

A Critical Analysis of Sports Facilities and Institutional Structure in KP: Impact and Way Forward

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Abstract:

The current study is conducted for the critical analysis of sports facilities and institutional structure in KP. The government of KP is spending billions on developing international-standard sports infrastructure. The government allocated a substantial amount of Rs. 22,402 million for the development of the sports sector in the province, which is praiseworthy. Despite all the support from the government, many issues at the grassroots level need to be addressed. Justified distribution of sports funds for the construction of facilities is essential. The institutional setup of sports is also analyzed to ensure smooth coordination among various tiers and to improve the sports environment for the players. The research methodology is qualitative in nature, and secondary data is used to analyze the topic. The impact of sports facilities on the players and sports as a whole has been analyzed, and recommendations for the improvement of sports facilities and the institutional structure have been proposed. This research paper has been completed under the kind supervision and guidance of NIM faculty advisor, DS Mr. Muhammad Tayyab. His technical support and guidance in writing this paper are greatly appreciated.

Key words:

Sports development, Physical activity benefits, Sports facilities, Stress relief, Social integration

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Introduction

Life and sports go together, and both are essential. Human beings are naturally inclined toward games. Sports improve health and longevity (Hanson & Jones, 2015), develop character (Holt, 2016), refine behavior, and enhance overall body performance (Gill, Williams, & Reifsteck, 2017). Participation in sports and exercise helps in stress relief and keeps us alert in any situation. Sports activities have a significant impact on our social life, as they play a vital role in social integration. Players will only demonstrate their talent if proper sporting conditions are present; otherwise, they may hesitate to participate. A conducive environment is crucial for sports development. The provision of sports facilities, such as grounds, infrastructure, training, management, and coaching, is essential for promoting talent. A lack of these vital aspects makes it difficult to develop talent and compete internationally.

In this modern world of iPhones and computers, sports activities are more vital for development. Sports motivate us to stay active and fit, and they also impart essential values. There are many benefits to physical activities, including good health, pleasure, education, and an energetic mind.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the provincial government is placing importance on sports for the benefit of the youth. The government is allocating a significant budget to build new sports facilities and renew old ones. It aims to develop sports facilities according to national and international standards so that players can access better infrastructure for practice.

Problem Statement

Sports activities are essential for the development and peaceful environment of human beings. The provincial government has embarked on an extensive strategy to reform the sports sector. Funds are being released for the development of sports facilities in KP, and the institutional structure is being strengthened. However, there are issues and gaps that need corrective measures to promote sports. Therefore, in this study, research is conducted to critically analyze the sports facilities and institutional structure in KP, the impact of these developments on sports, and the way forward.

Objective and research questions

The following key questions are addressed in this research study:

- a. Are there enough sports facilities available for players in KP?
- b. Is the institutional structure for sports in KP effective enough for the promotion of sports?
- c. What are the shortcomings and issues in sports facilities and the institutional structure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and what is the way forward?

Scope & Significance of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to the critical analysis of sports facilities and the institutional structure of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The study aims to highlight the issues in these facilities and the institutional structure. The impact of these on sports and players in KP will be analyzed. After concluding, the study will recommend ways to improve sports facilities for the players in the province.

Literature Review

According to the definition by the Council of European Sport Charter (2001), sports are “all forms of competitive physical activity which, through casual or organized participation, aim to maintain, use, or enhance physical ability and skills while providing entertainment to participants and also to spectators.” Thus, sports can be defined as any activity involving competition and organized under specific rules for the purposes of money, fame, prizes, entertainment, or enjoyment. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sports are primarily managed by the sports department. The department, through its directorate, oversees all sports activities and plans appropriate facilities for the players in the province.

