

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The film Mary Com has stirred the hornet's nest by raising the gender dispute in sports in India. The social fabrics of India are completely tilted against the female. Discriminatory policies are operational at different levels but the gender is the worst. From the birth itself sports entertainment is snatched away from the female. Whoever tries to play, they are intimidated with violence and coercion. While most know about Mary's bronze medal win at London and her hard work while growing up in an eastern zone of India. She was beaten by her father for taking up male dominant game boxing. For example, draws attention to the stereotype classical Indians that contact sports aren't the domain of women. That was a myth that has now been busted by Mary and her ilk, not to mention the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games wrestling gold medal-winning sisters from Haryana. Perhaps the film of Mary Com depicts this story vividly. *Chak De India* an Indian movie also brought a story of indifference and discrimination to light. This movie helped clarify how Indian women's sport remains trapped within traditional frame of gender. The film used a straight move making framework to accommodate director and producers like cultural values, identity issue and the ultimate sporting dream of winning the competition. *Chak De* had brought the agonies of a failed sportsman within the larger narrative of gender biasness in sport. It looked into the sensitive issues of identity and prejudice, sportsman from a minority community faces, while in due course helping him triumph in the face of acute adversity. Self-portrayal and experience could be more meaningful.

Imagine for a moment that you are seven years old when you start playing football or some other sport.

"Girl participated in a game in various teams with the boys and turn the age of 12, and go to sign up for the 12-14 year league. Suddenly, someone stops you as you pick up the pen to write your name and said "You can't sign up for this, this is a game of male." She says.

"But I have played this game with the boys in my schooling before." You reply.

He shall explain you "Girls cannot play with boys' teams."

*"Why shouldn't I be able to play? I score a lot of points for my team though! " You ask
Performance doesn't matter because you're a girl. Leave now."*

*It means girls can't play the sport and they love her just because of my gender. I will
never be allowed to do what I love most!!" yet I am being refused to take equal
opportunity to play just because I am a female."”¹*

Do you think girls should go through this while boys are welcome to do whatever they want? NO! Boys are also equally denied to such opportunities.

Being cut from a sports team is disappointing personal experience. But being in a category of people that is wholly/ partially excluded from all/ some sports is more than disappointing. Most cases of categorical exclusion are related to gender and sexuality, skin color and ethnicity, ability or disability, nationality and citizenship etc. gender discrimination is one of the most crucial among these.

The above mentioned instance is clear cut evidence of gender discrimination in sports. It is pretended by our society that the discriminative practices are going to be a part of history but what does the above mentioned instance show? It is nothing but evidence that discrimination is not going to an end rather its format/ face has changed. After reading this instance certain questions should be raised in one's mind. Such as: will female be allowed to play sports and if they are, will they play the same sports at the same time and on the same teams that males play and will the rewards for achievement be the same for males and females? Or remain a victim of gender discrimination?

What exactly gender is? Is gender only a problem for women or does it cause problem for men too? What is gender discrimination? Why it occurs? Why it is important to understand it?

What does gender discrimination refer especially in relation to sports? How it is practiced in our society? What are the factors responsible for the continuation of such practices? To get answer of this one need to know what does mean by gender first.

¹ <http://www.debate.org/opinions/should-girls-play-boys-sports>

1.1. MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SPORTS

Gender: Many times the words gender and sex are used interchangeably but there is much distinction between these two. For example if we talked of sex it refers to the biological and physiological differences between male and female. While on the other hand Gender refers to whether someone is masculine or feminine, it's cultural and social construction. Or we can say that gender is a way society encourages and teaches the two sexes to behave differently through socialization. As the feminist **writer Simone de Beauvoir** said in her work **“The second sex”** that one is not born women, but rather becomes one. So we can say Gender is a common term whereas gender discrimination is most of time meant only for women and victims of gender discrimination. Even in 2006, International Working Group on Women in Sport Conference, Carolyn Hannan, Director of the Division for the Advancement for Women from the United Nations gave an opening keynote speech on “Challenging the Gender Order” in sport. Her remarks focused greater attention on the issue to address the gender inequities (especially regarding women) in sport that still exist.²

