coaches are money minded, their main interest is to gain in ore and more income by any other means and they do not provide proper coaching to the trainees; coaches do partiality with the players, coaches are indulged in undue discouragement with the players;

and coaches use abusive language These reasons narrate that coaches lack dedication, commitment as well as patience.

Satisfaction About the Training Provided to Them

Respondents mentioned that they were not satisfied by the training provided to them. The respondents provided different reasons for their dissatisfaction regarding their training. They stated that the lack of efficient and experienced coaches; lack of modern tools and techniques, and lack of dedication among the coaches. Respondents with hesitation responded that coaches are not punctual or dedicated for their services by which trainees suffer a lot and further when they were probed they mentioned that sometimes coaches comes to the ground for 10 to 15 minutes only and for many times they do not bother about their training.

Sports Socialization

Respondents stated that there is lack of sports socialization. They mentioned that hockey has been kept aside at school as there are no events, matches and tournaments at school and colleges. They even stated that family does not inculcate among their children the values of the game and even neighbours demoralize the children to play hockey. Respondents mentioned that lack of audience demotivates and hampers the performance of the players. They stated that the audience is the source of inspiration and motivation for their performance in the ground and long, high shouts, cries and loud voices raised by them gives them an inspiration to perform well. Therefore, the hockey players stated that lack of sports socialization at grass root level has resulted in the downfall of hockey.

No single factor is responsible for the downfall of hockey, we should not blame the single organization, individual or association for its downfall but there are multiple aspects which collectively has hampered the game.

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