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SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS CONSTRAINTS AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN BANGLADESH

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to ascertain the social and religious constraints affecting development of sports in Bangladesh employing the descriptive research tool i.e. Questionnaire. Separate questionnaires were developed for each category of respondents and administered to them personally. In as much as the responses were on a three-point Likert Scale, the data was analyzed using Chi-square method. The views of the respondents have been separately presented because questions for each category of respondents were different covering the aspects associated with the nature of their functions.

Key words: Social constraints, Religious constraints, Development of sports.

INTRODUCTION

All over the world, participation in games and sports is being markedly affected both by religion as well as social factors. Numerous references are available in the literature to show how these two factors have affected participation in sports in respect of both males and females? When both genders of sports persons are taken into account, the references indicate that female sports persons have been influenced to a much greater extent by above two factors. Sports and religion have been closely linked throughout the human history. Like religion, sports also convey important lessons about values and culturally appropriate behavior. The lessons they teach are similar, and both religion and sports use symbols as their primary means of communication. Historically, many sports developed as part of religious festivals and the relationship between the two is enumerated as follows:

1. Sport is often used as a metaphor for religious striving.
2. Sporting events evoke passionate commitment similar to that of religious festivals.
3. Religion and sport are symbolic systems that emphasize similar values and goals, including transcendence of limited personal desires in favour of non-material achievements or experiences and an emphasis on cooperation and personal sacrifice for the good of the group.
4. Both religion and sport convey their message by means of powerful symbols.

Sports sociology is the study of the relationship between sports and society. It examines how culture and values influence sports and vice-versa. The relationship between sports and the media, politics, economics, religion, race, gender, youth, and etc. has also emphasized on the link between sports and social inequality and social mobility. Sport is not only a social event, but also a social phenomenon and a social institution. A sport activity at a particular place and



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time is tangible and specific. It can be seen heard and perceived. Thus, it is a social event. It is also intangible, as it arises from observation and experiences. It is base for ideas and research. Therefore it's a social phenomenon too. Sport is one of the oldest and most essential social institutions. As a social institution with the ability to gather people even from the far ends of the earth around the same ideas, sports deserve to be studied at least as much as other fundamental institutions like education, religion, communication, law and healthcare.

Ali (2011), Qureshi and Ghouri (2011), Geoff (2012), Agergaard (2015), Bibi (2016) and Muktar (2018) in their research studies have observed that religious and social factors do have an impact on the participation of both genders and especially in respect of females, in games and sports in different parts of the world.

METHODOLOGY

In the present investigation, one descriptive research tools i.e. questionnaire was employed for gathering necessary data pertaining to the study. Self-structured questionnaires were developed separately for each category of respondents by the researchers and administered to the following category of respondents:

1. Officials of Bangladesh Olympic Association (N=5)
2. BKSP Officials (N=5)
3. Directors of Physical Education working in Universities (N=5)
4. Sports persons (N=51)
5. Coaches (N=57)
6. Religious Leaders (N=10)
7. Physical Education teachers working in Schools, Colleges and Universities (N=15)
8. Officials of Federations (N=20)

In order to develop the questionnaire, the following four steps were used:

1. Initial draft
2. Trial Run
3. Tabulation
4. Rewriting or Final draft

In order to obtain 100% response and also to ensure

that all the respondents provided accurate information, the scholars personally contacted the selected respondents. Each questionnaire was accompanied along with a letter of request seeking co-operation from the respondents. The respondents were ensured that the information furnished by them would be kept strictly confidential.

The information gathered with the help of questionnaire was analyzed using Chi-square Method.

CONCLUSIONS

In as much as the respondents of the present study belonged to different categories, the conclusions were drawn category wise and are presented as follows:

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the officials of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA):

1. Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) encourages participation of both males and females in all types of games and sports.
2. Both males and females are encouraged to participate in combative as well as contact sports namely Wrestling, Boxing and Judo.
3. The respondents belonging to Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) did not express a very clearly regarding resistance from parents with respect to dress code for females for participation in sports such as Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Weight Lifting.
4. The respondents belonging to Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) very specifically expressed that religious organizations do not interfere in the participation of males and females in sports.
5. The officials of Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) have clearly opined that there is no interference from the society when both males and females participate in different games and sports.

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the officials of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pro-tishtan (BKSP):

1. Both male and female students are admitted to BKSP and they participate together in different games and sports.



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2. The officials of BKSP clearly expressed that there are no restrictions imposed by
3. The religious organizations in respect of participation of male sports persons in different games and sports where as in respect of female sports persons their response was not very conclusive.
4. The respondents clearly expressed that combat sports are a part of the curriculum of the institute for both male and female sports persons.
5. The BKSP officials expressed that the institute employs both male and female coaches for imparting sports related coaching to students.
6. With respect to restrictions imposed the religious organizations and Government for the participation of male and female sports persons, restrictions imposed by the society as well as in respect of getting their own sons and daughters admitted to BKSP, nothing was very concretely expressed by the officials of BKSP.