According to WHO “Gender refers to the economic, social and cultural attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female at a particular point in time”³

Discrimination: It is different from inequality. Inequality is not having the same advantages. For instance ‘A’ have more money than ‘B’ so can buy a car and ‘A’ can't or ‘B’ grew up in a poor area so the school ‘B’ went to was not as good as the school of ‘A’ went to. On the other hand discrimination is treating another person poorly because of some trait that usually they cannot control. For instance an employer won't give the job to a person because he is from a lower caste or the statement like no women can join army are nothing but discrimination done just because someone belongs to a specific sex and as

² Addressing Gender Inequities in Collegiate Sport Athena Yiamouyiannis, Barbara Osborne 2012

³ Transforming health systems: gender and rights in reproductive health available at (<http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/gender/glossary.html>)

per societal norms is eligible only to participate in assigned roles. If they try to go beyond, they denied to equal chances to another gender.

In short, on the basis of above mentioned meaning of discrimination we can say that denial of equality, rights and opportunity and suppression in any frame on the basis of gender is discrimination.

Sports: Oxford English dictionary defines sport as “an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment”.

‘Sport Accord’ which is the **Union for both Olympic and non-Olympic international sports federations** as well as organizers of international sporting events defines sports in a different way. Sport Accord uses the following definition of a sport:

- ❖ It should include as an element of competition or tournament.
- ❖ The sport should not rely on ‘luck’ specifically integrated into the games or sports.
- ❖ The sport should not be judged to pose an undue risk to the health and safety of its participants.
- ❖ The sport proposed should in no way be danger to any living creature.
- ❖ The sport should rely on quality of equipment that is provided by an authentic supplier.

Or we can say sports must have following characteristics:

- ❖ Activity is ritualized, with spontaneity diminished
- ❖ Formal rules, structure of roles, and time limitations
- ❖ Individual liability and responsibility for behaviour and outcome
- ❖ Outcome extends beyond the bounds of the activity.
- ❖ Individual time is required for practice and mastery

In this study the researcher will not explain/ study different sports but the main objective of this study is to just investigate the factors which are responsible for gender biases or which further causes gender discrimination which restrict women participation in area of sports.

1.2. GENDER AND SPORTS

In sport, feminist cultural theorists draw on the interaction between Althusser's (1971) notion of ideology and Gramsci's (1971) concept of hegemony to explain the complexities of the relationship between gendered freedom and constraint in sport. Hegemony is described as "the control of consciousness by cultural dominance through the institutions of society. Power and privilege are maintained through cultural hegemony, but struggles are often formed which challenge dominant forms". Gramsci originally used the concept of hegemony as a tool for critically examining the process by which a social group or class is able to establish its ideas and practices as common sense. Within sport hegemonic beliefs are responsible for teaching boys that sport is a significant part of manliness and the subsequent exclusion and distancing of women from this domain (Connell, 1995).

And how it is done, better revealed in the study of Kalyani Menon Sen and A.K.Shivakumar (2001) which found that girls in India are discriminated in several ways that is fewer months of breastfeeding which reduce the nurturing, poor medical treatment if they fall ill, lack of "special" food, negligible parental attention. As a result, girls become more susceptible than boys to disease and infections which leads the poor health and a shorter lifespan. It is this life-long discrimination in nurturing and care. It has been the real killer of girls-less visible and dramatic, but as clearly lethal as female foeticide and infanticide.⁴

⁴Kalyani Menon Sen and A.K.Shiva Kumar, 2001, "Women in India, How Free? How Equal?", New Delhi, UNDAF

1.3. TRACING GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN SPORTS IN THE HISTORY OF INDIA

In early India, games and sports were very much concerned about the development of the physique and for the art of offence and defence. Initially, the development of sports in India gathered momentum after its important role which maintain the health, was coined by the people of India. Hunting, swimming, boating, archery, horse riding, wrestling and fishing mark the stage of infancy of Indian Sports. Then Martial Arts come which is also a strong way of self-defence apart from a vigorous physical exercise.

