CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION
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In all societies, people differ in forms of social and biological characteristics such as age, sex, physical strength, size, race, ethnicity, and skill. When these characteristics are differentially valued and ranked within the society, we have social inequality and a system of social stratification. In effect, the individual differences are ranked or evaluated according to social values, the resulting hierarchy is based on the degrees of prestige, honor, importance, material possessions, and other rewards that occur from these characteristics. Although social stratification systems exist in all societies, except perhaps very small and primitive tribal societies, the criteria that are used to rank people and the nature of the stratification system vary with the society. In fact, in a complex society several social stratification structure are present. For example, people may be ranked on age, sex, race, and ethnic affiliation. Other rankings are based on economic factors (usually defined as social class), prestige, honor, and power. Although these characteristics are closely related, it should be noted that a person might have wealth but not be accorded prestige, and one may have power but lack honor. For purposes of our discussion, we are primarily interested in social stratification based on economic factors, that is social class, and the consequences of economic positions for behaviour associated with sport.

Sport is one of the most important realizations of social life. They are capable of exerting an influence on social production, human behaviour patterns and social relationships. They are an important factor in ideological education, a means of uniting diverse elements (oftenly more capable of social integration than religion, colour, caste or creed) and of rational utilization of free time. They represent an area of peaceful competition in a spirit of friendship between nations and their citizens. It is the reason that sociology of sport has become a fascinating field of study these days in both the developed and developing nations. In fact, sports and games provide a touchstone for understanding how people live, work and think and many contribute to an awareness of fundamental issues generated in different types of social structures.

N. S. Sodhi's article on 'Sport: A Sociological viewpoint' analysis sociological aspect of a sport activity, namely, the institutionalisation, and motivational factors. Institutionalisation helps in sanctioning and systematising certain patterns of living and working. In the field of sport activity, competition provides greater freedom of initiative and achievement. He has shown that the intrinsic as well as extrinsic factors play an important role in motivating an individual regarding his performance in sport activities.

The field of social research is a broad on the range of human behaviour and its systematic manifestations. It seeks to find out the unexplained social phenomena to clarify the doubts and correct the misconceived facts which are hidden in society.

Every society has a system of social stratification, or institutionalized social inequality. Different societies base their stratification system on different dimensions but occupation, education, wealth, religion and family heritage are frequently important. The norms, beliefs and value of a society legitimize, justify, and give stability to its stratification system.

A stratification system is composed of various levels, or social strata. People who have approximately the same level of income may be viewed as a wealth stratum, and people with approximately the same schooling may be as education stratum.

In some respects, then the sports played by a particular class serve as symbols of their status and function within society. For example, Martin and Berry argue that the adoption of motorcross racing as a sport by working class males is a reflection of a socialization process that advocates "rugged individualism".

Motorcross racing serves as an accessible and popular pursuit for proving their manhood and for diffusing alienation

present in the work world. In this way, stability is brought to
the individual and to society through class-based participation.

A major consequence of social stratification in sport
organisation in this resulting social inequalities between and
among selected social statuses. For example in the context of
professional sport, "rookies" normally receive a lower annual
average salary then "veterans", female golfers compete for
smaller amount of prize money than male golfers, and blacks do
not have the same opportunities as white for leadership positions
in sport. Sometimes such inequalities are relatively justified,
as in the case of a salary differential based on objective
criteria of playing ability and experience. At other times,
however, such inequalities are unjust for example, the exclusion
of individuals from participation on the basis of characteristics
such as age, race, or sex. This exclusion, of course,
constitutes discrimination.

At the mass level for adults, Renson found that sport
involvement is related to the social class structure in Belgium,
with skiing, Golf, Tennis and Fencing being at the top, and
Gymnastics, Calisthenics, Track and field, Judo, Boxing, Soccer,
and team Handball at the bottom. As an indication that social
events or social change may result in a different stratification

4. R. Renson. Social Status Symbolism of Sport
Stratification. Presented at the International Congress of the
Physical Activity Sciences, Quebec City (July 1976).
and international champion athletes in Japan were college students or college graduates. This is a reflection of the privileged status accorded students before the war. However, with the rise of industrialization after the war, the students privileged position was lost and many industries began to sponsor sport activities. As a result, most male and female champion athletes since World War II have been industrial work was sponsored by their work organizations.

