CHAPTER-1
INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Physical activity has been a fundamental part of living pattern of all animals including human being. In our primitive society physical activity was necessary for survival. Such a pattern was followed from one generation to another till organized form of society and education came into vogue. It is everybody’s aspiration to be healthy. A widely accepted definition regarding health was given in 1948, “Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity”.\(^1\) Harmonious development of body and mind is highly required for us and herein lies the value of games and sports. Games and sports not only improve and help in keeping physical fitness but it also teaches us the value of discipline, team work and co-operation. Besides, it also contributes much to the promotion of universal fraternity and international understanding. Realizing the advantages and achievements of the modern games and sports, most of the people in the world are now taking much interest in it.

The dependency on information in every sphere of intellectual activity has been increasing day by day. Without proper and complete information,

no worthwhile decision can be taken. In fact, no progress is possible without the support of right information at the right time.

Communication is an essential component of information, without proper communication, information cannot reach its defined destination. Communication has become an essential part of the modern society. Today, everything depends directly on how speedily information are communicated, whether it is the new technologies, social economic, political, cultural, educational issues etc., all these affect our day-today life. As such, the right information should reach to the right person at the right time. Therefore, a sound information-communication-system is necessary to satisfy the information requirements of the people².

Considering the importance of information in the advancement of ‘games and sports’ which, since long, has become a popular item and part of life of the people of Manipur, the present work has been taken up under the title “Sports-Information-system of Manipur: A critical analysis”.

1.1 Sport

The modern word ‘Game’ and ‘Sports’ come from the Gothic word ‘Gamman’ meaning ‘with companionship’ and old France word ‘Desporier’ meaning, originally ‘to carry away from work’³.

---

Sports have been defined by many in various ways. Some of which state that sport is a game, that is to say a free activity, which does not follow any utilitarian objective but which developed within a set of precise rules and at the same time puts an individual to test. The objectives are recreative and self testing.⁴

A sport is a contest, against an opponent: adversary, space, time, obstacle, natural force. The objective is victory⁵.

A sport can be operationally defined as an activity characteristically involving:
- the exercise of a useful physical skill recreationally, i.e. for a purpose other than its practical application in daily life; and
- conforming to a set of rules for the activity while aiming to attain excellence.

The excellence referred to above may be measured against previous benchmarks, time measurements, performance of the other team or participants, world records, etc.

1.2 Information

The term ‘information’ is derived from Latin verb ‘infomare’, which connoted meaning, to give, shape or form to the mind. The dictionary

meaning of the term is ‘the knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance’. Information may also be termed as knowledge, as ‘knowledge is what we know or the portion of information, which is in our knowledge’\(^6\). In other word, information is a fact told, heard or discovered about factual practices. It is a piece of knowledge for making its use. The term has been defined differently by different persons.

Eliahu Hoffman opines “information’ as an aggregate (collection or accumulation) of statements, or facts or figures which are conceptually (by way of reasoning, logic, ideas or any other mental mode of operation) interrelated (connected)”.

George Miller defines information as something we need when we face a choice. He continues: “whatever its content, the amount of information required depends on the complexity of the choice. If, we face a wide range of equally likely alternatives, if anything can happen, we need more information that if we face a simple choice between alternatives”\(^7\).

“Information is the symbolic elements used for communicating scientific and technical knowledge, irrespective of their nature (commercial, textual, etc.), material carriers, form of presentation, etc. It refers to both substance or contents of documents and to physical existence, the term is

---


\(^7\) Ibid. p 6.
used to designate both the message (substance and term) and its communication (act).\textsuperscript{8}

Information is therefore a term with many meanings depending on context. It is as a rule closely related to such concepts as meaning, knowledge, instruction, communication, representation and mental stimulus.

Sports information is information about the sports and what the sportspersons, the government and others are doing about it. It describes the advantage, achievement and causes of various disciplines as well as the availability and effective of the sports activities. So, we may define sports information as the information that contributes to knowledge and understanding that, in turn, provides part of the basis for making decisions in developing and managing services to improve sports and its cultures. It may also recognizes the three components of sports information as (a) management and operational information; (b) sports statistics and (c) sports literature.

