Chapter V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Man has always learned to excel and to attain sublime life. One way to excel is through sports. Thus, people have turned to sports for achievement of greatness. Apart from other benefits, sports therefore, have become an ever expanding avenue of human expression and today sports in its various forms play a vital role in the life of mankind. A sacred Hindu text admonishes, “Play the game of life well, for life is a sports.”

Sportsmen are the product of culture promoted by a particular society in a particular era of the history. No society can produce soldiers without the impact of sports on defence culture. If Indian soldiers are rated as one of the best, it is only because of their sportsman like dedication to the duties and sportsman like devotion to defence culture. There is a befitting quotation that “the battle of waterloo was won in the play fields of Eton and Harrow.” It can thus be stated that sports have had tremendous impact on Indian society.

Sportsmen are the pillars of success in a particular society, when they are recognized by the society. It is an established fact that society has influenced them in their pursuit of excellence in sports and in turn they have contributed their bit towards creating a conducive culture and atmosphere for sports promotion.
Today almost every nation in the world attaches more importance to the
development of sports in order to improve the nation’s health and for the well being
of the future generations. Hence a large number of governmental and Para
governmental organizations, in close collaboration with private agencies, administer
and supervise the development of physical education and sports. Certain nations like
Germany, Russia, USA, China and Japan even try to project the superiority of their
political and social systems through achievements in the field of sports. The
increased number of athletes participation in Olympic and other international events
from all over the world, is also an indication of the popularity and development of
sports. The acquisition of standards may be attributed to the better understanding of
human organism in relation to physical fitness.

Excellence in sports at international level enhances the prestige of a nation.
Victory in international sports competition is celebrated throughout the country and
the winners are honoured by the people as well as by the government. Lots of
incentives are provided to the sportspersons who attain high international standards.
The medal winners become national heroes. Youngsters are motivated to take sports
more seriously and dedicatedly.

The British army helped spread hockey internationally through the British
Empire, its popularity especially booming in India and Pakistan. Hockey became
popular in India when British Regiments played the game in India and introduced it
in the British India Regiments who quickly picked up the game and soon found
favour amongst the native Indians. The first hockey club in India came up in
Calcutta in 1885-86 and soon Bombay and Punjab followed. The Beighton cup and
the Aga Khan Cup tournament had commenced within ten years. The game of
Hockey was mainly restricted to the armed forces, and it was the army teams which toured foreign lands as early as 1900's. India's first representation in Olympics was pioneered by hockey, and it was done in great style.

Hockey is the National Game of India. Hockey has been played in India from time immemorial. There was a golden period of Indian hockey when India ruled the game. On the International scenario, there were no competitors to match the magical hands of Indian hockey players. The might and power of Indian hockey made India synonymous with the game. Unmatched excellence and incomparable talent of Indian players became folklore. The ball juggling feats of players like Major Dhyan Chand made people to think that Indian players used some kind of black magic.

India and Hockey are two synonymous names in the sports world. India's contribution to the game of hockey is immeasurable. During the last couple of decades, new power equations have emerged and the game itself has undergone a tremendous transformation, thanks to the high degree of sophistication and systematisation but India's role in every facet of this cannot be under rated. It is a historic fact that India had ruled the world of hockey for decades but what is daunting today is whether it could regain and retain its identity as a major power of hockey in the world.

Hockey is the only sport in which India has won Gold medals, that too not once or twice, but eight times, with six of them coming consecutively. Unmatched excellence and incomparable virtuosity brought India this string of Olympic gold medals. The brilliant Indians brought a touch of black magic to their play and the ball juggling feats of the Indians were a sheer delight.
The purpose of the study was to highlight the achievements and contributions of Padamshree Shankar Laxman towards Indian hockey. Secondly, to study his philosophy with regards to Indian Hockey. Thirdly, to enlist professional leadership qualities of Padamshree Shankar Laxman.

The problem is stated as "A CASE STUDY OF LIFE, PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN HOCKEY OF PADAMSHREE SHANKAR LAXMAN."