For the development of any sport, proper infrastructure—including the requisite sports gear, grounds, and other facilities—is vital. Without these facilities, it is quite challenging to continue sports activities. Players tend to avoid sports if proper facilities are not available. Sports such as cricket, football, athletics, and tennis require adequate infrastructural support. Sports infrastructure plays a crucial role in achieving success in sports. With proper infrastructure, we can not only develop athletes for national and international competitions but also motivate them to participate in sports (Allison, 2000). Another author researched that we can promote sports participation by providing appropriate facilities tailored to the needs of the activity (Chad et al., 2005). Similarly, another author argued

that sports facilities and infrastructure are essential for player participation. They also noted that poor sports infrastructure decreases participation in sports (Lime et al., 2004; Owen et al., 2004). Both recommended improving sports infrastructure in the country.

Funds are also very vital for the development of sports facilities. A writer argues that, like all businesses, sports also need funds to succeed. Without funds, no sports program can be conducted properly (Masterman, 2014).

Proper facilities are very important for sports. We cannot benefit from any sports program if it is conducted without proper facilities. Sports facilities are vital for conducting any program. Any sports or physical education event can only be successful if proper facilities are present (Babu and Kumar, 2013). As per Pate et al. (1997), it is not possible to achieve the requisite success from students who are trained with improper or substandard facilities. It is also pertinent to note that most students participating in physical education do not have modern infrastructure and equipment. According to the research of an author, facilities should be properly constructed with plans for future needs too. Mostly, we construct facilities in a short duration, making it difficult to expand them in the future. Moreover, sports facilities should be modern, well-equipped, and durable (Bucher and Krotee, 1998). In research by Arslan (2010) regarding recommendations for improving sports facilities in universities, he observed that universities have a limited number of sports facilities that also lack proper infrastructure, trained coaches, female facilities, and the required funds.

Research methodology

The research is purely qualitative in nature. Secondary data has been collected and examined thoroughly. Secondary data includes a literature review, books from the library of NIM Peshawar, and online material.

Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized into sections and subsections. The preliminaries of the research and the introduction are followed by three sections. In Section I, there is a situational and gap analysis of sports facilities in KP province. Section II focuses on the institutional analysis of the sports structure in the province. Section III studies the impact created by the sports facilities on the overall development of sports in the province. The three sections are followed by the conclusion and recommendations.

Situational & Gap Analysis

Critical Analysis of Sports Facilities

The Government of KP is focused on the promotion of sports throughout the province, both on the development side and the promotion side. The overall system is categorized into three main categories: Category A, B, and C sports facilities. As per the notified criteria, Category A sports complexes have been built in all divisional headquarters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, containing almost all sports facilities, i.e., football, hockey turf, squash court, badminton court, cricket academy, swimming pool, table tennis arena, gym, tartan track, gymnastics, martial arts, lawn tennis, and boxing arena, etc. Category B sports facilities have been established in various districts of the province, containing football, volleyball, squash court, badminton hall, cricket, and table tennis, etc. Category C sports facilities have been established in various tehsils of the province, containing only two or three sports facilities. It concludes that regions contain Category A sports facilities, districts contain Category B sports facilities, and tehsils contain Category C sports facilities in the province.

The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs is committed to completing the essential ongoing schemes on time to enhance more productive activities and develop mutual relationships in sports and youth affairs on a regional basis among the people.

During FY 2021-22, the Department achieved a number of developmental targets, such as:

- Completion of athletic tracks at Kohat, D.I. Khan, and Bannu.
- Hockey turfs at Swat have been provided.
- Works & Implementation Directorate has been established for the execution of Sports & Youth Affairs infrastructure schemes.

During the current financial year 2022-23, Rs. 17,566.00 million has been allocated for the sector, out of which Rs. 14,298.00 million (ADP including Merged Areas) has been allocated for the ongoing and new schemes. Moreover, Rs. 3,268.00 million has been allocated under the Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP) for the current financial year 2022-23.

The following major projects have been initiated in the financial year 2022-23:

Construction of:

- Cricket stadium at Kalam, District Swat
- Hockey turfs at Bajaur, Nowshera, and Abbottabad
- Sports complexes at Chitral, Abbottabad, Takhbai (Mardan), Timergara (Dir Lower), Tank, Lakki Marwat, and Karak
- Upgradation of Hayatabad Sports Complex (Development of Cricket Ground)
- Provision of missing facilities for existing sports grounds in District Swat.