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the Directors of Physical Education working in Universities:

1. In respect of voluntary participation of males and females in sports, requirement of permission from parents for the participation of males and females in such sports as Wrestling, Boxing and Judo as well as whether male and female students like these three combative sports nothing very specifically was mentioned therefore no specific conclusion can be drawn with respect to these.
2. Participation of male and female sports persons in sports and sports competitions is directed by Government guidelines, however, in respect of religious guidelines nothing was very specifically expressed.
3. Who accompanies the female sports teams as officials as and when they go for sports competitions nothing very concrete was specified.
4. There are specific religious guidelines for the participation of male and female sports persons in sports competitions.
5. Regarding the dress code for both male and female sports persons as well as whether females are to be persuaded for participation in sports nothing was very concretely expressed.

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the Sports Persons:

1. Sports persons are fond of sports and are also interested in sports participation.
2. They participate in sports for their personal physical, social and psychological development.
3. The religion does not interfere with their participation in sports, however, their participation is influenced by cultural, social and ethnic factors.
4. Their participation in sports is supported by the religion so that they can enjoy good health and also improve their physical fitness.
5. In spite of observing the dress code, the female sports person's participation is affected by the religion. They have also expressed that their participation in sports is considered as a challenge to the boundaries of their ethnic identity. Even if they follow the dress code, the relatives as well as society are against their sports participation.
6. Participation in sports by females is considered as a respectable activity in Bangladesh.
7. Female participation in sports is constrained by physical and spiritual challenges.
8. In spite of facing different types of constraints, they will encourage their brothers and sisters to participate in sports.
9. They have desired that Muslim females should be allowed to participate in Swimming, Diving and water Polo.
10. Sports persons will definitely encourage participation of their daughters in sports.

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the Coaches:

1. Both male and female sports persons voluntarily participate in sports, however, they need permission from their parents.
2. There is no objection from the parents for the participation of both male and female students in combative sports namely Wrestling, Boxing and Judo where as parents do object in order to participate in Swimming, Diving and Water Polo.
3. No permission is required from the religious leaders for the participation of both male and



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female sports persons in different sporting activities where as there are specific

4. Government guidelines that are to be followed for participation sports persons belonging to both the sexes.
5. In respect of participation in sports both by males and females, there are no religious guidelines that are to be adhered to. In addition there are also no religious guidelines that are to be followed when female sports persons go for participation in sports competitions.
6. As and when women teams go for participation in sports competitions, they are accompanied by female officials.
7. In respect of both male and female sports persons there is no specific dress code that has to be followed.
8. In order to enhance the participation of females in sports, they are to be persuaded

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the Religious Leaders:

1. Religious leaders are fond of sports and during their younger days they have whole heartedly involved themselves in games and sports.
2. Islam objects to participation in sports by males whereas they did not express a very specific view point with respect to female participation in sports.
3. Both male and female sports persons while participating in sports activities must follow a specific dress code.
4. In respect of participation of their own sons and daughters in sports and sporting activities they did not express any specific view point, however, they expressed that in case their wards if have a desire to participate in sports they do not require any permission from the religious leaders. This view is also expressed by the parents when their sons and daughters participate in sports.
5. No permission is required from the religious leaders when male and female sports persons go for participation in international competitions in this respect so far there has been no conflict with the religious leaders.

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the Physical Education teachers working in Schools, Colleges and Universities:

1. Male and female students do not voluntarily participate in sports, however, for the participation of male students no permission is needed from the parents whereas in respect of female students parent's approval is sought.
2. Male and female participation in sports such as Wrestling, Boxing and Judo there is no objection from the parents whereas parents do object in case male and female students wish to participate in Swimming, Diving and Water Polo.
3. Male and Female sports persons do not require any permission to participate in sports, however, there are some Government guide lines that are to be compulsorily followed for participation in games and sports and sports competitions.
4. There are no religious guidelines that are to be compulsorily adhered to for the participation of both males and females in sports competitions.
5. Female officials do not always accompany female teams for participation in sports competitions.
6. Male and female participation in sports is influenced by religious guidelines, however, in respect of males there is no dress code where as in the case of female sports persons regarding the dress code nothing very specifically exists.
7. Females are to be persuaded for participation in sports.

Conclusions based on the responses furnished by the Officials of Federations:

1. Sports Federations encourage participation of both males and females in sports.
2. Participation of males and females is also encouraged by the Sports Federations in contact sports as well as combat sports namely Wrestling, Boxing and Judo.
3. Sports Federations do not face any resistance from the parents in respect of male and female sports people's participation in sports. Parents also do not interfere when their daughters adopt dress code in sports.
4. Sports Federations do not face any interfer-



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ence from religious organizations when male and female sports persons participate in sports and also they do not have to seek their permission when it comes to participation of males in sports.

5. Society also does not provide any resistance when it comes to participation of females in different games and sports.
6. Participation of females is encouraged by the Sports Federations in sports like Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Weight Lifting and at the same time female sports persons have never refused to follow the dress code when they participate in these sporting activities.

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