1.3 System

A System is a vital need for proper understanding of the development, technology, applications and management of information. Literally, it is defined as a group of interrelated or interacting elements forming a unified

whole. The generic concept of system which is widely used in the information system discipline is as follows:

"A system is a group of interrelated components working together toward a common goal by accepting inputs and producing outputs in an organized transformation process”.

1.3.1 Components of a System

A system has the following three basic components:

Input: which involves capturing and assembling elements that entered the system to be processed.

Processing: which involves transformation process that convert input into output.

Output: which involves transforming elements that have been produced by the transformation process to their ultimate destination.

1.4 Information System (IS)

An information system can be viewed as a system that accepts data resources as input and processes them into information products as output. It may be defined as an organized flow of information to users. IS, in the words of O’Brien⁹, is a “set of people, procedures and resources that collects transfers and disseminates information in an organization”. Today’s

organization depends on different types of information systems which "include simple manual (paper and pencil) information system and informal (word of mouth) information system". Encyclopaedia of computer science\textsuperscript{10} defines IS as "a collection of people, procedures and equipment designed, built, operated and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve and display information". In a broader sense, an IS is considered as a system for accepting data as raw material and through one or more transmutation process and decision making (in relation to its own existence) are among the functions performed by an IS. Thus IS generally may be defined as a system which collects, processes, stores, retrieves, disseminates and transmits information to fulfill the information needs of a variety of users.

1.4.1 Structure of Information System

Gopinath\textsuperscript{11} conceptualised the structure of IS under some criteria such as basic feature and parameters.

1.4.1.1 Basic features

Information systems have the following basic features:

i. They have a ‘control channel’ and a ‘content channel’- that is information.

\textsuperscript{10} RALSON (A) and MEEK (Chesters L), \textit{Ed. Encyclopaedia of Computer Science}.1976. Petroelli-Charter; New York.

ii. They are ‘historical or current’- that is time dimension of information.

iii. They are ‘remote or local’- that is space dimension of information.

1.4.1.2 Parameters

i. Users;

ii. Information sources; and

iii. Technologies.

1.4.1.2.1 Users

The user part calls for:
- identifying the information needs; and
- usage patterns and case of use.

1.4.1.2.2 Information source

The information part calls for:
- information transfers mechanism (carrier media; paper or electronics or optical);
- information storage-memory;
- information retrieval techniques- classification /cataloguing/search;
- information resources, documents, institutions, human being;
- communication- mode and media.
1.4.1.2.3 Technologies

The technology part includes:
- Computer system;
- Telecommunication system;
- Reprographics and micrographic equipment.

1.5 Sports Information System

Sports Information System (SIS) is interpreted in most countries as consisting of sports statistical and other sports-related information useful for sports planning and management. IS is generally recognized as necessary, fundamental and an integral element for the development of sports services and activities. Thus we may define SIS as a mechanism for the collection, processing, analysis and transmission of information required for organizing and operating sports services and also for research and training.

In a fully co-ordinated SIS all the relevant data are collected, compiled, stored, retrieved, analysed and published. A SIS should be effective in organizing, storage, documentation services and communication of information (both in verbal and non-verbal i.e., print form) to the users and at the same time should be adaptable enough to meet any other sports information needed by the users of varied groups at present and in the future.
1.5.1 Components of SIS

The following interrelated and interdependent components are working together to achieve the goal of the system i.e. to fulfill the information needs of the users: (i) people, (ii) information and (iii) system. While the first two categories have to do with content, the last category has to do with the means of delivery of information. The category ‘people’ is concerned with relationship between the originator (author/writer), intermediary (librarians) and user (seeker of information). Information has to do with all forms of data, documents and literature etc. and ‘system’ is concerned with the creation, storage, repackaging, disposal and interpretation. By Sports Information System (hereafter SIS), we therefore mean the system which identifies collects, records, processes and delivers the needs of the users associated with health and sports at all levels. It also includes the transferring of technology according to the needs from the source to the end users.