Indian hockey is currently going through an uneasy phase. Last time when India got to the top spot was in 1980. It is befitting to make an exploratory study of this great sportsman at this hour to draw from his life and achievements, to spell out lessons for the present generation of hockey players so as to regain our lost glory at international level which every sports loving Indian is waiting for. It will be interesting to find out, that, in an era of no T.V, limited media coverage, a player could rise to such dizzy heights that he caught the imagination of everyone to become a legend.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman was the first Goalkeeper Captain in the world was born on July 1, 1933 at Mhow (Madhya Pradesh). He played for India for the first time in the 1955 International Hockey Festival Match (Poland) where India performed well. He played hockey at a time when the Goalkeeper had only the pads as a protective gear. He was a member of the Olympic Gold medal winning hockey team in the in 1956 Melbourne (Australia) Olympics. The other medals he won included the 1958 Asian Games Silver medal at Tokyo (Japan), 1960 Olympics Silver medal (Rome), 1962 Asian games Silver medal (Jakarta), 1964 Olympics Gold medal Tokyo (Japan). Padamshree Shankar Laxman Captained the Indian
hockey squad in 1966 Asian games at Bangkok and won the Gold medal for the country. He was dropped from the Indian hockey team at Mexico Olympics, 1968 and the decline of Indian hockey also began with that tournament.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman was appointed as Services Coach from 1971 to 1973 and the team won Gold medal. He was Coach of the Junior Indian Hockey Team in 1988.

He was appointed as a member of Madhya Pradesh Sports Council Board from 1998 to 2001. He was the Technical Advisor in Hockey for Barcelona Olympics Games, 1992.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman has won several awards and distinction in his life.

1. **Padamshree Award**: Shankar Laxman was honoured with Padamshree award on 11th April 1967 for his contributions to Indian Hockey as a goalkeeper of exceptional merit.

2. **Arjuna Award**: Shankar Laxman got Arjuna award in 1964 for his achievements in field of hockey as an excellent goalkeeper.

3. **Jaswant Singh Trophy 1963-64**: He was declared Best Services Sportsman of the Year.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman joined Indian Army on 15th August 1947 at Mhow (Madhya Pradesh) which was the start of his professional career and where he served upto his retirement in 1978 as Honorary Captain in Army.

Data/information for this investigation was derived from the primary and secondary sources. To get the first hand information, investigator visited institutions, people and places where Padamshree Shankar Laxman had worked for a long period and looked into the official records like reports of committees and meetings, annual
reports and published materials. Personal records of Padamshree Shankar Laxman were also investigated and desired information/facts were derived. The investigator personally contacted Padamshree Shankar Laxman and conducted the interview. Various pictorial records of Padamshree Shankar Laxman were investigated. Some of the photographs relevant to different occasions were chosen as documents for this study. Published materials of Padamshree Shankar Laxman such as books, pamphlets, newspaper information were retained as documents for the investigation.

Survey technique was also used to obtain responses and reactions from selected eminent hockey players, physical educationists and sports persons from all over the country who could not be interviewed personally. Opinion Rating Questionnaire on Padamshree Shankar Laxman, which was constructed with the help of experts, has been used for this purpose.

Data/Information collected through primary and secondary sources were analysed qualitatively through external and internal criticism. Quantitative analysis was also employed to the Data collected by using opinion rating questionnaire for statistical inferences.

Opinion rating surveys was carried out to assess the various dimensions of Padamshree Shankar Laxman’s personality. A total of eighty-eight responses were received out of one hundred and twenty-eight eminent hockey players, physical educationists and sports persons who were associated with Padamshree Shankar Laxman as trainees, colleagues, teammates, contemporaries and sport persons. For the purpose of analysis 77 statements were tabulated and classified into the following four categories:
1. Padamshree Shankar Laxman’s Personality (31 statements)

2. Padamshree Shankar Laxman as a Player (13 statements)

3. Padamshree Shankar Laxman as a Coach (19 statements)

4. Padamshree Shankar Laxman as a Sports Promoter (14 statements)

1. PADAMSHREE SHANKAR LAXMAN’S PERSONALITY

Padamshree Shankar Laxman possessed a very pleasant personality as 75% sports persons strongly agreed, whereas 25% agreed with this view.

Majority of the surveyed professional personalities agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman was very friendly, cooperative and health conscious.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman has been very regular in his daily exercises as viewed by his colleagues, contemporaries and sport persons. Sixty-six percent teammates, colleagues, contemporaries and sports persons strongly agreed, whereas 34% agreed with this view.

Sixty-one percent teammates, colleagues, contemporaries and sport persons strongly agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman had good physique, whereas 39% agreed with this view.