If the British were largely responsible for the ethos, codification and diffusion of competitive sport as an amateur pastime, then certainly the locus for the expansion of professional sport existed prior to the modern era, even according to historians in ancient Greece and Rome also in nineteenth century Britain Horse-racing provided employment for trainers and jockeys; Cricket had paid professional playing alongside gentlemen amateur; and Soccer rapidly moved towards a fully professional game at the highest level of competition by the last decade of the century. However even well into this century professionalism was only disdainfully tolerated in Britain.

It was accepted as an unfortunate necessity once working class involvement in sport brought in individuals whose background and lifestyle encouraged them to seek a modest


6. Cashman and Kernan (eds) "Playing for Pay"; The Earning of professional Sportsmen in England (1870-1914) 104-130
recompense for cultivating sporting skills as an avenue of economic survival far preferable to almost any alternative form of employment often to them. As evidence by the turning away of the middle class from soccer at the time it started to became increasingly dominated by working class teams and supporter and increasingly professionalised, it was a widely held belief that the value and authenticity of the sport quickly dissipated once it began to be played not purely for its moral and social benefits, but as a medium of entertainment and as a form of paid work.

The emergence of the mass media, particularly the newspaper and radio provide a rapid means of informing the public about the happening in sport, and thus sport flourished. The commercial interests who controlled the mass media quickly realized that the reading and listening public were interested in sport. Writers and broadcasting promoted both sport and the media by embellishing, the game through the use of imagery, metaphors and the creation of heroes the Babe, the Griper, the Manassa Mauler, the four horsemen, the Yankee duper and the galloping ghost. Writers and broadcasters not only promoted sport into major entertainment business in the 1920's through their own intrepreneurial interest by "selling" sport. In short, a reciprocal affinity developed between the mass media and sport.

Nowadays most daytime TV on weekends consist of sport programmes. It is not just on screens that sports image appear. In the magazine, newspapers and TV also many advertisements incorporate sports images; Using to sell product is nothing new. In 1905, a coca-cola and featured "a young man with golf clubs and girl with a tennis racket". Tennis and newsweek with boxer, canon cameras with tennis player. Paramount vodka with hang gliders and so on. It is indicated that there are very good responses of the society on sports.

Newspapers have played a vital role in popularising and improving the standard of sports and create an awareness among the public about the needs values and the utility of sports. There is a criticism that the newspaper unduly, provide patronage for disciplines like Cricket, Tennis and Football at the cost of other branches of sports. It is to be understood that unless the mass media especially newspapers help develop the correct attitude and approach toward sports it is not possible to provide a concrete idea and plan of action for the growth of sports in a country.

Newspaper have been involved in the presentation of sport longer than any other medium, perhaps because individuals want to read about sport for knowledge and information. As a social institution, the newspapers reflect the culture of a society. To

illustrate, Cozens and Stumpf cite an unpublished study that indicates that general social problems in the United States from 1929 to 1935 were given indirect discussion on the sport pages; these include the depression, race relations, public morality, technological change, and a propensity to favor and help the underdog.

Money is one of the most important determinants of class. And money determines the sport that different classes participate. Obviously only rich can afford such sport as Yachting or polo. Even below that level, many sports require a substantial amount of money. To illustrate: An hour on a tennis court; a tennis racket cost from twenty to two hundred dollars; tennis shorts, shirts, dresses and shoes cost thirty dollars and up (mostly up); a set of golf clubs, sells for a hundred dollars at discount stores, up to eight hundred dollars at top of the line stores; a set of golf clubs, sells for a hundred dollars at discount stores, up to eight hundred dollars at top of the line stores; playing a round of golf cost three dollars at public links during the off hours, up to an eight thousand dollar annual dues at private clubs. Swimming is face at public pools and beach but swim clubs charge in the neighbourhood of fifty to a thousand dollar per year.