1.6 Purpose of the study

The researcher is a National Badminton player and being a player, he is facing a lot of problems like unavailability of adequate sports information/literatures, inadequate infrastructures, unaware of information system etc. because of the inappropriate information system in the state. The difficulties faced by the researcher motivated him to undertake a study which will help in his sportsmanship as well as in formulating a
proper/sound sports policy/system of the state. It will be clearly understand from the objectives of the present study.

1.7 Objectives of the study

This tiny state Manipur is well known throughout the world for its games and sports. Indeed, it has now become an important part of the life of people of Manipur. The number of player and sports loving people are increasing day by day and hence in order to bring more advance in the field of sports and an effective information system is highly necessary. The objectives of the study are to –

➢ investigate the arena of sports information in the state;
➢ identify the role of the libraries as information providers to the sportspersons;
➢ identify various information channels and sources;
➢ identify the problems of the sports persons encountered by the users from the existing system on their respective fields; and
➢ find out the possibility of establishing a sound sports information system in the state.
1.8 Hypotheses

The present study will be undertaken to verify the following hypotheses drawn on the basis of preliminary studies that:

➢ the existing sports information infrastructures are not suitable to fulfill the needs of the users;
➢ there is a very poor collection of sports literatures in all the existing libraries;
➢ almost all the sports organizations at all levels do not have any well organized library;
➢ most of the sportspersons are not aware of the use of information system;
➢ there is a need to design of an effective Sports Information System in Manipur.

1.9 Scope of the study

The facility of an investigation depends upon the delimitation of the study. An extensive survey has been carried out to ascertain about:

1. the three most important components of SIS of Manipur i.e. (i) libraries (only collections), (ii) sports organizations/institutions/clubs (the role), and (iii) sports persons (the views).
2. the size and the varieties of the sports related literatures available in the libraries in and around the capital city, Imphal.
3. the experiences of the sports persons about updating their sports knowledge and techniques through literature;
4. the geographical area of the Manipur has been taken into account;
5. the time period in the collection of data is fixed to the period 2002-2007 (i.e. for five years).

1.10 Methodology

The present investigative work has been carried on applying survey method. The tools employed to collect data are questionnaire, interview, observation and personal experience of the present research as sportsman.

The target-group of the study includes sports persons at different levels and at different status (e.g., administrators, managers, coaches, trainers, teachers, players, participants, trainees and others). Data are collected from them through questionnaires.

Data are also collected from various sports organizations /institutions /clubs through questionnaires.

Since library is most important component of any information system, the librarians of some important libraries situated in and around capital city Imphal are interviewed using questionnaires. Collected data are analyzed and interpreted using statistical-tables and diagrams.
1.11 Significance of the study

The researcher selected the problem because of the fact that the state is famous for its achievements in the fields of arts and cultures and games and sports. The study is very important and significant because –

✓ the study probably related to the awareness of information system by the sportspersons of the state.
✓ it would be helpful to know how the sports organizations generate information.
✓ it will be helpful in finding out the facilities available in the library and organization for the sports.
✓ the study would help various organizations, institutions, SAI, Directorate of YAS etc. to take measures in creating/establishing sports libraries and would suggest ways and means to the sports authorities of the state.
✓ the study will help to find out the hidden talented players of Manipur.
✓ the study will suggest the ways and means for more popularity and identification of the state in the world specially in the field of sports and its cultures.
✓ the study will be helpful to locate the various causes for the inadequacy of sports libraries.
✓ it will give perspective resource for the lovers of games and sports in the state.
✓ the study will help to improve the performance of the sportspersons.
✓ it will enable smooth transferring of sports information among the sports loving people of the state and outside the state.
✓ it will help to provide a faster information dissemination in the state.
✓ it will be a reference work for the researchers in the field.