In India, sports is seen as 'a way of realizing the body potential to its fullest'; also known as "Dehvada" in ancient India. The initially thought foundation of the games in India lies in the history dating back to Vedic Era , and which is mentioned in Atharva Veda "*Duty is in my right hand and the fruits of victory in my left*". These words are the Olympic oath that implies: "*.....For the Honour of my Country and the Glory of Sport.*" The history evident the interesting link between Greece (The Motherland of Sports in the world) and India which dates back to 975 B.C. when both the nations pioneered in the games like chariot racing and wrestling⁵.

The golden history of sports in India is also evident and mentioned in the immortal Indian epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata etc; Ramayana mentioned the sports like hunting, archery, horse riding, swimming were the royal games; Mahabharata made a mark in the sports and mentioned the different sports like dicing, gymnastics, wrestling, chess (Shatranj) and gullidanda. Puranas mention about the threatening game of rope fighting⁶. The archaeological excavations of Harappa and Mohanjodaro along with the religious manuscripts like Puranas and Vedas are the standing testimonials of this glorious history of Indian sports. The historians believe that many sports (games) like hockey, archery, wrestling and chess originated in India, which are synonymous to strength and speed nowadays. In the late Vedic Era, besides sports; the Yoga and Meditation, the inevitable

⁵ <http://anonlineindia.com/information/sports.htm>

⁶ <http://anonlineindia.com/information/sports.htm>

parts of the toughest "Yogashastra" made India, acquire the seat of spiritualism, in the world⁷.

Today sports in India have achieved a zenith as popularity and career opportunities. Different sports events and tournaments see Indians as one of the most leading sports participants in the world. From different sports personality from Milkha Singh to M. C. Marrycom present chronological sports generation of India. Some popular games has been Cricket, Hockey, Football, Weightlifting, Snooker, Kabaddi, Kho Kho and Archery are the sports of India that have been rooted into an Indian psyche, as a sports person or sports lover. It is not for only physical strength, power and satisfaction but it is also a strong opportunities of recreation. India has paved a long way towards the road of success and has made themselves a hallmark in sports.⁸

Though we evident the women's equality to men in society in Vedic period but participation in sports was not found for women. After Vedic period (1000-500 BC), women gradually lost his space or say in the family and in society as well. Their role had been confined within wall boundaries as rule and regulations. In Mahabharata age it is said that women were enjoyed much freedom as they had right to choose their batter half through swamwar ceremony but the episode of losing Draupdi in a bet in gambling is statement on actual women's status in that time like any other material item by the Pandavas.

In medieval India, Razia Sulatan⁹ was the first woman emperor in the world. She was enthroned by her father and ruled for four years, despite her living brothers, during 1236-40. Her succession to the throne was not easy to be accepted in male dominated ruling class. That's why she dressed herself like a man and adopted so many other practices of time as a male ruler like attending the court without veil, hunting and playing

⁷ <http://anonlineindia.com/information/sports.htm>

⁸ <http://www.thisismyindia.com/sports>

⁹ http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in:8080/jspui/bitstream/10603/6531/6/06_chapter%201.pdf

Chogan, a game like modern time Polo. In same way some people cited the name of Rani Laxmibai. Such examples of women other than high ruling elite class and whatever examples we have just are exceptions, not a common practice for common women. It is in fact, a long struggle for women to just have an opportunity to play if not accepted as a right to play like men.

Thus, the 20th century too was not much different than that of earlier one. But the number of women participants and nations who send the women teams or individual players are growing. In London Olympic 2012 three Muslim countries first time send women participants from their countries. And it is felt that the female body was expected to be more active but not at the same as men. Boys and girls took part in gender appropriate sports and they were also taught separately. Females can participate in activities that were less strenuous. They have restricted space to avoid body contact. The male were encouraged to become competitive by aggressive, dominating and physically.