There are two types of sports facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: outdoor sports facilities and indoor sports facilities. Outdoor sports facilities are for outdoor games, such as cricket, football, hockey, and basketball. Indoor facilities are for indoor games, such as table tennis, squash, and badminton. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a variety of games are played. Players enjoy cricket, hockey, football, basketball, badminton, squash, tennis, and other games. Each game requires a different sports facility, and after the construction of the facility, management and maintenance are also needed, which require a budget and funds. It has been observed that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is allocating substantial funds for sports facilities. Each year, ADP funds for sports facilities are significant. The government aims to make Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a center for sports and provide opportunities for players to compete nationally and internationally.

The priority of the Pakhtunkhwa government is to ensure sports facilities for the youth throughout the province, from Dera Ismail Khan to Chitral and even in the merged tribal areas. To improve the existing sports facilities in the province, funds have also been allocated. Proper steps have been taken to provide state-of-the-art facilities to players and train them to prepare for international competitions.

Situation Analysis

1000 sports facilities project

There are 336 playing facilities in KP, and the government has started a 1,000 playing facilities scheme. The purpose of this scheme is to have a sports facility in each union council of the province. There are 1,008 union councils in the province, so the project is named the 1,000 sports facilities project. Work on 217 schemes is underway and will be completed in 2024. Ten schemes have already been completed. The Prime Minister's five-year 1,000 sports facilities project is expected to cost Rs. 5,500 million and will

include cricket academies, volleyball courts, tennis courts, climbing walls for children, basketball courts, a badminton hall, a synthetic walking track, and a martial arts arena to promote sports.

Hockey Turf

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the only province that has established 12 hockey AstroTurf's in various districts of the province to revive the past glory of hockey. It is indeed a great achievement, as it will help revive the national sport.

Cricket Stadiums

A sports ground is under construction in Saidu Sharif, Swat, in addition to the cricket stadium in Kalam. It will bring international cricket activities to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by providing a summer sports ground.

The construction work on the state-of-the-art Hayatabad Cricket Stadium and Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium is underway, with a total cost of Rs. 994 million and Rs. 1.90 billion, respectively.

Newly Merged Districts

For the development of sports in the newly merged districts of KP, Rs. 1.5 billion has been allocated. Many new projects have been started. The new development projects include grounds, indoor gymnasiums, and the upgradation of existing sports facilities. Development schemes amounting to Rs. 500 million were included in the ADP for North Waziristan. In Bajaur, the work on the sports complex has been completed, which includes indoor games and hockey stadium facilities as well.

Women's Sports Facilities

More than 900 million rupees have been allocated by the provincial government for the establishment of separate sports gymnasiums for women in all seven divisions of the province. Gymnasiums are under construction in each divisional headquarters, equipped with suitable facilities for female players. Construction work has already started on all the facilities and is in the final stages. The multipurpose indoor gymnasiums will include facilities for indoor games such as martial arts, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and gymnastics. This initiative will provide a platform for talented females to showcase their abilities on national and international levels.

Sports facilities for Disabled Players

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the only province that has conducted 29 consecutive national events for various disabled communities in the districts of Abbottabad and Peshawar. An ADP scheme titled "Formulation and Implementation of Adaptive Sports Promotion Strategy ADP No. 1128/180557" has already been approved by the provincial government, with

various activities scheduled for both promotion and development. A ground specifically designed for disabled persons has been established by the provincial government at Mardan. Additionally, a technical team has been appointed by the department to conduct an accessibility audit of all sports facilities in the province. Based on this report, various developmental works will be carried out to ensure accessibility to disabled communities for all sports facilities in the province.

