

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL ETHOS OF SPORTS

AN INDIAN EXPERIENCE IN SANSARPUR



POPINDER SINGH KULAR

**EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL
ETHOS OF SPORTS :
An Indian Experience in Sansarpur**

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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Dr. Popinder Singh Kular



Sansarpur Hockey Association

THE NURSERY OF INDIAN HOCKEY
(Affiliated with District Hockey Association Jalandhar)
V.P.O. SANSARPUR, JALANDHAR.



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S. Darshan Singh Kullar

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Late S. Haridial Singh Kullar
Olympic Order
S. Hardev Singh Kullar
S. Jagjit Singh Kullar
S. Harvinder Singh Kullar

Kenya

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FOREWORD

The book deals with Sansarpur's contribution to Indian hockey on one hand and discusses Educational and Socio-Cultural Ethos of Sports on the other. Both the aspects which have been covered by the book are worthy of highest appreciation and makes it a worthy addition Library of all hockey lovers and educationists interested in ethos of sports.

What makes the book really authentic is fact that it is based on author's Ph.D. work, for which he was awarded Ph.D. degree by Jamia Millia Islamia. It is based on a research carried out diligently and laboriously. Every single remark / conclusions drawn is supported by the data which has been analysed very critically and logically. The data about Sansarpur hockey players presented in the book demonstrates the sincere effort made by the author in this connection and his analysis of the data and conclusions which have been drawn shows the insight of the author in this huge field of Indian Hockey and Educational Ethos of Sports.

In fact this piece of research could only be carried out by someone like author only, who himself has played hockey at national level with distinction belongs to a family, which is internationally renowned for producing great hockey players and possesses deep educational insight being a senior faculty member of an institution which has done pioneer work in the filed of education. All the qualities of the author are reflected in the book and has made the book a must read for all those who love hockey and wish to understand the Educational and Socio-Cultural Ethos of Sports.

COL. BALBIR SINGH, VSM
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PREFACE

I was born in 1947 in Sansarpur village in the Kular family. I was the third youngest son of my father Gajjan Singh Kular who also had two daughters Mandish Kaur and Parkash Kaur, both elder to me. Traditionally Kular clan was a warriors community. My grandfather Jagat Singh Kular s/o Fateh Singh Kular s/o Bahadur Singh Kular fought in the First World War and my father in the Second World War. Family tradition was carried on by my elder brothers, Pritam Singh Kular, Balbir Singh Kular both of whom were Colonels in Indian army. I was also interested to join Indian army to maintain family tradition but my elder brother Pritam Singh Kular compelled me not to join army and I changed my hockey career to education and above all my brothers-in-law Pritam Singh Bains, former Director of Physical Education, University of Delhi and Rattan Singh Aulakh have always encouraged me in this field.

The fond memories, I had of my childhood are all centered around the game of hockey. Game of hockey was a passion with all members of my family as well as other residents of the village. As soon as a boy was old enough to hold the stick in his hands, his presence in the village hockey field on all evenings was a must. Other minor games were also popular among young children, but they were played in leisure time only after it was too dark to play hockey. When I started going to school, I remember both my elder brothers playing hockey for their College/University and discussing hockey all the times among themselves. All elders of the village were staunch hockey lovers and patronizers of hockey. I still have the vivid memories of the day when India regained Olympic hockey gold medal in 1964. Whole village was tense and glued to the radio commentary with bated breaths when the final between India and

(x)

Pakistan was being played in Tokyo. As we had lost to Pakistan in previous Olympics in 1960 in Rome and the defeat has spread gloom all over the village. I still remember how the whole village was in tears on that day as if a calamity has be fallen the village so when finally the 1964 game had the last whistle of referee and the news of India winning the final was announced by the commentator, whole village started dancing in joy, sweets were distributed, congratulations were exchanged and the lighting village had with Diyas turned the evening into a day time. This Olympic winning team had four players Udhm Singh Kular, Darshan Singh Kular, Balbir Singh Kular (Punjab) and Jagjit Singh Kular from my village. The heroic welcome they received by the people when they came back with the medal had to be seen to be believed. I still remember my mother Darbar kaur Heer's words which she uttered to us when she comeback after congratulating family members of great Sansarpurians, who won gold medals in Tokyo. She said to all three of us and my cousin Modan Singh Sohal who stayed with us, "Sons, one day you will also make me proud as they had made their mothers proud".