Forty-eight percent teammates, colleagues, contemporaries and sport persons strongly agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman never lost his temper, whereas 30% agreed with this view.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman had lot of patience and perseverance as 64% strongly agreed and 36% agreed as viewed by his teammates, colleagues, contemporaries and sports persons. He was not very stubborn 45% respondents strongly agreed and 41% agreed with this fact.
Majority of the trainees, team mates, colleagues, contemporaries and sports persons were of the opinion that Padamshree Shankar Laxman's attitude towards others was always humane as 59% strongly agreed and 41% agreed with their opinion. He was a religious person as 61% respondents strongly agreed and 36% agreed with this fact.

Seventy percent people strongly agreed and 27% agreed that he was a role model for others. He was very popular among his colleagues was strongly agreed by 75% of the respondents, whereas 25% agreed for the same.

Fifty percent people strongly agreed and 50% agreed that he believed in learning by doing. On the other hand 41% respondents strongly agreed and 52% agreed that he knew how to influence others.

Fifty-two percent respondents strongly agreed and 48% agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman was a man with pleasant manners, 82% people strongly agreed and 16% agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman was among the best Indian hockey goalkeepers India had ever produced.

He was very hard working and industrious 75% people strongly agreed, whereas 23% agreed. He was the man of his principles, 48% respondents strongly agreed, whereas 43% agreed for this.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman was very proud of his country, 89% respondents strongly agreed, and 11% agreed. He was very good example to others, 66% people strongly agreed and 34% agreed with this opinion. Thirty-six percent respondents strongly agreed, 51% agreed that he was a source of support and strength to everybody. Fifty-nine percent people agreed that he was very fond of reading books and sports magazines.
Padamshree Shankar Laxman had the great ability to overcome obstacles as 45% respondents strongly agreed and 55% agreed with this point. He was very straightforward as 52% people strongly agreed and 45% agreed with this fact. Forty-five percent respondents strongly agreed and 50% agreed that he had very good public relations.

Fifty-seven percent people strongly agreed and 43% agreed that he was very popular among his trainees. He had a very good sense of humor as 52% respondents strongly agreed and 41% agreed with this fact.

Nine percent respondents strongly agreed and 30% agreed that PadmaShree Shankar Laxman was very emotional and got upset quite often, whereas 43% don’t agree with this while 18% strongly denied it.

2. PADAMSHREE SHANKAR LAXMAN AS A PLAYER

Padamshree Shankar Laxman’s teammates, colleagues, contemporaries and sports persons have given opinion rating that he was an excellent player.

It was observed 84% respondents strongly agreed while 16% agreed that he had natural talent for goalkeeping. A strict 100% respondents strongly agreed that he was a very good goalkeeper. Seventy-three percent people strongly agreed and 10% agreed that as a goalkeeper he had very good reflections. He was technically sound in goalkeeping as 89% respondents strongly agreed and 9% agreed to this fact.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman was very friendly and had faith in his team mates as 52% people strongly agreed and 48% agreed for the same. He always maintained warmth and friendly relationship as 59% people strongly agreed and 41% agreed to it. He always supported his team mates as 61% people strongly agreed and 36% agreed with this fact.
Fifty-nine percent respondents strongly agreed and 36% agreed that he was fond of doing vigorous exercise. The exercise helped him maintain his performance for a long period as 66% people strongly agreed to the point and 34% agreed to it.

He never had ill will towards his opponent and believed in sportsmanship as 48% respondents strongly agreed and 52% agreed for the same.

Forty-three percent people strongly agreed and 45% agreed to the point that he never suffered from sleeplessness.

3. PADAMSHREE SHANKAR LAXMAN AS A COACH

It is observed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman was having very vast knowledge about hockey as 51% respondents strongly agreed and 41% agreed for this. Twenty percent respondents strongly agreed and 64% agreed that he was a very knowledgeable person.

Seven percent respondents strongly agreed and 77% agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman mode of teaching and coaching was very scientific. He always inspired players by giving examples of outstanding sportsmen as 43% respondents strongly agreed and 55% agreed with him. His daily schedule for players was always based on scientific lines as 23% people strongly agreed and 61% agreed with this.

