Chapter 8

A New Dimension—March Towards Greater Horizon (1974-1982)
8.1 PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACCEPTED AS COMPULSORY EXAMINATION SUBJECT IN WEST BENGAL

The profession of physical education got a momentum during this period. Accordingly many developmental programmes were initiated and sphere of professional activity was augmented during the period of discussion. If 1932 is considered as a landmark in the field of physical education, then 1974 and 1982 are equally important and memorable years for the profession and for the establishment of physical education as an integral part of educational system and an academic discipline in the sphere of higher education in West Bengal.

Analysing critically the relevant documents and information collected from several sources and from the interviews with leaders of physical education profession, the salient features and important events that occurred during the period of discussion which the researcher could identify as the cardinal points are summarized below.

The year 1974 may be considered as a historical event in the achievement of physical education. Prior to 1974 many plans and programmes were made by Central and State Governments, circulars were issued, serious efforts were made but outcome was insignificant. Only a handful of personnel were available to conduct physical education within the educational settings.

The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education for the first time took a decision to make physical education as an essential curricular requirement and an examination subject at the secondary level of education
from the year 1974. What the early leaders thought, various education commissions categorically recommended, critical planning made by Central Advisory Board, N.C.E.R.T. and such other organisations, recommendations of the various seminars, symposia, and demand of professional and teachers organisations saw the light with the implementation of physical education as a compulsory curricular and examination subject at secondary level.

The existing pattern of secondary education in the state of West Bengal was introduced in January, 1974 by the Government Resolution No. 2062 Edn. (S) dated 9.11.72 (23). Accordingly the structural pattern of school education was restructured in the state and school education system covered a total period of 10 years. The first five years was considered as primary education and next five years as secondary education. The later was divided again into two stages viz, the junior secondary course covering a period of three years from class VI to VIII and the secondary course covering a period of two years from class IX to X. Class X marked the terminal stage of school education and a public examination was held thereafter by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

This new pattern of school education was accepted in conformity with the uniform national pattern of education evolved by the Government of India. "Work Education, Physical Education and Social Service (including school performance)" were included in the new curriculum and syllabuses for reorganised pattern of secondary education (25). Sri Satyendra Mohan Chattopadhyay the then president, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education took a very active and effective role in the process of making compulsory physical education at secondary level and its implementation.

While introducing work education & physical education as a compulsory curriculum subject, the Board of Secondary Education declared in a clear term the significance of this new subject. They emphasized that this new inclusion would make a revolutionary change in the sphere of school education. The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education further
indicated that the new system would ameliorate the loop wholes of the traditional bookish education and would venture to the uniform and critical development of a person befitting to the requirement of present day situation. This new system will also help to the proper development of their physical, mental, social and economic aspect (21).

The then president Sri S.M.Chattopadhyay in a very clear terms indicated that more emphasis on work education, physical education and social service in school curriculum would in no way neglect the teaching-learning situation of the traditional curricular subject. He further emphasized that if standard of teaching in the traditional subject is to be obtained the load of studies should have to be reduced. There should not be any panic towards studies in the mind of the young learners.

He also mentioned that one should learn the job of a labourer and understanding the know how of labour oriented job is part of education and this should not be a word of words sake rather this should be reflected in the syllabus. This subject shall not be neglected as an extra-curricular subject and therefore, work education, physical education has been made compulsory curricular subject. Unless it is a curricular examination subject nobody would be interested to give due weightage of the subject. For this reason this subject was considered as an examination subject and its values were accounted in the marksheets. School system will understand that work education and physical education will no longer remain as a neglected subject. For the success in the examination, work education and physical education will have equal value with that of mathematics, geography and languages (1).

This decision alone made significant changes in the curricular pattern, school time table (routine), school environment, attitude of the guardians, students and teachers, at large the whole school set up, which was not evident in the pre and post independence period in West Bengal. For proper implementation of this subject several Govt. and Non. Govt. agencies of West Bengal i.e. West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, Education
Department, Director of Public Instruction and West Bengal Physical Education Association took some positive steps. Their involvement and significance are analysed critically in the following paragraphs.