The most dominating role in inculcating the love for the game in village's children was played by the parents in general and mothers in particular. No words can do justice in describing the motivation provided by mothers of Sansarpurian hockey players to their children in taking up the game of hockey and the way the whole village truly worshipped the game. However, in the following an effort is made to describe some of the happenings, I still had fond memories of. An account of these may provide glimpses of the village atmosphere in those days viz a viz hockey.

I, personally, was also interested in cricket, as a boy, but my mother would laugh at me and disallowed me playing Cricket. She wanted her sons to play only hockey. If it was good enough to be the national game, it was also good enough for her boys. As usual, she made the right decision. The game and my interest in it, saw me through college and many interviews, later on. It became the stepping stones of my career beside beings a most integral part of my life. Little wonder there that I chose it for my research.

Having grown up in such an atmosphere, my love for hockey was natural and second to none. Like all village children I started playing hockey from a very early age in the field of Sansarpur. The earliest training I had in hockey did not only teach me the basics of playing the game but also inculcated in me the love for other aspects of the game. The importance of being present in time on field in all days, taking proper care of kit and gear, doing regular exercise and above all importance of maintaining the ground and other organizational aspects which went a long way in shaping my later days were all inherited by me in those formative years from the very soil of Sansarpur.

During my schooling, which I had in Cantonment Board High School in Jalandhar Cantt. I played hockey for the school team and also developed interest in organizing hockey tournaments. The first lessons in need and importance of innovations in organization were learnt of me in village Ram Leela. There, I learnt how to make shift stages, how to make optimum use of meager resources for staging the show etc. These were the earliest lessons, I had in organization and provided me the motivation and courage to organize hockey game. At the tender age of 23, I organized six Master Mukand Lal Memorial Hockey Tournaments in the Sansarpur village from 1970 to 1976. In these tournaments various teams from neighbourhood villages participated and all aspects of the tournaments including organization were much appreciated by the village elders. I have learned the administration and organization from the historical Sansarpur hockey ground. This is all due to my mother who always encouraged me to participate actively in the various functions related to sports, dramas, whether it was giving speeches in the tournaments, to form a team, to maintain hockey play ground, to organize a tournament and to organize a Drama/Ram Leela etc.

Having matriculated from school, I shifted to Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar, where I represented college team and I played in my first Inter-College tournament at Punjab University, Chandigarh, in 1965. Subsequently I represented Punjab University thrice in 1968, 1969, 1971 and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in 1970 for four consecutive years. I was the first captain of Guru

Nanak Dev University in the Inter-University hockey tournament held at Jammu in 1970. It was difficult to obtain Punjab University Colour as for obtaining University Colour one has to represent University team for three consecutive years; and I become a proud owner of Punjab University Colour in 1971. I represented Indian Universities in the Nationals held at Jalandhar in 1970.

My first love for hockey took me to Punjab University Chandigarh from where I got the degree in Physical Education in 1973.

After passing out from Punjab University, I joined Jamia Millia Islamia in 1973 as first Director of Physical Education. Jamia Millia Islamia was a small University at that time and standard of sports in Jamia Millia Islamia in general and in hockey in particular was dismal to say the least. But within few years I was able to mould Jamia's hockey team into a force to reckon with at Inter-University level, Jamia hockey team for the first time finished 3rd in the North Zone Inter-University Hockey Tournament held at Jamia Millia Islamia in 1991 and also won bronze medal in the All India Inter University Hockey Tournament held at Gwalior in 1991.

When I joined Jamia, there were no facilities, worth the name, available for playing game. We are not even have a proper ground. I took this as my first priority and developed a ground which is now considered one of the best in Delhi.

In 1980, I shifted to Faculty of Education as a Lecturer in Education, where I was given the charge of teacher trainees. Now my students were budding teachers who had to be motivated to take part in sports and given training in organizational aspects in order to enable them to make proper use of games and sports in their future professional years. This was very challenging and although different task. I had to make various innovations in order to succeed here as now. I had to develop games and sports for common man. I introduced several new games Combined Cricket, Combined Dodge ball, Combined Hand Football in the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education in 1982.

