CHAPTER-3

METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

- Design of the study
- Sampling
- Variables
- Collection of data and analysis techniques
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Statement of the Problem

"Participation of Women in Sports: A Case Study of International Sportswomen with special reference to Haryana State"

3.1 Research Design

In one way this study is an outcome of scholar’s own conviction as three members of her school team including school captain were forced to leave sports career and go for marriage just after matriculation and the scholar, managing to get a chance, played for India at International level. Since then the scholar turned towards understanding and identifying the factors and the pressures which forced parents to suppress the potential of their daughters. One respondent in the interview is Raj Kumari who is one of them.

Thus, one of the main objectives of the study was to find out the impediments coming in the way of women’s participation in sports. In the last decades, some studies have been conducted in this area but very broadly. But in all the studies quantitative data was the basis of analyzing the outcomes and coming to conclusions. To accomplish and establish the findings from different angles the scholar decided to go for qualitative research design though the quantitative technique was also combined with it to get socio-economic profile of the respondents.

Locale of the Study – Population of Haryana

3.2 Sampling

As laid down in the synopsis plan, six cases were selected for indepth study-Three leading Sportswomen of their times (2 Arjuna Awardees and 1 Bhim Awardee). At the same time, three close contestants of these success stories were also selected to study as left out stories i.e. those who could not succeed to represent the country in their respective game. The closest competitor of the “success stories” could not be contacted for the reasons beyond control of the researcher. The scholar used her own choice in consultation with other field
experts. One of the leftouts was in fact the close contestant of the scholar herself and she actually became the motivating force for this design of study to be adopted as she had extraordinary acumen in sports.

3.1 Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time-Frame</th>
<th>Success Story</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Leftouts</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966 to 1980</td>
<td>Sunita Sharma (Arjuna Awardee) Gymnastics</td>
<td>International Participation</td>
<td>Rajkumari Kabaddi Valley Ball</td>
<td>National Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 onward</td>
<td>Mamta Kharb (Arjuna Awardee) Hockey</td>
<td>Asia Gold Medal</td>
<td>Kamlesh Hockey</td>
<td>National Gold Medal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Related Factors

Three field experts and other related resource persons were interviewed for their opinions on participation of women at decision-making and governance level in sports. These were:

- Professor Kiran Sandhu – IG College of Physical Education, New Delhi
- Smt. Murti Devi, District Sports Officer (Retd.) Haryana Sports Department
- Smt. Jagmati, PTI – District Secretary of Kabaddi Association, Rohtak Chairman, District Olympic Association, Rohtak (Deputy Commissioner)

The scholar tried to include some social/NGOs for their viewpoints on several relevant aspects towards enhancing women’s participation in sports.

3.3 Variable Areas

Social

Institution included to investigate and explore the societal attitudes towards women’s sports participation were; family, neighbourhood, friends circle, educational institutions, sports field, caste and religion. The impediments which the case studies had either themselves experienced or which they had perceived from other sources vis-à-vis these institutions
Economic

To investigate the attitude of different institutions in terms of their resource allocation for women sports the institutions and establishments included were family, educational institutions, sports field, panchayat and municipal committees, sponsored agencies, financial aid scheme etc. During interview the respondents were asked to reveal the impediments which they faced and they feel were faced by other Sportswomen with regard to resource–investment from these entities.

Cultural

As we know, heritage and capabilities acquired by an individual as a result of his or her learnt behaviour from the society broadly come under cultural arena. The areas selected for the study under cultural factors were image of and role of sports and Sportswomen as it exists in their mind. Marriage, system-related impediments, beauty myth, personal inhibitions, spectators behaviour, eve-teasing and abuse of girls. The values attached to these factors are very typical in Haryana. The case studies were asked to explain how these values, beliefs, morality, traditions, customs attached to these factors in the region, work as impediment in their way.

Dependent Variables

As the level of motivation, participation, aspiration, performance and achievement broadly depends upon the above given variables, institutions and factors, so the questions were put around these areas to seek responses. Because whether the sportswomen will have intrinsic motivation or extrinsic and whether she will take part in competition with high or low morale it all depends upon the attitude of these variables towards women’s participation in sports.

