



## SOCIALIZATION TO SPORT INVOLVEMENT : INFLUENCE OF FAMILY AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION” - A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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The 20<sup>th</sup> century has been called the century of many different things, perhaps no other phenomenon deserves this distinction more than sport; indeed, the 20<sup>th</sup> century can legitimately be called the ‘Century of Sport’ since it has become one of the most ubiquitous activities of contemporary society. (Sage; 1979:2) Now the major issue seems to point out here is in the reference of Status & role of sport in different contemporary societies e.g. is it same all over the world? or is there any difference in it’s status & role as well as in its purposiveness in developed & developing societies respectively?

Explaining it Sociologically, human behaviour whether at work or play is greatly influenced by Social milieu and social environment, he/she exposed to in the past. Much of the variations between groups are accounted for by Social and cultural factors. As cultural & Societal environment is different; Values are different in different Societies (in developed & developing societies); therefore the status & role of any unit & phenomenon is also different according to their Social environment & cultural values. This is also true in respect to the sport phenomenon. In the hierarchy of values in developed societies, the sport has high status & role; widely speaking, sport is their way of life. We may call them as sporting nations.

Although, sociology of sport has emerged recently and has yet to become speciality within the discipline, though it has experienced that remarkable growth in the past two & half decades in the developed countries. It has remained an explored area of research in India. Sociology of sport, being an important aspect in life cycle of an individual in society, is one of the developing sport sciences. This micro level attempt is intended to encourage & to involve in this sub-discipline and a little effort to fill the gap by making empirical study of

sport as a sociological phenomenon. Thus the attempt has been made in the direction to analyse sport phenomenon with special reference to women.

**Theoretical Aspect :**

There exists very few readings & writings in sport sociology in general and women in sport, in particular. Even then few of them which have been possible to trace may be cited here for the relevance of this empirical study. *Mc-Pherson (1969:17)* has emphasised that rise and role of sport phenomenon in the 'third world' should be a major area of inquiry, i.e. study related to changing values such as role of women in minor, School and professional sports. *Gupta S.K. (1981:11-13)* has reported that discussion on women in sport is not a recent phenomenon but an ancient one. It can be illustrated through the chapter XV of Plato's 'Republic' entitled 'The Equality of Women'. *Ferris (1981:4-10)* has stated that women in sport is a question of freedom & is a reflection of women's status in society. *Hart et.al. (1969:291)* has explained that it seems well established that sport is exclusively a male territory. Therefore women is studied as a non-cultural aspect of sport. This separation is not a healthy situation. *Holland & Oglesby (1979:90)* have emphasized that present situation reinforce sport as a training for men and women alike due to women's movements and organizations. Therefore as a process of synthesis, women in sport is an important aspect of Sociological package.

**The Present Study :** The major theme of this paper as the topic itself suggests is, to explore the influence of family and educational institution as the important Socializing agents to sport involvement. The empirical study has been conducted for the purpose during the U.P. State Basket Ball Championship of boys & girls which was organized in Agra city in 2004; by the Agra District; Ball Association. Data were collected through a pretested questionnaire distributed personally only to the girls who represented different regions of U.P. State. The total number of respondents are 100 which is the total No. of female participants who took part in Basket Ball championship.

**Analysis of Data :** The data which reveals different social realities, have been analyzed through single variable table. Qualitatively, as it is quite obvious, however, that family exerts the earliest effect & a profound one upon the children's general attitude. Family acts as an important primary group in an individual's life and important socializing agent in the life of the child in several ways. Quantitatively data in the present study, also reveals that for more than half of the respondent's family has been the major source of inspiration &

encouragement to involve in sport activities. Table No. 1 shows that out of the total number of respondents, 55% sports women got the inspiration from the family, mainly from father & mother. Table No. 2 indicates the proportion of interest in sport by the family members, that is, 36% father's interest, 34% brother's while remaining 20% mothers and 10% sister's. This shows that in comparison to mother & sister, father & brother have been more interested in sport activities.

In brief, the general characteristics of family, important unit are that the majority of the sport women are belonging to the nuclear, government service families & in these families, mainly father has been the earning member. Table No. 3, 4, 5 have indicated these & shows the proportion of these characteristics of the families.

As another second important socializing agent after family, has been the educational institution, School as well as college in which they have studied. In educational institutions class teachers & coaches have supported and encouraged them to participate in sports activities. As table No. 2 shows this fact that after family, less than half i.e. 40% respondents have got the clue for sport from their educational institutions in starting. In favour of this, it is commonly observed by all of us that degree of participation in sports in such schools & colleges at minor, school & professional levels, is higher which have high sport value in the hierarchy of school & college values as such, in comparison to those educational institutions which have lower or no support to the sport activities and where there are no reward & encouragement for the sportmen & sport women. The third & last agent that is negligible in the present study, has been the peer group to inspire for the sport involvement. Only for 5% respondents as the table No. 1 shows, peer group has been the including factor for the sports participation.

#### **APPENDED TABLES**

***Table (1) : Source of inspiration for the respondents to involve in sport.***

	<b><i>Family</i></b>	<b><i>Educational</i></b>	<b><i>Peer Group</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>
Source of inspiration to sport involvement	55 (55%)	40 (40%)	5 (5%)	100 (100%)

**Table (2) : Proportion of the Interest in sport by the Family Members**

	<i>Father</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>Mother</i>	<i>Sister</i>	<i>Total</i>
Interest of the Family members	36 (36%)	34 (34%)	20 (20%)	10 (10%)	100 (100%)

**Table (3) : Types of the Family of the Respondents**

	<i>Nuclear</i>	<i>Joint</i>	<i>Total</i>
Type of the Family	78 (78%)	22 (22%)	100 (100%)

**Table (4) : Occupations of the Family of the Respondents**

	<i>Govt. Service</i>	<i>Non-Govt. Service</i>	<i>Business</i>	<i>Total</i>
Occupation of the Families	60 (60%)	6 (6%)	34 (34%)	100 (100%)

**Table (5) : Earning members of the Family of the Respondents**

	<i>Father</i>	<i>Mother</i>	<i>Both</i>	<i>Total</i>
Earning Members of the Family	90 (90%)	4 (4%)	6 (6%)	100 (100%)

**Conclusion :**

On a look at the socialization to the sport involvement, the influence of family & educational institution; the present study reflects that for a large number of majority, family has been the important agent to induce interest for the sport activity. This is similar to which was resulted in the study conducted in U.S.A. illustrated by Kenyon & Mc-Pherson (1969:229). This study of college female athlete reveals that family influence is a major factor for women competing in sport. After family, the second important influencing factor which has been explored in the present study is educational institution. The study in U.S.A. illustrated by Kenyon et.al. (1969:224), of Olympic aspirants reveals the same result that educational institution is the second important factor that influence to the sports activities for the individual. But the difference in this illustrated study and in the present study is that, it is second in both studies yet, in the illustrated study conducted in U.S.A. it is second most influencing agent after peer group that is at first place & family is last to influence. In consistence to this, in the present study family is first & peer group is last in generating interest to sport involvement. This result is the same as the result of *Gras F. (1986:7)* study on sport.

Thus the study shows that family & educational institutions both are the most influencing & inducing agents to sport involvement. Something different from western countries like U.S.A. still in India, family is an important unit in social system, Specially for socialization in different aspects of life of the individuals.

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