The I.A.S.E (Formerly Department of Teacher Training &

Non-Formal Education), Jamia Millia Islamia, is well known for its innovative and experimental attitude towards games and sports which comprise a remarkably wide range of events. Students of B.Ed and Diploma in Elementary Teacher Training participate in these events in large numbers, either in the form of inter-house competitions, or on individual basis. My efforts have been duly recognised by the members of IASE. In annual report of activities of the department published in IASE bulletin, Head IASE says, "There has been a consistent and sincere efforts on the part of Popinder Singh Kular, Reader, co-ordinator of games and sports, to modify the rules of the games as and when needed and to introduce new games which would incorporate a balanced combination of recreation and physical exercise. Since most of the games are played jointly by boys and girls, Popinder Singh Kular has been particularly aware of the need to frame the rules in such a manner as to suit both the sexes. (Newsletter, I.A.S.E, 1995)".

I was the organizing secretary of the first ever North Zone Inter-University Hockey Tournament in New Delhi, for Jamia Milla Islamia (1985-86). I was the coach of Indian Universities hockey team in the Nationals held at Bangalore in 1986. I was the manager of Indian Universities Hockey team in the 1989 at Delhi, in 1990 at Jammu, in 1993 Bikaner, National Championship.

I being a Physical Education teacher in the University, former Director of Physical Education of the University and hockey player of yester-years have always been conscious of the role of my village Sansarpur in the Indian hockey. I have always feel concern that where the golden days of Indian hockey have gone some when the whole world was proud of us.

Thus, the various career opportunities I had so far and different responsibilities, I shouldered as hockey player, coach, manager, organizer, administrator, and teacher had given me the required experience, expertise and motivation to take up the present study.

Dr. Popinder Singh Kular



**DEDICATED
TO
MY BELOVED MOTHER
BIBI DARBAR KAUR HEER
(1914 - 1979)**

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Chapter - 1

INTRODUCTION

SPORTS A WAY OF LIFE IN TODAY'S WORLD

Significance of Sports

Games and sports play an important role in our life. They are also the part and parcel of education. The world is a big playground, life is a game, we are the players and the Almighty God is the judge and watching the activities of all the human beings. In order to know how to play successfully the game of life, children must take part in various games and sports which are played in the school. On the whole games have come to occupy an international status. The government wants every school to give equal importance to sports and studies.

Games and sports do not only endow us with the physical strength to fight the grim battle of life, as we need physical strength which games and sports give us, but also fill our lives with thrill and joy. They improve our digestion and keep the body fit. They are to the body as books are to mind. By improving our health games and sports make our bodies more beautiful and help us to have sound body and sound mind. If we take part in games and sports, we experience a thrill of life, we feel fresh, active and smart throughout the day and do everything with pleasure.

Games and sports are essential for the development of our personality, they make us true sportsmen, worthy friends and ideal citizens. The greatest good that they infuse in us is the spirit of sportsmanship which consists in fair play, team spirit, cooperation, honesty, tolerance, discipline, broad-mindedness, general cheerfulness, obedience, patience, perseverance, optimism, regularity, respect, and cool headedness. We develop the sporting spirit. A true sportsman does not hit his enemy below the belt. Honesty, patience, courage and balance of mind are his guiding principles. He plays game for game's sake and not for victory or defeat. If his opponent wins the game, he should not be burnt with the fire of jealousy but should be the first person to congratulate him. If his opponent plays a better game, he should learn lessons from it.

Duke of Wellington once said "The battle of Waterloo was won on the play fields of Eton," In fact the discipline, patience, courage, devotion, self-confidence and cooperation which the English had learnt from hard physical training in the playground stood them in good stead in the battlefield and they came out victorious against French.

The qualities of sportsmanship help a sportsman in steering clear of many difficulties and dangers which befall him in later life. His guiding principle "fair play and no favours" will come to his help every where. A true sportsman will hate all dishonest ways ; he will never accept bribes, or adopt underhand means. He always takes everything in a sportsman like manner. He is always liberal and shows a compromising spirit. He does not fall out over trifles. He abides by the rule of game and shows perfect team spirit. To be successful in life, the spirit of sportsman must be developed. Sportsmanship is needed in every sphere of life whether political, social, economic or religious. If the leaders of different countries tackle the world problems like a sportsman, the clouds of war can vanish in no time.

Games and sports promote public health and social welfare. They involve university/college/school students in useful and healthy