Gap Analysis

The provincial government has established several sports facilities, but these are not sufficient to meet the national training demand in various sports. An initiative is required to develop infrastructure in areas that would benefit the players. The provincial government is working under an integrated strategy to provide playgrounds and other allied facilities at the district, tehsil, and union council levels, with ongoing work on various projects for this purpose. Upon completion, these projects will help create a strong and healthy society by enabling the youth to utilize their capabilities in positive activities. While acknowledging the provincial government's commitment to developing sports facilities, there are some areas that need attention. These issues are highlighted below:

Slow utilization of funds

The government spending is praiseworthy, but issues such as the slow utilization of funds and the proper management of facilities need to be addressed. The substantial funding provided by the government is not always fully spent. Sometimes the finance department fails to release the budget on time, and contractors may be slow, delaying the construction process. For example, the Arbab Niaz Stadium is cited in this regard. The government has planned to host PSL matches at the ground since last year, but the work is still ongoing. Despite all efforts, the process has not been expedited effectively to deliver results on time. Setting realistic timelines for the completion of this project is crucial to making the government's efforts more fruitful. Sports facilities are taking too long to complete, with contractors working at a slow pace. Funds are sometimes not released by the finance department on time, leading to delays or increased costs for materials, which affects the completion time.

Mismanagement of sports facilities

Moreover, the management of sports facilities is also an issue. Most sports facilities are under the control of district sports officers, and staff is recruited to take care of and manage these facilities. However, it has been observed that the staff is often not present regularly at their positions and is assigned other duties. As a result, the sports facilities suffer, and repair work increases. The

management of the grounds is often lethargic, with little care for the facilities despite the government spending millions.

Misuse by the local community

Local people often use these sports facilities for private purposes, which damages their proper usability. Marriage functions and political gatherings are frequently held on sports grounds, destroying the infrastructure. The local community's attitude is often very selfish; they treat these facilities as personal property and do not care about government property. The misuse of facilities for personal reasons spoils them, leading to increased demands for repair funds. This cycle of poor management and repair needs continues, with no visible improvement in many areas. Misuse by local people is also a significant cause of the waste of sports facilities.

Careless staff

Sports, as we all know, are essential for the progress of any nation, but intention and effort should come from all quarters. Often, government plans and funds are not properly implemented. Even if the bureaucracy tries hard, local issues can arise and damage the facility. We have excellent examples of well-managed sports facilities, such as Qayyum Stadium in Peshawar and Hayatabad Sports Complex. Administrators have been appointed to oversee and properly manage these facilities, making them ideal and worth seeing. However, the situation is different for facilities in the districts. They are often not properly managed; staff is frequently absent and performs other functions instead of carrying out their assigned tasks, which deteriorates conditions for the players.

Lack of basic necessities at sports facilities

One more issue observed is the lack of shaded areas, proper watering, and seating at many facilities. Many facilities are constructed without considering weather conditions, making it difficult for players to perform. In summer, most grounds lack shaded areas, causing players to feel faint from the heat of the sun. During the rainy season, there are no arrangements to keep the ground dry. Even a small amount of rain can ruin the game, forcing players to abandon the match. Covers for the cricket pitch and proper maintenance of hockey astroturf are examples of the lack of basic facilities for ground maintenance. No cooling or shaded areas are provided for players, and many grounds lack lighting arrangements.

Uneven distribution of funds

Funds are not evenly distributed to all districts; far-flung districts are often ignored or receive fewer funds, preventing players in those areas from getting

the opportunity to compete due to a lack of practice. Grounds are allocated politically, which means they do not reach the grassroots level. In some areas, more grounds and facilities are developed, while in other areas, no facilities are available due to the uneven distribution of funds.

Repair work at sports facilities

Facilities require continuous maintenance, but funding issues increase the expenditure. Funds are allocated for the development of facilities, but there are often insufficient funds available in the districts for small repairs. As a result, many facilities develop issues that make them unusable.

Facilities for girls

There are fewer facilities for women in KP. While major cities have some facilities, other districts offer fewer opportunities for women in terms of available facilities.