Taking into consideration, the women participation and peculiarities of Indian society, achievements of Indian women sportsperson surely proved an inspiration for the women of other Asian or less developed countries. In the presence of limitation and challenges, Indian women's performance and achievements can be rated extraordinary and aware efforts were begin particularly after 1975.¹⁰ UNO had declared 1975 as International Women's Year. That theme were "Equality, Development, Peace" to ensure integration of women in total development implementing the UN call in sports field. NSNIS proposed new initiatives to increase the number of women as possible in the ambit of sports.¹¹ Despite all the odds in Indian women participants brought fifty five percent of all the medals, Indian sports persons won in 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth

¹⁰ Sangwan, J. (2008). Participation of Women in Sports: A Case Study of International Sports Women with Special Reference to Haryana State. (unpublished Ph.D. Thesis), Maharshi Dayanad University Rohtak

¹¹libid

Games held in Delhi and Glasgove respectively. This is an amazing feat given that in our country, the nutrition food needs of women usually get the least priority.¹²

But if we see in our country excellence appears in exceptions. We have one PT Usha, we have one Saina Nehwal, we have one Joshna or we have one Dipika Kumari. Our list of world class sportswomen is very limited. We have not many who are competing. These are tough and sensitive questions which demand a serious concern/ attention to find out its root causes.

1.4. HARYANA SPORTS POLICY: AN OVERVIEW

Haryana is counted among the prosperous states of India. Statistical way of measurements, attribute high performance in sports to five factors: population, per capita income, past performance, climate and host-effect. Haryana has advantages on these counts. Besides, the State is among the top performers in the country indicated by developmental indicators and maintained it gradually.

In addition to this, Haryana state has a youthful demographic profile. As per 2001 census, 48 percent population is lying in the age bracket of 10-35 years. The people particularly younger, energetic, aware and amenable are mobilized. Sports and games are an integral part of human life and important for human resources development. They are also an effective way to channel the energy of youth in productive and meaningful purposes. The State Government has therefore accorded a high priority to provide incentives in the State. With a vision to make Haryana a vibrant leading edge State in the Sports arena; by Universalization Sports Infrastructure throughout the length and breadth of State; Unearth latest Sports talents in Youth and lead them towards peaks of Sports Excellence. A sports policy was framed in the year 2001 and revised in the year 2009.

The policy was revisited and updated in the year 2012, and now in April, 2013, to increase the cash awards and incentives. Time to time different revised policies are taking places for sports persons, cash awards for Olympics and Para-Olympic Games 2016 have been doubled, and honoraria sanctioned for Dronacharya, Arjuna and Dhyan Chand

¹² Yadav, B. (2010). Haryanvi Jats as Indian Soorts Icons. *Economic & Political Weekly*, XLV (52), 36-38.

awardees. Haryana added financial incentives, greater declaration of an assured future; and still greater stimulus to deliver more and better. What does Haryana proud is that the Central Government has taken a leaf out of its book and decided to set up rural sports stadia in 28 states and four UTs.¹³ It is really done wonder, changed the tiny entity of federal India from a sports nursery to sports motivating force. And put the state on global sporting hessian. And recently it wants to bring Right to Play Act¹⁴ to make the State a model in sports promotion.

After all what are the provisions here which made all this possible? To understand it this chapter will try to bring the entire gamut of Haryana's sports policy and analyze the factor that have made it a big hit with other states which are keen on emulating Haryana. Not only had this, in this chapter an attempt made to analyze how much gender sensitive it is.

1.4.1. Objectives of the Sports Policy

The objectives of the Policy are as follows:-

- ❖ To provide equal opportunities to all participate in sports.
- ❖ To promote mass participation in games.
- ❖ To advance excellence in sports.
- ❖ To create, maintain and optimally utilize quality sports infrastructure.
- ❖ To encourage, train and support to participate in national and international championships.
- ❖ To lay special emphasis on strengthening infrastructure and facilitate educational institutions, including universities.
- ❖ To create a culture of sports by imbibing higher moral and ethical values, spirit of comradeship and the desire to excel.
- ❖ To channelize vibrant youth energy for sports activities and physical fitness.
- ❖ To recognize talent in sports and reward young women and men, who achieve excellence in sports.

¹³ Haryana review june 2013

¹⁴ Times of India, oct.17, 2012

- ❖ To recognize special needs of disabled and facilitate their participation in sports.
- ❖ To make efforts to encourage adventure sports in the State of Haryana.