He always honored all good suggestions as 43% respondents strongly agreed and 57% agreed with this. Forty-five percent people strongly agreed and 50% agreed that he was very good at spotting talent. His approach to sports was most scientific as 25% people strongly agreed and 57% agreed with this fact.

He treated all trainees equally and never showed favor towards few players as 48% respondents strongly agreed and 45% agreed with this. Padamshree Shankar Laxman used to encourage trainees for mutual discussion as 30% people strongly
agreed and 39% agreed with this point. His coaching was interesting and inspiring as
43% respondents strongly agreed and 50% agreed with this point. He was very good
in providing motivation as 70% people agreed with this fact.

Forty-five percent respondents strongly agreed that he was a good coach/trainer
and 41% agreed with this fact. Padamshree Shankar Laxman was very sincere in his
efforts as 59% people strongly agreed and 36% agreed with it. Twenty-five percent
respondents strongly agreed and 57% agreed that he did things in a meticulously
planned manner.

4. PADAMSHREE SHANKAR LAXMAN AS A SPORTS PROMOTER

Padamshree Shankar Laxman himself being an outstanding sports person
understood the ways and means to promote sports and also knew the various
shortcomings in the area of sports promotions.

He was very knowledgeable, matured as well read person in sports as 20%
people strongly agreed and 57% agreed. As far as his honesty and sincerity in his
assignments and duties, 55% respondents strongly agreed and 45% agreed to this.
As a motivator he always encouraged the good work of coaches /workers as 50%
respondents strongly agreed and 45% agreed on this point.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman inspired all those who came into his contact as
48% people strongly agreed and 52% agreed with the same.

He believed that proper recognition to the players and coaches is a key to
success and all the achievers must be given timely and due awards and publicity for
much better results in future to which 61% people strongly agreed and 39% agreed.
Padamshree Shankar Laxman always emphasized sports as not just playing a game but as a role model to develop personality, character and team work for which 59% respondents were strongly agreed in his favour and 41% agreed and supported his idea.

He encouraged young players more than seniors keeping an eye on future to get more and more young players to compete at the international level for which, 41% respondents strongly agreed and 59% agreed. Sixteen percent people strongly agreed and 48% agreed that Padamshree Shankar Laxman was more interested in research orientation in the field of hockey.

Padamshree Shankar Laxman favoured establishment of coaching camps at all levels in India as 41% people strongly agreed and 50% agreed with this view.

According to Padamshree Shankar Laxman our hockey standard is declining due to the following reasons:-

1. Players do not adopt the policy of first time passes.
2. Our youth in losing interest in the game. There is no hockey climate in the country.
3. Lack of accurate agile and forceful hitters who can convert penalty corners.
4. Talent hunt programmes are not there.
5. Lack of synthetic surfaces.
6. Rural youth is neglected.
7. Scarcity of funds.
Conclusions

On the basis of the findings of the present study the following conclusions may be drawn:

1. Padamshree Shankar Laxman was the first Hockey Goalkeeper Captain in the world.
2. Padamshree Shankar Laxman was the outstanding hockey goalkeeper India has ever produced.
3. He was a thoroughly committed professional.
4. He was very efficient, honest and dedicated administrator and a strict disciplinarian.
5. Padamshree Shankar Laxman contributed a lot for the promotion of sports in India.
6. Padamshree Shankar Laxman was very friendly, cooperative and regular in daily exercise.
7. Padamshree Shankar Laxman had lot of patience and perseverance.
8. He had very good relations with his teammates and competitors.
9. Padamshree Shankar Laxman never had ill will towards his opponents.
10. Padamshree Shankar Laxman is a role model for other hockey goalkeepers.

Recommendations

1. It is suggested that similar Case Study may be conducted on other Eminent Personality of Sports and Physical Education.
2. A Case Study may be carried out on the institutions like Lakshmi bai National University of Physical Education, Gwalior, Netaji Subhas National
Institute of Sports, Patiala and Sports College, Lucknow, who have contributed significantly for the development of Sports and Physical Education in the Country.

3. A Case Study may be carried out on the Families who have contributed significantly for the development of Sports in the Country.

4. Contribution of Patialia house, Mr. Sondhi, Mr. Tata can also be studied.

5. Finding of Study may be incorporated in the syllabus of Physical Education courses.

6. Comparative Studies of distinguished Volleyball Players, Football Players, Hockey Players and Athletes etc. should also be taken up.