Facilities for special youth

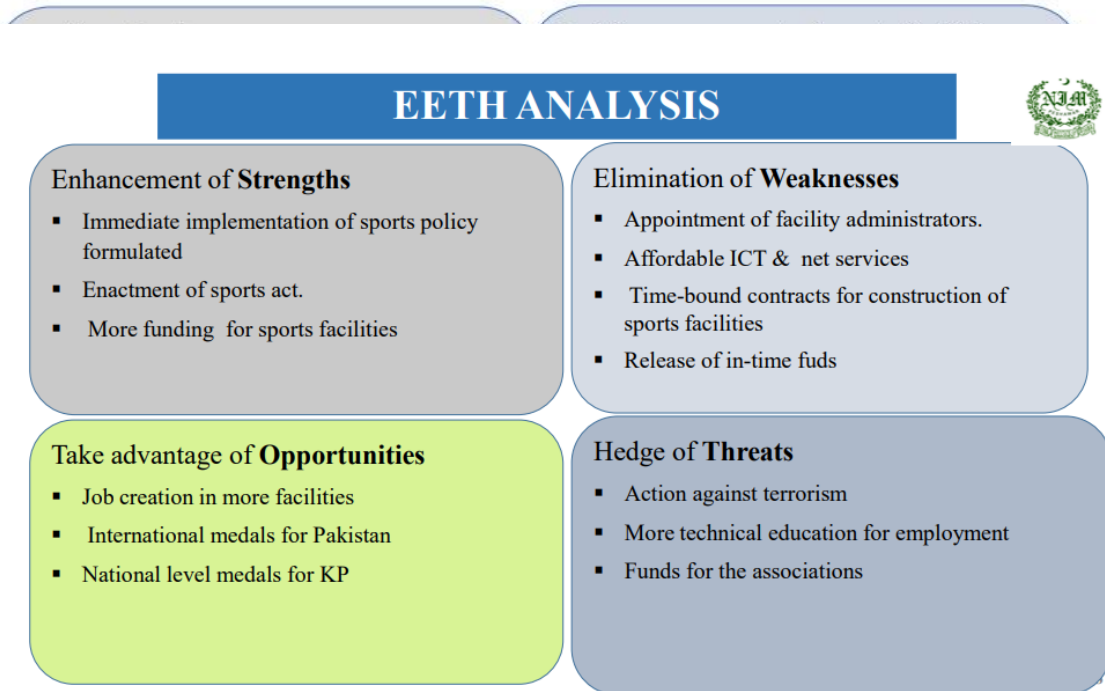
Special people are also an important part of our society, but there are fewer facilities available for them in the province. The government is trying to facilitate special people in big cities, and activities involving special players are supported. However, in far-flung districts, the situation is not very favorable for special players.

Coaching standards at facilities

The development of facilities is essential, but to benefit from them, proper coaching and training of players are required. Each facility should have a coach or trainer so that players can learn the techniques of the game. Despite the significant investment in facilities, our players are not able to win medals at the international level. Athletes preparing for international events like the Olympics spend years with proper facilities and coaching to compete at higher levels and win medals. In Pakistan, and especially in KP, the coaching standards need improvement so that the impact of these sports facilities is reflected in winning medals for the country.

Swot/Eeth Analysis of Sports Facilities

Swot Analysis



Institutional Structure of Sports in KP

Institutional analysis

The institutional framework/structure of sports in KP consists of government and non-government institutions, as well as other related departments. These departments include:

i. Government departments

- a. The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs
- b. The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
- c. The Department of Higher Education, Archives, and Libraries
- d. The Department of Local Government, Elections & Rural Development
- e. District Governments

ii. Other organizations

- a. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association

- b. Sports associations
- c. Community sports organizations
- d. Private/business sector organizations