1.12 Review of related literatures

Review of available literature is a component part of any research work. A comprehensive investigation can be evolved through the examination and updating of the progress of the development of general and characteristic trend of events from its earliest period of history. The reviews of related literature is required to ascertain how much work have already been covered by others and what are the remaining areas in which the researcher can pursue his research so that it will avoid unnecessary duplication of his research work.

The research scholar has made a sincere effort to go through the professional literatures related to the study. The data furnished are cogently related with the study and bears strong and convincing implications. In the context of this study the researcher collected some directly and indirectly related literatures which are reviewed hereunder.
Budha\textsuperscript{12} (1992) studied, "Indigenous games of the meitei with special reference to Kang and Polo (19th century AD)" in the historical background of Manipur. It was published in book form in 1992 at Imphal. In this study, the researcher tried to give a comprehensive information in terms of origin and background of every minor and indigenous games of the meiteis. This work is a remarkable and also one of the important reference book of games and sports in Manipur. The main aspects mentioned in this book are minor games of children. Race, Hiyang, Sharit-sharak, Yoobilakpi, Martial arts. Thang-ta, Mukna kangjei, Polo, Kang etc. But this study does not cover the area of physical education and other important major games and sports.

Ranjit\textsuperscript{13} (1994), made a study on the topic "A study of traditional sports and Martial Arts of North-Eastern tribals of India" with the objectives to-

i) Consolidate the knowledge of earlier periods about sports and martial arts which are presently scattered;

ii) Collect the information about training institutions of sports and martial arts in the north eastern states of India;

iii) Study the relevance of traditional programme of physical education; and

iv) Take historical reviews of the traditional sports and martial arts.


Hence, the main purpose of the study was to collect the information about traditional sports and martial arts of North Eastern tribals of India. Data collection was made by using questionnaire and visitation techniques. Authentic information was collected through interviews with the grand masters, masters, players and eminent scholars and also from those who have a fairly good knowledge about the activities of tribal people of North Eastern India (specially from 7 states).

Books on traditions and culture of the North East tribals, written by modern scholars and authors also served as useful source of information. The information collected were sorted out and classified into traditional sports and martial arts.

The scholar found out that among those states of India, Manipur seems to be involved with rich cultural heritage and sports and martial arts of different types traditionally developed in the state that have remained as a part of this heritage. As part of the study, the researcher found out the number of training institutions of Manipur which impart training in martial arts, that is altogether 19 institutions are there in Manipur and 10 Associations which are organizing competition and tournament of the activities.

Mangi\textsuperscript{14} (1995) conducted research work on “Development of sports and physical education in Manipur (1947-1990)”. In this study, he traced the

history of development of sports and physical education in Manipur. The main objective of the study was to find out the development of sports and physical education in the state of Manipur after the independence up to 1990. The other purposes were:

1. To find out the particular period of introducing physical education in the school and college curriculum in Manipur.
2. To find out the indigenous games of Manipur with particular reference to Kang and Sagol kangjei.
3. To find out the sports development in the High/Secondary school levels of education in Manipur.
4. To find out the incentives given to the players by the state government of Manipur.
5. To know the sports promoter in terms of associations/federations.

The thesis has been presented in five chapters. The first chapter analysed mainly on the historical background of the sports, games and physical education in Manipur. The second chapter analysed and discussed the reviews of literature from all available sources. The third chapter, mentioned about the indigenous games of Manipur specially Kang and Sagol kangjei. The fourth chapter highlights the development of physical education, games and sports in Manipur. This chapter has been discussed by dividing into three periods. They are pre-independence, after independence (upto 1979) and new era of physical education and sports in Manipur (1980 and onwards). The fifth chapter analysed the existing curriculum and syllabi.
prevailing in the schools, colleges universities of Manipur, it is revealed that, a lot of considerations, modifications, reorganization and standardization and improvement are necessarily required, particularly in the school section, there is need to review the existing syllabus to suit to the local situations. Practically, it was not suited to all areas of hills and planes of Manipur.