8.1.1 INITIATIVE BY THE WEST BENGAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

a) New Syllabus Published by the Board (1973)

In August, 1973 West Bengal Board of Secondary Education published the detail syllabus on Physical Education from class VI to X (22) and the procedure of evaluation to apprise all concerned regarding the aspects of programme and for a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

b) District Level Orientation Seminar for Teachers (1973-1975)

Success of the scheme was largely depend on the method of teaching. So proper orientation of teachers was essential. For this purpose first orientation seminar was held at Suri in November, 1973 (24). Under the auspices of the Board till 1975 August, nine such courses were held in different districts. About 2500 teachers of secondary schools were oriented in these seminars. Group discussions on work education, physical education & social service were also held in these seminars by the eminent physical education personnel (26).

c) Orientation Training Course for Women (1974)

Two orientation training courses were organised on physical education for girls by the initiative of Board (26). The first course was held at the Institute of Education, Hestings House, Alipore from 23rd May to 8th June 1974. About 65 teachers of different secondary schools for girls participated in the course. They were trained regarding organisation of
small area games and evaluation of the performance of the students. Another course was organised from 20.7.74 to 27.7.74 at Sakhwat Memorial Govt. Girls Schools.

d) **Students Rally (1975)**

With a view to encourage the secondary schools towards the promotion of physical education and to observe the performance of schools in physical education a students rally was held at Rabindra Sarobar Stadium on the 22nd February, 1975. It was planned by the West Bengal Board Secondary Education. About ten thousand students of secondary schools of Calcutta region participated in the students rally. Sri Sambhunath Mallick was the chief organiser and different voluntary organisations rendered their help and co-operation in organisation of the rally (26).

e) **Board's Circular for the Promotion of Athletic Sports (1976)**

Secretary, West Bengal Board of Secondary Education in his communication (13) gave some suggestions for the promotion of athletic sports in schools in 1976.

i) Before holding the annual athletic sports competition normal practice classes should be arranged for all students.

ii) Students who will not regularly attend the practice classes will be debarred from joining the competition.

iii) Participants in different groups should be selected on the basis of age and class and not on the basis of height.

8.1.2 **EFFORTS OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (1974)**

For promotion of sports activities in schools, Director of Public Instruction clearly issued intimation through circular (6) in 1974, that
i) The services of physical education teachers attached to the various schools should be utilised only for physical education classes and activities.

ii) The funds allotted for physical education activities to the schools and fees at prescribed rates realised from the schools for these activities should be utilised only for sports and games activities.

iii) All schools should be affiliated with the local District School Sports Association of district concerned and should participate in most of the activities as far as possible organised by the District School Sports Association.

Along with this, all heads of the institutions were requested to give proper attention in implementing the syllabus and by utilising the existing facilities so as to help this state in raising the standards of sports and games at a very reasonable level.

8.1.3 EFFORTS OF EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

a) Inclusion of Physical Education Teacher in New Staff Pattern (1974)

In 1974, Education Department, Government of West Bengal issued a circular (5) and revised the staff pattern in school set up. For the first time two posts of assistant teachers were marked for work education and physical education along with other subject teachers. This decision was very important and was necessary to introduce the subject properly in school system.

b) Orientation Course for key Personnel in Work Education, Physical Education and Social Service (1974)

Considering the importance of the subject, the Education Department, Government of West Bengal, in consultation with the West
Bengal Board of Secondary Education took certain decisions for implementing the programme and the Education Directorate submitted a scheme for the orientation course for training of key personnel in this context (3). The scheme was accepted. A committee consisting of experts from the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education and the Education Directorate developed a syllabus for the orientation course. Four training camps were held at the following places with a total intake capacity of 250 key personnel.

i) Institute of Education for Women (70)

ii) David Hare Training College (40)

iii) Acharyya Prafulla Chandra Polytechnic, Jadavpur (80)

and

iv) St. Paul's College (60). The inaugural function was held on the 10th February, 1974 at the Institute of Education for Women attended by all the key personnel of the four camps and the resource persons. The course was continued to 23rd March, 1974.

8.1.4 WEST BENGAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION & OTHER NON GOVT. ORGANISATIONS

Apart from the lack of infrastructural facilities, the great snag in the way of introducing compulsory programme of physical education was dearth of qualified trained teachers during this period. In collaboration with West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, West Bengal Physical Education Association organised short courses for the teachers. School authorities were asked to depute interested teachers with the various aspects of physical education so that being trained, these teachers may introduce the syllabus / programme for their pupils in schools.
From May, 1975 to December, 1976, Association conducted 25 physical education and social service residential camps cum short courses for physical education training. Near about 1250 serving graduate teachers of secondary schools were trained from these courses (14). The course was of one month duration (10). For smooth conducting of the said one month training course the association prepared a syllabus in April, 1975 (11) and it was approved by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education and the Govt. as well. In March, 1976 again a new syllabus was prepared after slightly modification of previous syllabus for more effective course(12). A special general meeting of the association was held on 24th April, 1977 at Chinsurah Duff High School and it was decided that such short course should be discontinued (17). It may not be out of place to mention here that some voluntary organisations i.e. Jatiya Krira O Sakti Sangha, Bengal Bratachari Samity, Bharat Scout & Guides, Sab-Payeihir Asar, Monimella etc. were also conducted a number of short orientation training for teachers of secondary schools in physical education (26).