This policy has three vital aspects.

- 1) Talent hunt
- 2) Infrastructure development
- 3) Future security by providing job to medalist

1.4.2. Talent Hunt

The first part involves spotting and grooming young and raw talent. For this the government is running the PYKKA and SPAT schemes. Sports is being promoted at the grassroots level in Haryana by tapping talent in the villages, grooming them and creating a conducive sporting environment in the rural areas. A Central Government initiative, PYKKA (Panchayat Yuva Krida And Khel Abhiyan) not only taps but also grooms and takes care of the sports talent at the grassroots level¹⁵. Sharing 25 per cent of the cost, Haryana is actively implementing this programme since 2008-09.

In addition to this the Haryana Government started sports talent hunt under SPAT (Sports And Physical Aptitude Test) scheme from 2010 with the motto “Catch them young, Coach them right.” Under this scheme seven tests are included such as: 30 meter flying to Tests speed, Standing Broad Jump to Tests strength of the lower portion of the body and explosive power, Standing Vertical Jump to Tests the explosive power such as strength and speed, Forward Bend & Reach to Tests flexibility, 6X10 Shuttle Run to Tests agility, Medicine Ball Put to Tests shoulder strength, 800 Meter Race to Tests endurance. There is a provision that if a student clears all three phases, is eligible for getting a monthly stipend of Rs 1,500 (under 15 years category and Rs 1,800 (above 15 years category)).

¹⁵ http://haryanasamvad.gov.in/store/document/HR_Review_June_2013.pdf

Anyone who qualifies SPAT six times out of 12 (8-19 years) will be considered for class-II and class-III post. Those who qualify SPAT six times will get first claim over vacancies in police constabulary or equivalent rank where physical fitness is important

Table- 1 Beneficiaries of SPAT from the year 2010 to 2013

Year (SPAT)	Total selected students	Boys	Girls	Age group 8-14	Age Group 15-19
2010	1,606	1414	192	71%	29%
2011	4,996	4087	909	82.48%	17.52%
2012	5,000	3900	1100	97.98%	2.02%
2013	5,000	3575	1425	93.72%	6.28%

Source: <http://haryanasports.gov.in>

The above data shows that it is a good scheme and strength of qualified students increases over the year. It also reveals that children are participating more in sports in their early age while this participation is reduced in the age of puberty. If we try to examine the difference between male and female participation, the female is far behind than their male counterparts.

1.4.3. Infrastructure Development

The second aspect related to create international level sports infrastructure in each state, including villages, to enable the sportsmen to improve their skills wherever they are to take international competition head-on. Motilal Nehru School of Sports (MNSS), Rai, higher ranked in India's boarding school in the category of sports education. The Haryana Football Association (HFA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to help each other on strategic cooperation with the Dutch Haryana Foundation (DHF). FICCI establish a Centre of Excellence for Soccer (CoES) on November 18 2010 in Haryana as also to create environment for football and infrastructures throughout the state.¹⁶ With a

¹⁶ http://www.ficci.com/sector/37/Add_docs/sports_digest-I.pdf

view to improving the quality of tennis in the region, different association has been helping i.e. Chandigarh Lawn Tennis Association has signed a MoU with its Spanish counterpart, Madrid Tennis Foundation.

The state government has been working to the development of sports infrastructure. 171 block-level stadiums in various stages of development and completion. International level facilities are being provided in different sports complex is coming up in Haryana.

1.4.4. Future Security by Providing Job to Medalist

The state government's slogan, "Padak Lao, Pad Pao" (Win medals, win jobs) explains it all. Future is securing by promising them financial incentives, government jobs besides reservation in admission.

1.4.4.1. Sports Quota – Admission into Professional Courses

Under the new policy, three percent seats have been reserved for sportspersons in different institutions. This decision has implemented since 2011-12 in all government and non-government institutions in Haryana.