Government Departments

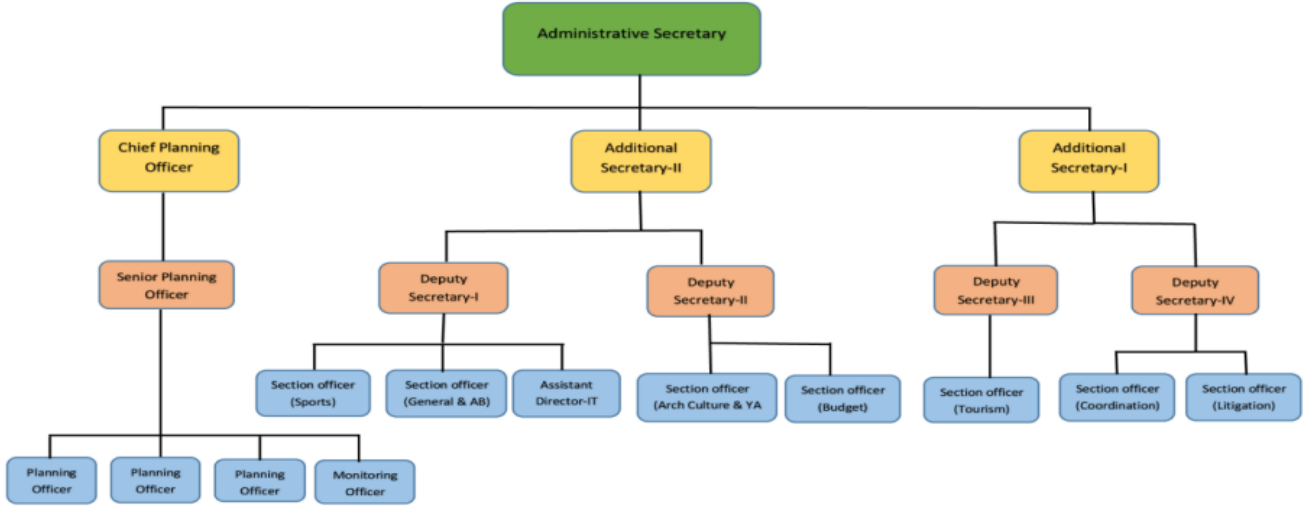
Sports & Youth Affairs department

The Department has the following responsibilities through its Directorate General of Sports:

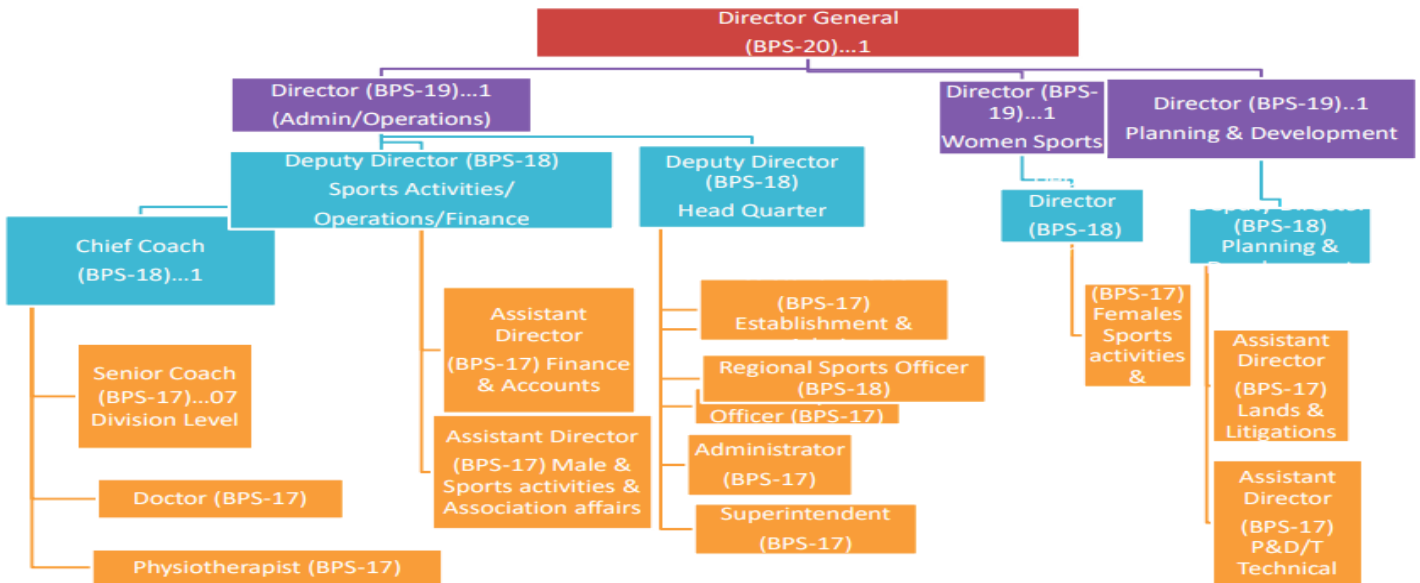
- i. To establish sports facilities at the provincial, district, and tehsil levels.
- ii. To encourage and facilitate players in sports by providing sports infrastructure and accessibility.
- iii. To formulate, monitor, and evaluate sports policies.
- iv. To facilitate the involvement of the private sector and encourage investors.
- v. To implement minimum standards for sports infrastructure established by the private/public sector, including coaches and training.
- vi. To identify provincial sports associations for each sport and clubs.
- vii. To keep and maintain records of all public and private sports facilities.
- viii. To develop partnerships with community sports organizations and the private sector to encourage the establishment and maintenance of facilities.
- ix. To encourage and facilitate the private sector in public-private partnerships for the improvement of sports facilities.
- x. To introduce a system of categorization for sports facilities and grounds according to infrastructure, standards of facilities, availability of coaches, and their experience.
- xi. To construct state-of-the-art facilities to provide easy access to disabled persons and senior citizens.

