

## Higher education and university sports in India: opportunities, issues, challenges and measures

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### ■ ABSTRACT

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty and it is fact that sports participation develops optimistic qualities among participants. Sports are an important component of student's campus life. It is during college time that the youth gets chance to exploit their talent and enjoy it. The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1992 states, "Sports and physical education are an integral part of the learning process and will be included in the evaluation of performance. A nation-wide infrastructure for physical education, sports and games will be built into the educational edifice". Youth is the future of any country and university/college sports play a very significant role to build up a very strong backbone of any national sport system and every country has its own agency to coordinate the inter university sports at national and international level. In India, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) holds the responsibility of organizing and coordinating the sports events. Considering the importance of sports and games, most of the universities have taken a number of initiatives despite resource constraint to improve the standard of sports in the country. In order to bring about a radical change in the country's sports, along with the government, policy maker in higher education, national sports federations, business and industrialist, we the people of physical education and sports profession have to think about the issues, challenges and their role in higher education as well as in the society.

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Sports are played for inculcating and disseminating cultural values, inspiring team spirit, building physical health and personality and as a source of entertainment. Most importantly, sports are a big source of physical and mental strength. Through sports we can inculcate a number of virtues in any individual. Moreover, they can have a memorable experience which can cherish throughout his life or her life time.

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