1.4.4.2. Sports Quota – In Government Jobs

In Haryana government there is a provision of government jobs of medal winners in big tournaments at international level. The gold medallist of Olympics and Asian athletes are offered the post of second class gazette officers and minimum age should be 21 years with the qualification complete graduation. Silver medal winners in the Commonwealth Games and gold medal winners in World Sports Championships organized by sports federations, are offered Class-III posts for this minimum age should be 18 years and qualification should be senior secondary.

This support given by government has inspired the players. The Chief Minister has also increased the amount of the cash award time to time.

1.5. GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SPORTS IN CONTEXT OF HARYANA

Haryana has a strong culture of sports. In last few years Haryana has been making national headlines for good reasons though it consists merely 2% of India's population. Among the 81 members of the Indian contingent at London 2012, 18 hail from Haryana. Leaving out MC Mary Kom and Vijay Kumar, the other four medallists from London are either from Haryana or have their roots there. During the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, Haryana contributed no less than 22 of the 38 gold medals that India won at the Games. Athletes from Haryana clinched 37 of the 101 medals won by India. In recent Glasgove CWG 2014 also Haryanvi players keep their name high.

Sports and Physical Aptitude Tests (SPAT) have been introduced by Haryana government. And recently it wants to bring Right to Play Act to make the State a model in sports promotion. We feel proud about progressing in every field and aim to be listed as one of the top 'developed' state of India. But if we examine closely we will find that on the whole, our mentality hasn't changed much. Despite providing equal rights to men and women both in our constitution gender inequality is one of the main issue due to which Haryana is not being able to progress at a faster rate. A recent poll by the group Trust Law found India the worst among the G-20 countries for women to live in.

Haryana is notorious for its lowest sex ratio due to son loving culture, every second women in Haryana is anaemic and it is lagging behind in female literacy too. Sport is one area where gender inequality is strongly evident. Women here face many layers of discrimination. Historical practices continue to perpetuate.

If we see societal attitude of Haryana regarding advancement of girls in male dominated sports it is still very orthodox for instance wrestlers, sisters Geeta and Babita said in their interview that in rural area of Haryana. Sports participation of girls had to contend with jagged verbal attacks from the villagers. If we see the Ruchika Girhotra molestation case she used to play lawn tennis in the HLTA court with the only aim to become a good athlete. The criminal of this case was a senior police officer who is President of HLTA at that time. As police official his role was to guard the public. As president of HLTA his

role was to coach young promising players for India. But he failed to play both roles by molesting that girl. Why such mind-set is prevailing towards women in our society.

Although national and state both governments formulate many policies to bring about gender justice and transform equality in terms of legislation into the practice of equality, aiming to achieve the advancement, development and empowerment of women in all spheres of life. Yet attitudes and cultural practices continue to discriminate against women and hinder their advancement. The prevailing female feticide, child marriage, domestic violence and frequent khap dictates against women all are playing crucial role in it. Therefore, it is important to understand the all socio- economic and political perspectives of the sports world, where do they lead gender equality and where, why and how still trying to discriminating on gender bases.

1.6. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In spite of valuable contribution by many researchers and scholars in this field, still there are some gaps. Very few studies in this field have caught the voice of the male and female to account the constraints felt by them regarding their sports participation. In this regard, it has been felt that when Haryanavi players performing so well at national and international level (both male and female) and government trying to provide right to play, it is right time to see the world of sports in its holistic perspective and to know whether male as well as female are cared and supported enough in sports or they feel some kind of constraints. What kind of attitude our young generation has regarding gender in relation to sports. The primary aim of this study is to identify political, social, economic and most importantly, psychosocial factors influencing female sport participation. Thus, the research problem under study may be stated as: **“Gender Discrimination and Sports: A Study of Haryana.”**

1.7. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Gender in Sports is a topic that has been ignored by most of the scholars especially study of female participation in sports has been comparatively underdeveloped area of research. Sex role, gender stereotype, prejudices, reward and punishment formation of society along with male research bias have contributed to this ignorance. Now a days, women in

sports appearing very rapidly which are a positive aspect of transforming Indian culture. The recent trends have sparked a need for knowledge about the women sports participation and not only participation but to map the changes come in the mindset of people due to their (women players) grand success. There are many studies which focus on the issue of gender and sport. However, there was none of study of this kind to the female of Haryana. In order to tailor-made more sports and recreation programs, provide more appropriate sports and recreation facilities, and maximize the sport participation rate of the female in Haryana, it is prompt to understand the constraints that hindered their sport participation. This research try to highlight the constraints perceived by male and female in reality so that the sports and recreation organizations, community centers, government and general public would pay attentions on those constraints and provide suitable programs and facilities to the female. The study will be more useful not only to Government but to student community and common people as it will try to understand sports in its holistic perspective by analyzing all social economic and political and psychological attitude towards it.