Department of sports organogram

Organization/Hierarchical Structure of Sports, Tourism, Culture, Museums, Archaeology & Youth Affairs Department



Directorate of Sports Organogram



The Elementary & secondary Education/The higher Education department

The Elementary & Secondary Education Department/Higher Education Department has the following sports facilities-related functions:

- a. To establish criteria for the usage of sports facilities in educational institutions.
- b. To give proper attention to the development of sports facilities according to the needs of students.
- c. To make it mandatory for all educational institutions to develop sports facilities.

The department of local government

The department is responsible for:

- a. Making it compulsory for all local government authorities to invest in sports facilities.
- b. Ensuring that the provision of proper sports facilities is mandatory for any new development society.

District Government

The role of the district government in the promotion of sports and the enhancement of playing facilities is very vital. It provides sports facilities in each area and develops plans for the progress of sports. It adopts the following procedures:

- a. It develops a sports council at the tehsil and union council levels, which is tasked with creating plans for the promotion of sports.
- b. It encourages village communities to convert barren land into playing fields.
- c. It provides funds for the development of existing sports facilities and the improvement of infrastructure.
- d. It encourages community groups in villages to assist in the control and management of playing facilities.
- e. It provides grounds according to the population at the regional level as well.

Role of Other Organizations

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association

It is the main body for the conduct of national and international sports. After proper consultation with the Directorate of Sports, it has the right to select players for various games. The International Olympic Committee and Commonwealth Games Federation sanction the games, after which the association has the right to include the selected teams.

Provincial Sports Associations

There is one sports association for each game at the provincial level. It administers the sports events by following the criteria issued by the DG Sports through the Sports Management Committee. For games approved by international federations, the sports association selects players for those games after receiving approval from the DG Sports.

District Sports Associations

Like the provincial associations at the provincial level, there are district sports associations at the district level for each sport. After approval from the DG Sports through the provincial sports committee, the district association has the right to select suitable players to participate in the games. District sports associations are independent bodies but receive grants from the government, similar to the provincial sports associations. After consulting with the district sports officer, they select players for various games.

Community Sports Organizations

There are community sports associations at the community level, analogous to the district and provincial associations.

Private/Business Sector Organizations/Individuals

The private sector plays a positive role in the development of sports facilities. The role of the government is primarily to regulate and facilitate. The private sector, which shows interest in sports, includes mobile companies, chambers of commerce, insurance companies, industries, etc. The role of private clubs is also praiseworthy in sports infrastructure development. All private sector sports clubs are affiliated with the provincial association.