Money provides a good explanation for why aspirants from different class backgrounds go into different sports. Money filters them into one sport or another. Basketball (or boxing) cost little, so the children of the inner city go into it. Tennis cost considerably more, so it attracts children having affluent suburbs. For that reason, ice skating, gold tennis and many other activities are generally the sport of the upper-middle class. In contrast lower income groupings frequently engage in lowest-cost sports.

The irony of Indian sport is that while some performers are amply regarded, most other remain uncared for. Take the tragic case of wrestler Malwa. A champion at the Commonwealth as well as the Asian Games, he lived in a small hut in Delhi, sold "Aloo Tikki" on the road side to maintain his large family and died recently a pauper.

How come no one was moved by Malwa's plight? Is winning the Gold at the Asiad or the Commonwealth Games not considered an achievement, simply because the sport happened to be wrestling? Why is it that cricketers are readily provided with jobs even if they perform only moderately at the national level while others who bring laurels to the country are ignored? It is a very urgent need to find out from which circumstances, the Government and the society treated varieties of sports in different degrees.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Sport is one of the most important activities in the society. As the sports have value in the society, television news programmes and the major national news magazines have featured special programmes and stories about different sports. Whenever the sports programmes come on T.V., people of different age groups watch T.V. however they have different opinions for the preference in the sport. Generally cricket football, are common for all whereas some other games like kho-kho, Kabaddi are preferred by limited people. When a player of Indian cricket team visit the town, the public rushes to see and receive him but it is not so in case of the kabaddi player or a wrestler.

Why and how does the society treat in different ways the players of varied games and sports? Is there any different strata of sport just as society has different economic strata? What are the circumstances under which the society views the various games with a different degree of regard? These questions came in the mind so the researcher has selected this problem for study, "Social Stratification of Sport in North Eastern States of India".

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of the study was, social stratification of sports in north eastern states of India. Following were the objectives of the study.
1. To find out the social treatment and public interest towards the different games and sports.

2. To explore the relationship of economic strata with participant in the sports.

3. To find out the type of facilities provided by the organisers of the different sports competitions.

4. To investigate prominents given to the different sports in the news papers coverage gamewise in north eastern states.

5. The present study might bring to light the news coverage of various sports events of interests and attitudes of public in this regard.

DELIMITATIONS

1. The scope of present study was delimited to the following games and sports.
   a) Basketball       b) Cricket       c) Football
   d) Hockey          e) Kabaddi         f) Table Tennis
   g) Tennis          h) Volley ball     i) Wrestling.

2. The subject were selected from seven (7) eastern states of India, viz.
   a) Arunachal Pradesh b) Assam           c) Manipur
   d) Meghalaya        e) Mizoram         f) Nagaland and
   g) Tripura.

3. The subject were chosen from the male commoners and male players.

4. Age groups of the subject (players) were seventeen to twentyfive years.
5. The games standard of the players was district level, state level and intercollegiate level participation.

6. Organisers of the tournament of male games and sports were selected.

7. Data in relation with allotment of the space for various sports was restricted to the "Assam Tribune" a most popular and widely circulated daily newspaper in north-east states of the country.

LIMITATION

1. The authenticity of data given by the respondents depended upon the honesty of the subject.

2. No restriction was placed on the age of commoners.

3. The subjects from rural and urban areas were not classified.

4. For stratifications of sports, no single scale could be evolved it depends on economic status of the players, popularity of the game, preferences of the sports for their words, prominent of sports in news coverage and type of organisational status of the sports.

HYPOTHESIS

Many times the present researcher has observed the tournaments of varied games and sports. The researcher can say through experience that a very big crowd of spectators enjoyed to watch some particular games whereas the spectators are very few in some other games like Kabaddi, Kho-Kho etc. Even the dress of the spectators and type of accommodation also differ from
sport to sport. From such circumstances, the present researcher has drawn the following hypothesis.

1. The main hypothesis was that, sports might be stratified on the basis of the type of social treatment, preference they received from the society, economic status of the players, organisational status of different games and space covered in the newspapers.

2. It was hypothesized that the choice of the players in game might be related with their economic status.

3. The study was based on the hypothesis that there might be significant relationship of sports status with the facilities provided to participants of different sports.