1.8. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- The present study will help to understand present status of gender representation in sports as well as societal, psychological attitude towards physical activity or sport orientation.
- This study will help to understand the Gender identity construct and stereotypes in society, through acceptance and rejection, not only in social or political arena but a concrete social entity in the arena of sports.
- It might bring to light the media coverage of sports events of interest and attitudes of society in this regard.
- This study would help in bringing out the actual constraints faced by sportsperson especially female sportspersons. It would help to understand the reasons behind

under-representation of girls in the sports. It will also help to administration and government to make more gender inclusive policies to promote gender equality in sports.

- This study will definitely help the administrators and policy makers to formulate suitable programmes to motivate and develop interest toward sports activities.
- This study would also work as a source or as guideline to all who are concerned with female sports participation.
- The study would help in acquiring knowledge about various motivational factors, which would help the teachers and coaches to provide training to their players in the future.
- This study will also add to the professional literature of sports.

1.9. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the construct attached with gender identity.
2. To study and explore the factor responsible for gender discrimination in sports.
3. To study the attitude of different university students toward physical activities in Haryana.
4. To study the constraint perceived by university students in their sports participation.
5. To explore the relationship between socio- economic strata with sports participation of different university students in Haryana.
6. To study at what extent politics influences the gender participation in sports.

1.10. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To explore gender participation and discrimination in sports this study examines the following research questions:

1. What are the constructs which built the gender identity and its role in society?
2. How the social structures undermine the gender discrimination in sports?
3. What types of problems are faced by male and female sport persons during their participation in sports events?
4. To what extent politics influences the participation in sports events?
5. To what extend social, political and economical factors influence the gender participation in sports?

1.11. ASSUMPTIONS OF THE STUDY

This study proceeded on the basis of several assumptions that are important and have a bearing on the findings and conclusions. The researcher assumes that the respondents of the study are belongs to Haryana state which is economically established (per capita income of this state is higher than other states) and because it is near national capital so the ease availability of resources (transportation, stadiums, opportunity to participate in maximum number of sports events) will be higher than the other states so the participation level would be higher in sports activities. The study also assumes that because of cultural diversity there is less social restriction in participation in sports activities which would be the reason behind the relatively higher participation level in Sports activities.

1.12. HYPOTHESES

Based on several assumptions several hypothesis are formulated which are as follow:

H1 There would be significant relationship between gender identity construct and sports participation.

H2 Gender identity is positively related to perceived discrimination.

H3 Female sportsperson perceived more gender discrimination than their male counterpart.

H4 There would be significant gender difference in their (sportspersons/respondents) attitude toward sports participation.

H5 There would be significant relationship between socio- psychological construct of gender identity and sports participation.

H6 There would be significant relationship between economic strata and sports participation.

H7 There would be significant relationship between political influence and sports participation.

1.13. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is delimited as follows:-

1. The study is delimited to the students of selected universities recognized by UGC in Haryana.
2. It covers 12 UGC recognize universities as the sample permits.
3. The study has been delimited to the active and non active male and female players who ever participated in any sports activities.
4. This study is further delimited to a sample size of 432 (Male= 198 and Female= 234) students' studying in UGC recognized universities in Haryana state.
5. The sample of the study is only literate university students of Haryana state.
6. This study was delimited to selected questionnaire in assessing the gender attitude towards physical activity, sport orientation of university students of Haryana state.
7. All the data will be collected in one academic year (2012-13).
8. Being a qualitative and exploratory study, it would not involve rigorous statistics.