It is a matter attached to socio-cultural milieu at that particular point of time whether women’s participation in sports will win respect and reward or it will lead to disdain or disgrace.
Table 3.2  Variables Studied

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Economic Support by different entities</th>
<th>Cultural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Support (Social)</td>
<td>Family Support (Economic)</td>
<td>-Image and role of women and sports in society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Educational institutions</td>
<td>-Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend circle</td>
<td>Sports Field</td>
<td>-Beauty Myth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Institutions</td>
<td>Panchayats/Local Bodies</td>
<td>-Personal inhibitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Establishment</td>
<td>Sponsoring agencies</td>
<td>-Spectators behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caste Background</td>
<td>Financial aid schemes</td>
<td>-Eve-teasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other</td>
<td>Any other</td>
<td>-Exploitation of girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4 Primary Data Collection

The scholar prepared a questionnaire and interview schedule with the help of supervisor and other experts. Its pilot study was done during Maharishi Dayanand University, inter college wrestling championship held at Gaur College Rohtak as there were many international participants over there.

Later on additions and deletions were made accordingly in consultation with sports scientists. Respondents were made to fill up the questionnaire related to their socio-economic background and suggestions for the improvement of women’s participation in sports.1

The scholar made intensive interview sessions with the case studies at their places with the help of interview schedule focussed on different variables. The responses were written as well as tape recorded simultaneously. Thus both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used in a combine forum to collect data.

The facts found in the form of ideas, feelings, views, faith and conviction etc. were considered. The interviewing also gave an opportunity to be able to

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1 For the Questionnaire, please see Appendix - I and for the Interview Schedule, please see Appendix II
make observation of face expression, body language and surroundings. In a way it was dealing with the tendencies, sentiments and inner thoughts.

**Analysis and Interpretation – Primary Data**

While writing down the responses of case studies, the scholar was very particular to record the emphasis, gestures and use of words, their repetition the overall body language etc. First, the whole interviews were textualised from written notes as well as from recorded devices. Then, these were interpreted and analysed according to the facts which came up.

**Tools Used**

Tape-Recorder, Structured questionnaire and focused interview schedule.

**3.5 Secondary Data Collection**

The data regarding number of International players, Office bearers of different Associations and Federations, Budget allocations, Policy documents etc. was obtained from official records and websites of the concerned department. For this purpose, the research scholar visited the following institutions/departments/associations/federations and consulted their libraries and officials.

- Haryana sports Deptt., SCO 247-48, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh
- Haryana State Sports award ceremony, March, 2007 – Raj Bhawan, Chandigarh
- Haryana Olympic Association, Panchkula
- District Sport Office – Sir Chhootu Ram Stadium, Rohtak
- All India Democratic Women Association (AIDWA), Office – 121- VP House, New Delhi
- Centre for Women Development Studies (CWDS)- Office Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi
- Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi, Govt. of India.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Central Statistical Organisation
- Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi
- Haryana State Resource Centre office, Chankayapuri, Rohtak
Haryana State Sports festival, Kurukshetra

State level Convention of Haryana Sportswomen, Nov. 27, 2005, Rohtak

MDU Inter College women wrestling championship, Gaur College, Rohtak

North and East Zone Inter University Volley Ball Championship, held at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra on its Silver Jubilee occasion. Interacted with experts present.

3.6 Problems Faced

Time and energy could have been saved and quality of research in certain respect could also have enhanced if written records could have been made available from sports offices and associations.

The same observations have also been recorded in the thesis of Arjuna Awardee (Volley-ball) Dalel Singh. Unfortunately, the federations and associations which are supposed to keep all necessary records are not doing it properly. It is the scholars own efforts and personal meetings with the above mentioned sports persons he is in a position to give the details of the sports personal in his research project.2

It can be concluded on the basis of above given facts that most of these sports related bodies do seriously lack scientific approach and vision towards future strategy, which is a precondition for overall promotion of sports.

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