4. Newspapers might have discussion role in reflecting the status of the games and sports in the society.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Sport: Sport is a specific form of human movement behaviour. Aims and objectives, the people participating in sport, time, and location are characterized by large diversity; this proves the central social relevance of the phenomenon, called sport. Sport is an expression of the cultural performance of man. Therefore, sport also has to do with the typical tendencies of bringing sport in close relation to ideology, profession, organisation, education, and science. Sport is part of a culture with an international character; socio-cultural diversity and special geographic conditions further increase the variability of sport. Sport is realised mainly in sport
disciplines, which have varying importance according to the chosen context for action.

**Status**: Status is a position among a hierarchy of positions in a social group where a person fits. It is abstract and as a position may have no occupant. Every status has socially prescribed role and roles since one status may have more than one. Status is a bundle of norms since each position carries with it certain obligations, responsibilities, right, and privileges.

**Stratification**: Stratification means the enforced separation of racial or ethnic group with one group being clearly dominant. Sociologists generally apply the term "Stratification" to the division of society based on wealth, education, religion and family heritage.

**Social Stratification**: Social stratification is an organised manifestation of unequal power in society (Mark 1953). Sport and Games can provide an environment in which there is less stratification than anywhere else in society. However, sport can also serve as a catalyst social mobility through which one moves upward.

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Sport Stratification: Sport stratification is an organised manifestation of unequal power in sport. It is the ranking of various sports existing in the society on the basis of popularity of the sports among the people; socio-economic status of the participants; social treatment in the form of prizes, privileges, facilities etc; and space given to the newspaper.

Coverage: The amount, extent, etc. covered by something in journalism, the extent to which a news story is covered.

Daily and Dailies: Relating to, done, happening, or published every day or every week day, dailies, a newspaper or other publication issued each or each week day.

News: New information about anything, information previously unknown; recent happenings, especially those broadcast over the radio or television, printed in newspaper, etc; reports of such events collectively.

Newspaper: A publication regularly printed and distributed usually daily or weekly, containing news, opinions, advertisements and other items of the general interest.

Review: A looking back, as on past event; a general survey of report; a critical report and evaluation as in a newspaper, of a book, play concert, etc.

17. Ibid
18. Ibid
20. Ibid
Sports Newspapers (Sport Section of "General" Newspapers): They are published periodically, usually daily, report on all aspects of sport, and comment on single aspects or events. 21

Sports Journals: They are published less frequently. Two forms can be distinguished. Journals for sport theory or sport disciplines and sport magazines of a more popular character. These journals are published either by publishing companies or by sport associations. 22

Sports TV: Verbal and visual information on sport in reports, comments, and interview (also exclusive sport channels). 23

Sports Film: The following categories can be distinguished: TV film with sport channels; sport films with elements of a TV film; documentary films; teaching and instruction films; sport scientific films. 24

Sports Radio: Verbal information on sport in reports, comments and interviews. 25

Sports Photography: Pictures of sport movements, also as part of other visual media on posters, in calendars, in book etc. 26


22. to 26. Ibid.
Mass Media and Sport: The different media provide a concrete proof for the fact, the sport has become a major factor in many societies, especially the ones characterized by industrialisation and technology. Sport plays a major role in the media; many professional opportunities with relation to sport are round in connection with media. The professionalisation here has just begun. However, the transfer of research results to this part of professional practice related to sport, is also very important since mass media have a high responsibility for shaping the perception and also future development of sport. The field of sport has to be carefully to remain an equal partner in this relationship. 27

Significance of the Study

As far as the author's knowledge is concerned no investigation had been made so far on the lines of present study in India. The present study might be justified as worth or the following.

1. The study might be taken a significant step of finding out the different treatment and views of a society towards various sports. It was hoped that this study might help the society as well as sports authority of India to promote the sports. In this background the present worker has decided to study the "Social Stratification of Sports in the North Eastern States of India".

27. Ibid (132)
2. The study would explore the status of different sports on the basis of wealth stratum and education stratum of the participant.

3. The result would be able to categorised the status of different sports according to the requital and importance the participants recieve.

4. This study would explore the organised manifestation of unequal power of various institutional sports in society.

5. The present study might bring to light the news coverage of various sports events of interests and attitudes of public in this regard.