Kumar\textsuperscript{15} (1995) is an experimental researcher, the title of his research work is "Physiological co-relations and athletic performance". The purpose of the study was to find out the physique and physiological co-relation with the athletic performance of junior group of male athletes. The researcher collected data from the three categories of sample namely junior national level athletes, who were the first to sixth position holder athletes, participation the IX\textsuperscript{th} National Junior Athletics Championship, held at Lal Bahadur Stadium, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh from 22-24 Feb. 1994, State level athletes, participated in the XVI\textsuperscript{th} Manipur State Junior Athletic Championship, held at Imphal polo ground from 28-30 Dec., 1993 and another group of non athletes as controlled group. Thus, the researcher collected 322 responses in the breakup of 100 from national junior athletes, 82 from state athletes and 140 from non athletes (for control group). All the subjects are ranging from 13 to 18 years of age. The subjects are divided into 4 sub groups of event wise, namely sprinter, long distance runners, jumpers and throwers of both national and state level athletes. The researcher made the following hypotheses:

1. There are significant difference in the physique-anthropometric characteristics among athletes and non athletes.

2. There are significant difference in the physiological variables and characteristics in term of physiques among athletes and control group.

3. There are inter group and intra group differences in physique and physiological variables in state and national athletes.

4. There is significant difference between state and national athletes in some of the selected physical and physiological variables.

5. There are significant differences in the pattern of growth among athletes at the state and national level as well as in control group.

Shalauddin\textsuperscript{16} (1995) conducted a research work on, “A study on the influence of physical education on the physical fitness of the boys in the high schools of Manipur”. The aims of the study are -

> to study the fitness status of the students in the high Schools of Manipur;

> to study the influence of physical education on the fitness of the boys in the High schools of Manipur;

> to find out the effect of exercise on physical fitness;

➢ to inquire into the problems of the boys who have poor physical fitness;
➢ to determine the scope of the physical fitness of the boys having low physical fitness;
➢ to offer suggestions regarding adequate facilities of physical education to be provided in the schools and encourage the students for regular participation in the physical education activities, games and sports for achieving desired physical efficiencies;
➢ to motivate people to do exercise for improving their fitness to live meaningfully in life; and
➢ to make the study of physical education more relevant to the needs of the society.

Amuba\textsuperscript{17} (1998) conducted research work in “Social stratification of sports in the North Eastern States of India”. The main purpose of the study was social stratification of sports in the North-Eastern States of India. Following are the objectives of the study:

1. To find out the treatment and public interest towards the different games and sports;
2. To explore the relationship of economic status with participants in the sports;
3. To find out the type of facilities provided by the organizers of the different sports;

4. To investigate prominent given to the different coverage game in the north eastern states;

5. The present study might bring to light news coverage of various sports events of the interest and attitude of public in the regard;

The hypotheses of the study were:

1. Sports might be stratified on the basis of the type of social treatment, preference, they received from the society, economic status of the players, organizational status of different games and space covered in the newspapers;

2. The choice of the players in game might be related with their economic status;

3. There might be significant relationship of sports status with the facilities provided to participants of different sports; and

4. Newspapers might have discussion role in reflecting the status of the games and sports in the society. For this study the scholar collected the data from 350 commoners, 1224 active players, 60 organizers and newspapers were finally selected from the seven states of north east India. After analysis it was concluded that the stratification of sports exist in north eastern region of India was that, Tennis, Cricket and Football may fall in upper strata whereas Badminton, Table tennis, Hockey and Basketball comes in the middle strata and Volleyball, Wrestling and Kabaddi falls in the lower strata.
Saratchandra 18(1998) studied, “A history of indigenous games in Manipur”. The work proposes to study the traditional games and sports of the meiteis as it exist in Manipur from the earliest period upto the present day. In this study, most of the materials and data were relied on primary sources and other observations of the indigenous games which are still being played. The main sources of data were puyas, literary works both in English and archaic Manipuri on traditional martial arts, festivals, Sagol kangjei, Manipuri dance, rites and ceremony and other forms of culture, local experts mostly aged who were at one time famous for playing indigenous games and sports under the royal patronage and so on.