Impact of Sports Facilities and Institutional Structure

Impact of sports facilities on sports in KP

The huge expenditure by the provincial government on sports facilities has created a positive effect on the overall sports environment of the province. The players, having better facilities and infrastructure, have proved their

worth by winning medals in competitions. The impact of sports facilities and institutional structure on KP sports is as follows:

More Jobs for the youth

More jobs are being created with more facilities. Every facility needs staff for maintenance, so more positions are created, which helps society as a whole by providing economic benefits as well.

Away from bad activities

Our youth stay away from bad activities through the provision of proper sports facilities. As sports facilities provide the opportunity for youth to spend their time in sports activities, they become engaged in positive activities and find no leisure time for negative activities, which positively impacts society as a whole.

Reduction in terrorism

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been the center of terrorism for years. These terrorist activities have shed negative effects on the minds of our youth. These sports facilities are an opportunity for our youth to forget the bad memory of terrorism and engage in positive activities. The youth by using these facilities positively and by taking part in games can become positive citizens. These sports facilities have reduced terrorism by providing the players an activity to concentrate upon so the youth find no time to become a target for terrorism propagators.

Positive atmosphere of competition

These sports facilities provide a positive atmosphere of competition, which is vital for the growth of a positive society. Sports induce positive competition. The players compete for success as a team, learning techniques for working together and supporting each other to achieve a goal. Thus, a positive society is emerging in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and an atmosphere of positive competition is visible in both the sports grounds and the society.

More opportunities for girls

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, traditionally there are fewer opportunities for girls. Society is very strict about the outdoor activities of girls. The sports facilities have provided a venue for girls to take part in games and showcase their talent. Sports activities for girls are held in these facilities, and they have full opportunities to participate. Even at the provincial tournament level, their boarding and lodging are also provided for. The KP government has a separate directress position in Qayyum Stadium to oversee sports matters for the girls of the province.

Conclusion

Taking into account the overall sports facilities in KP and the institutional structure of sports, it can be concluded that there is no doubt about the positive intentions of the provincial government regarding the development of sports in the province. The facilities are a basic need for the promotion of sports, and the allocation of significant funding for the construction and repair of sports facilities shows the government's commitment to this cause. That said, it can also be concluded from the research that there are serious management and operational issues at the facilities that need proper care and attention. Improving the management of the sports facilities and the quality of infrastructure will bring positive results, allowing our players from KP to compete at national and international levels and win medals.

Recommendations

1. More funds should be allocated by the government for the development of sports facilities in the province, especially in backward districts.
2. The repair work of existing sports facilities should be properly funded.
3. Infrastructure and necessary facilities should be provided at the existing sports facilities according to international standards.
4. Provision of sports facilities and proper allocation of space for these facilities should be made compulsory for initiating new ADP schemes for the construction of new educational institutions.
5. The management of sports facilities should be improved by appointing responsible staff and ensuring regular monitoring by higher authorities.
6. Special emphasis should be given to making schools and universities nurseries for sports growth and the nourishment of new talent.
7. To revive the sports goods industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and establish new facilities, the private sector should be supported.
8. Coaches of the highest standards should be available at our sports facilities so that our players can compete nationally and internationally.

9. Support from the Chamber of Commerce should be enhanced to attract investment in the sports sector and the development of the sports industry.
10. All sports facilities should be made accessible to differently-abled players, and the requisite infrastructure should be provided to facilitate them.
11. Private training academies with internationally experienced coaching staff should be encouraged and supported to achieve quality in sports.
12. State-of-the-art, world-class sports facilities with high coaching standards should be established throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa so that our players can win medals internationally.
13. The Department of Sports should have a legal framework in the form of an Act of Assembly to regulate sports in the province.
14. The role of the sports department should be to facilitate and regulate, while the private sector should be encouraged to invest in sports.

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