Along with the short training camps the association published a hand book namely “Guidance for training in physical education in the secondary schools of West Bengal” in March, 1974 (27). The main purpose of this book was to provide teachers of physical education in schools with a guide to enable them to follow a regular scheme throughout the school life of the students and to give a progressive, balanced course which will assist the gradual physical and mental development of the student. Association also organised several seminars for the benifit of the members and smooth implementation of physical education programme in schools during the year 1975-1976. Association also made an appeal to observe “Physical Education Day” on 15th February since 1977, with a view to promote and spread the cause of physical education (16). The association submitted a memorendum to the Pay Commission appointed by the Govt. of West Bengal on May, 1978, demanding a special status and scale for physical education teachers.
8.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PHYSICAL EDUCATION TRAINING COLLEGES

There was a growing demand of physical education teachers in schools, but the trained teachers available during the period was only about 170 (120 from Post Graduate Training College for Physical Education, Banipur, affiliated to the Calcutta University and 50 from Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University) per year. The number of women teachers in particular was too meagre for the demand. Therefore, Government and other educational institutions took the initiative either to increase the intake capacity or to open new physical education training college in West Bengal to fill the demand. At first Kalyani University, Department of Physical Education came forward and increased the number of seats in Bachelor of Education in Physical Education course from 50 to 65 in 1974 and 65 to 80 in 1976 of which 20 seats were reserved for female.

i) STATE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN, CALCUTTA (1975)

Smt. Leela Dey the then Inspector of Physical Education (women), Government of West Bengal, took the initiative to start a college for women. She had to persuade the Govt. very hard, which she had been trying since 1950, and finally able to get the necessary clearance from Government. Smt. Amola Soren, the then Deputy Minister, Government of West Bengal, incharge of women education was very much impressed with the proposal of Smt. Leela Dey and came forward with financial support from her department and influenced the Government to take decision in positive direction. Smt. Kalyani Pramanik, the then principal of Government Teachers Training College, Hestings House, was a personal friend of Smt. Leela Dey, also came forward to assist and fulfil the cherished desire of Smt. Dey. Smt. Pramanik could persuade the Government regarding space problem and offered spare vacant land and a portion of the building of the Hestings House for the physical education college. After great uncertainty,
finally the training college for women started functioning from the Hestings House Campus during September, 1975 (9). Smt. Leela Dey was made Officer-in-Charge of the institute and later in 1980 she was appointed as principal. Initially the intake capacity was 50, but due to heavy demand seventy trainee women were admitted in each year. This institute, a Government institute, was established with the initiative of Government officers but non Government institutes and educationists were more enthused in their endeavour to bring out trained physical education teachers as early as possible.

ii) JADAVPUR VIDYAPITH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (1975)

In 1974, Deputy Director of Public Instruction (Phy.Edn.) Government of West Bengal sent a proposal (4) to the Registrars of Burdwan University, North Bengal University, Jadavpur University, Viswa Bharati University for possible introduction of physical education training course in their training institutes, in the form of Department of Physical Education, where Bachelor of Teaching Course were offering. The proposal envisaged to start physical education course utilising the infrastructure already available and with low financial involvement in the part of the Government.

Jadavpur University accepted the proposal (vide Resolution No. 9 dated 19.4.75) (7) and decided to start the course as a Department of Physical Education in the Jadavpur Vidyapith College of Education. After obtaining the approval of the university a 15 month course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Education in Physical Education was introduced in the Jadavpur Vidyapith College of Education with effect from 1975-1976 (15). At the beginning there were dearth of facilities and difficulties in all respect but dedicated devotion of some leading personnel namely, Sri. Sisir Ranjan Bose, Sri Amulya Banerjee, Sri Rathin Sen, Sri Lokesh Chakrabarti and others it was possible to start a new Department of Physical Education at the Jadavpur Vidyapith College of Education. Theory classes were held at morning and afternoon in various places, according to the facilities
available. Initially 60 students were admitted out of which 50% were deputed. From 1975 to 1977 the course was not residential. A detail syllabus were prepared for 1200 marks (theory 500 marks, Practical 700 marks). At first there was no deputation allowance for the teachers and stipend for the non-teachers. There was no full-time lecturer initially. Only part-time teachers used to run the courses, however, one incharge, two whole-time lecturer, and five part-time lecturer posts were sanctioned. Mr. Pranab Debnath was appointed as first full-time lecturer. Sri Parimal Debnath and Sri Gopal Chakraborti joined as full-time lecturer in 1979. It may not be out of place to mention here that with the initiative of these two teachers erst while the Department of Physical Education under the Jadavpur Vidyapith College of Education was inducted directly under the control of Jadavpur University and emerged as a Department of Physical Education, Jadavpur University since 1990. Therefore, Jadavpur University became the 2nd university in West Bengal after Kalyani University that established physical education as an academic department in the university system.