The main objective of the work is to study the physical culture of the meiteis without which the social and cultural history of Manipuri would always be uncompleted. This study will certainly help in keeping alive the indigenous games which were either disappeared or modified in course of time in its original forms. The work was mainly based on the available indigenous literary source particularly the puyas, the ancient meitei texts etc.

Kokngang19 (2000) made a study on “A historical study of traditional martial arts of Manipur (Thang-ta)”. The theme or central idea of the study was to place the system of the thang-ta which is existed from times immemorial in the state of Manipur both in scientifically and culturally in the proper form. The researcher expressed that in the early time the meitei

---

did not have any reserved groups of soldiers like the army, instead there was a customary system called Lallup. Lallup is derived from two words ‘Lal’ means ‘war’ and ‘Lup’ means ‘group’. Lallup was an organized form of facing a war in group traditionally devise solely for the event of war. The meiteis were so skillful and conversant in Thang-ta that the British government appreciated it to a great extent. They practice and use of such system immediately after they took over the state. Although, Thang-ta has lost its historical habitat since the mode of war and weapon army have altogether changed the body movement pattern for physical fitness, agility, flexibility, body-mind co-operations, endurance, alertness of mind, which are immediate importance in the field of games and sports as well as Nata-Sangkritan, Manipuri dance, Rashlila, etc. have been an indispensable component of Manipur since a long time. Moreover, Thang-ta movement patterns were adopted and incorporate by the various martial arts self-defence. So far as the valuable role of Thang-ta in state performance is concerned, Thang-ta has its universal character although there are certain traits and trends specific to the Manipur Thang-ta rooted in her historical past.

Jitendra²⁰ suggested in his article, “Physical culture of meitei” in the journal Manipur sports, that a careful and critical investigation on the question of sports movement with its rich tradition of sports culture inherited from the past of the people would offer a creative way towards

revolutionizing sports movement in this state, indeed, the study would throw sufficient light at least on the academic perspective for performing great job for the revolutionary promotion of sports in this state such as the work of adopting a fresh working state policy on sports from Manipur.

Nabachandra\textsuperscript{21} (2004), the relationship of sports facilities with sports participation and achievements in the colleges of Manipur, observes that 'the degree of taking part in sports festivals has direct relationship with facilities provided. Promising facilities tend to increase quantum of participation. The provision of more facilities enhances the capability of competency and thus the more competitors do come up on the line. Thus, the quantum of facilities, by enlarge, tends to increase the quantum of participation. A good number of spirited sports persons are retiring form the arena with these content feelings for want of adequate facilities of equipments and infrastructures. It is mainly because of the lack of enough facilities. The futures of many adroit sportspersons are kept still at vacuum with a ray of light towards prosperity. This is the most glaring stumble part of sports prospect and thus spread feedings of discontentment among the athletes of Manipur specially to the college going students.

Satyabhama\textsuperscript{22} (2004), studies on the participation of Manipuri women in games and sports with special reference to the valley districts of Manipur. She narrates about the Manipuri female's participation in the physical


\textsuperscript{22} SATYABHAMA DEVI (G). A study on the participation of Manipuri women in games and sports with special reference to the valley districts of Manipur. Manipur University, Ph. D. 2004. (unpublished).
activities in the form of dance, recreational minor games and other indigenous games like, Kang, Sagol kangjei, Thang-ta etc. a few women who were studied outside Manipur started to participate in their collegiate women sports championships since 1946 in few athletic events. Thereafter participation of female players of Manipur increases slowly. Manipur female players started playing hockey in 1951. In the beginning they were facing lots of problems like family prejudice, lack of facilities, and lack of encouragement from the parents and the public, social constraints, especially for playing in the open air with sports kids, also away from home for practice in the early morning and after evening with their male counterparts. Although they continued their practices and sports participating in the Manipur Olympic Games. Due to their hard work, perseverance, dedication and love of sports today, Manipur women become world champions and shining in the games and sports arena of India as well as in the world.

The emergence of sports journalism in the present enriches the literature for sports movement. Internet facilities IT network also provide sports service to sports personals all over the world.