iii) UNION CHRISTIAN TRAINING COLLEGE, BERHAMPORE (1975)

In the same fashion as in the case of Jadavpur Vidyapith College of Education, The Union Christian Training College, Berhampore also came forward to open a Department of Physical Education within the teachers training college. The infrastructural facilities including open space and playground was better in Union Christian Training College. Therefore, Government approved the opening of physical education teachers training course in the Union Christian Training College from 1975 (8). The initiative and interest was taken by Mr. Subhrendu Ghosh of Christian Society, Sri Rasiklal Chakraborti, ex-District Officer for Physical Education and Youth Welfare, Mr. Hiralal Das, the then principal of the college paved the way for opening of the course. Dr. Sudarshan Bhowmick was appointed as first full-time lecturer of the college. At the initial stage student strength was 40 and all were deputed teachers.
iv) **NIKHIL BANGA SIKSHAN MAHAVIDYALAYA, BISHNUPUR (1978)**

Nikhil Banga Sikshan Mahavidyalaya located at Bishnupur of Bankura district, was a teachers training college offering Bachelor of Teaching course under the Burdwan University. With the initiative of people of Bankura district led by Sri Chittaranjan Dasgupta, Sri Muktiprasad Dasgupta, Sri Biswanath Kayal, Sri Achinta Roy, a movement was raised, fund was floated and tremendous pressure was created to the Burdwan University and Government of West Bengal to start a physical education training college at the Bankura district. This was a public demand and All Bengal Teachers' Association (Bankura district) provided ample support in this regard. Sri Nalini Ranjan Dasgupta, ex-principal, David Here Training College and Hooghly B.T.College, Sri K.K.Dutt and Sri Dhanapati Chandra both were ex-Deputy Director of Public Instruction (Physical Education) and ex-principal Post Graduate Training College for Physical Education, Banipur, took initiative in obtaining Governments approval in this regard. Finally, Governments approval was obtained in 1978 for opening of a new Department of Physical Education at the Nikhil Banga Sikshan Mahavidyalaya with two posts of full time lecturers, four part time coaches, one part time medical officer & two field workers (18).

The College of Physical Education, as an annexe of the Nikhil Banga Sikshan Mahavidyalaya, Bishnupur started with effect from the session, 1978-1979, with an intake capacity of 50 students (25 deputed teachers and 25 non-teacher/fresher students). Classes started in September, 1978 after proper selection of students by a selection committee represented by the Government and University nominees together with members of the college. At the initial stage facilities were very much limited, however, Bishnupur High School came forward and extended all facilities including hostel and ground for the use of the college. The role of Sri Phani Bhusan Sannigrahi, physical education teacher of Bishnupur High School, was praise worthy. He was involved actively and nurtured the college in its formative stage. Sri K.K.Dutt ex-Deputy Director of Public Instruction
and ex-principal Post Graduate Training College for Physical Education, Banipur being retired from Government service was appointed as teacher-in-charge of the physical education section at the initial stage. However, due to ill health Sri Dutt left the college within a year. Sri Dilip Kumar Bandyopadhyay and Sri Pranab Kumar Debnath appointed to the posts of lecturer in physical education in the Department of Physical Education attached to that college on 30.3.79 and 31.3.79 respectively (19).

Since the number of physical education teachers in the schools were very negligible, the decision of compulsory and examination subject in school curriculum created employment opportunity to many unemployed active youths. They rushed to the training colleges, not only within the state but also to the training colleges, located outside the state, with the conviction that on completion of the training course they will get a job as assistant teacher of physical education in secondary schools. The demand of trained teachers always remained high in comparison to number of trained person passing out in each year from the training institutes of the state during 1975 to 1982.

8.3 KARUNA KETAN SEN AND KALYANI UNIVERSITY

It has already been indicated that academic development of physical education took a new direction during 1970's. Opening of four training colleges had signified professional growth during the period and it is a fact that a profession can not be developed without an appropriate academic backup, a feedback to what has been achieved and what is to be achieved. Academic development was also initiated in a systematic way during this period. The name of an unique personality will come up obviously in this regard and the distinguished person is Sri Karuna Ketan Sen.

Sri Sen was the president of West Bengal Physical Education Association from 1967 to 1977 and was the Vice-Chancellor, Kalyani University from 1970-1974. For the professional growth he made significant
contribution in the functions of the Association including effective planning for introduction of compulsory physical education in school set up, organising short courses in 1975 etc. On the other hand as Vice-Chancellor he took very effective role for introduction of Master Degree in Physical Education in Kalyani University. With the active support of the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. K.Sen the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University prepared the syllabus of M.Ed. in Physical Education course and all the formalities were completed by 1974 to open the new course for academic interest. Unfortunately, Sri K.Sen resigned from the post of Vice-Chancellor, Kalyani University in September, 1974 and introduction of the M.Ed. in Physical Education course delayed for several years.

It was the brain child of Sri K.Sen to bring a physiologist in the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University for the first time in a training institute in India during the year 1972. Laxmibai National College of Physical Education, Gawalior later followed this direction. In physical education training colleges, Anatomy and Physiology were being taught by part-time medical practitioners but Sri. K.Sen made a radical and significant change in the outlook. Sri K.Sen not only appointed Prof. A.K. Banerjee, basically a physiologist, in the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University but also to orient him with the profession sent him to Young Men’s Christian Association College of Physical Education, Madras for having Bachelor of Physical Education degree of Madras University. It was Sri K.Sen who thought that a physiologist with physical education background will definitely be in a position to serve the profession in right direction. His planning had paid rich dividend for the department and till today the teachers and staff of the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University remember with deep respect the contribution of this great personality.

It was a great misfortune of our profession that he resigned from the presidentship of the West Bengal Physical Education Association and withdrew himself from all the activities of the Association since 1977.
8.3.1 DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, KALYANI UNIVERSITY

The leadership and initiative shown by Sri K.Sen percolated to a great degree to some teachers of the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University who went on to develop the profession of physical education to an academic discipline as well, Prof. A.K.Bhattacharyya and Prof. A.K.Banerjee, then were lecturers, with the active support of K.Sen participated in the International Sports Physiology Congress held at Patiala, India in 1974 and attended first international basic course of Sports Medicine held at Amaravati, India in 1976. Their participation in these two international events enriched the profession as well. In 1978 it was for the first time in any University of West Bengal that a student was admitted to the Ph.D. programme of the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University. Prof. A.K.Banerjee, then a lecturer, was the first registered Ph.D. scholar of the department.

During this period Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University had published 'Prachesta', annual journal of the department. A good number of articles published in this journal, were of high esteem. Teachers of the department were also contributing articles in national and international journals. They were also presenting their research findings in seminars, symposia all over India. Thus an environment of academic interest was established and physical education profession was emerging as a multidisciplinary subject of academic pursuit and interest.

Teachers of training colleges other than Kalyani University were mainly engaged in giving proper shape to the training courses started in 1975. Teachers of Post Graduate Training College for Physical Education, Banipur, mainly involved in the reconstruction and revitalisation of the institute which was badly affected during early 70's due to naxalite movement and influx of Bangladesh refugees in the college campus (20). However, teachers of the Department of Physical Education, Kalyani University were functioning in both ways professionally and academically during this period. So far professional activity was concerned, Prof.
A.K.Bhattacharyya was an active vice-president of the West Bengal Physical Education Association till 1975. Mr. A. K. Saha was elected as the general secretary of the Association in 1975, and Prof. A.K.Banerjee was an executive member also elected in 1975. The professional activity of the department may also be envisaged in conducting a three weeks refresher course in physical education in June, 1974 to orient secondary school teachers of physical education with the new curricular introduced by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

After a great deal of negotiation with State Government, University Grants Commission and other academic bodies, finally the clearance was obtained and Master's course in Physical Education was introduced for the first time in an institute not only in West Bengal but also in whole of east and north-eastern region of the country in 1982. Sri Susil Bhattacharyya and Sri Satya Sadhan Chakraborti two Members of Parliament from West Bengal took active part in persuading University Grants Commission in this regard. Thus in one way with the opening of Government Training Centre of Physical Education in 1932, the true professional development was initiated and on the other way with the introduction of Master Degree in Physical Education at Kalyani University the academic development of the subject reached its peak. In the first batch number of students was only 15, and 3 seats were reserved for women. Later the number was increased to 25. The opening of Master's course created great enthusiasm among the students and professionals in West Bengal. A new era for the higher study in physical education as an academic discipline was ushered in with scope of research and extension programme in West Bengal.
8.4 REFERENCES FOR CHAPTER - VIII


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