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Monthly Newsletter
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Mixed Gender Volleyball Tournament held in BBSR

As part of the Community Sports Program (CSP) in Bhubaneswar, supported by Tata Trusts, PSD organized a Mixed Gender Volleyball Tournament on the 23rd of September, 2018, which saw the participation of 158 children (49% girls) from 7 schools part of the CSP.

The tournament was organized to provide exposure to the children, break gender barriers, engage them in healthy competition and provide them a chance to have a fun filled day of sporting activity. A total of 16 teams participated in the tournament, with 9-10 members per team. Of the 6 playing members in a team, the gender proportion on court had to be equal at all times i.e. 3 girls and 3 boys.

It was a unique learning experience for all teams, but those that incorporated teamwork and communication in their play well, performed the best. The final was played between teams from Beena Bharati Vidya Mandira and Government Ashram School, with the former emerging as champions.

Read more about the tournament

Watch Highlights of the tournament

Media

another day

NAMITA BHANDARE

Sport is a vital tool for women's empowerment

When I first met them two years ago, the girls of the Sahdaan Sports Uttween playing cricket in Shahbad Dairy, on the outskirts of Delhi, where they live. Some were barefoot, others in faded salwar kameez but all wore an unmistakable fierceness. When a boy involved in an adjoining match sought the 14-year-old Champa, she yelled at him: "Who told you to interfere in our game?"

The daughters of rickshaw pullers, factory workers and daily wage labourers, these girls are fighting for a basic right — to play. They juggle school, tuition and housework and still find the time to practise on the field.

Despite the Asian Games success of Swapna Barman, Hima Das, Harvikta Tomar and Dutee Chand, the sight of girls playing a sport is rare anywhere here, let alone at Shahbad Dairy, which despite the bucolic whole-someness of its name, has one of Delhi's highest crime rates.

With more than three of five of Delhi's parks unsafe for women and girls, according to a December 2017 report by ActionAid, the message is clear: Public spaces belong to men.

When girls exist on the margins of play, they learn that public spaces belong to men. You see this exclusion in other realms of public life. Less than 10% of judges in the higher judiciary are women; only 11.3% in Parliament and at just 26%, India's female labour force participation is among the lowest in South Asia.

"Sport is the most effective tool of empowerment," says Suheil Tandon, who in 2011, founded Pro Sport Development (PSD), a social enterprise that uses sport for the holistic development of youth. PSD just completed a three-day workshop with 23 football-playing girls in Ajmer district. "Earlier these girls were not even allowed to leave their homes," says Tandon. "Now they are leaders in their villages."

Its aim? To connect have-cards-based non-equitation, say the girls. As a team they have chosen to boycott practices like child marriage. In other regions, PSD organises mixed gender matches that give girls the opportunity to play and, more crucially, boys the chance to appreciate the girl's contributions.

Respect is the word used by Sanjital (he goes only by his first name), who, in 2016, founded the Sahdaan Sports Club that now coaches 70 girls.

"In the beginning every one passed mean comments," says 17-year-old Kavita, the daughter of a vegetable vendor and captain of the cricket team. "Now when the boys see us with our bat and wickets, they asks us, 'can my sister play with you?'"

This week the cricket team is playing a national-level tournament, says Sanjital. Players have already been to Telangana and Chandigarh. But exposure is limited; none of the girls had heard of the Asian Games, let alone watched them on TV and most don't even have access to a toilet/ablution.

But, says, the still-fierce Champa, now 16, Mithali Raj, captain of women's cricket team, is a role model. "I will go to college," she says. "But only if it has a cricket programme."

Namita Bhandare writes on sociolegal issues and gender

The views expressed are personal

Sport is a vital tool for Women's Empowerment

An opinion article by Namita Bhandare in the Hindustan Times featuring PSD as well as its Founder, Suheil F. Tandon.

Highlights

PSD Delivers Training for Youth Female Leaders in Ajmer

UGW Workshops part of KBC held in Hyderabad & Siliguri

Mixed Gender Volleyball Tournament held in BBSR

PSD Completed 5 Years on 30th September, 2018!

UGW Workshops part of KBC held in Hyderabad & Siliguri

PSD, in collaboration with PRIA and MFF, delivered the Understanding Gender My Way (UGW) workshop, part of the Kadam Badhate Chalo (KBC) program, in Hyderabad from 5th-7th and in Siliguri from 13th-15th of September, 2018.

The UGW workshop held in Hyderabad with local partners Rubaroo saw the participation of 55 youth (55% females), whereas the one held in Siliguri with local partners CINI (Child in Need Institute) saw the participation of 42 youth (62% females).

PSD Delivers Training for Youth Female Leaders in Ajmer

From the 1st to the 3rd of September 2018, PSD conducted a training workshop for 23 youth female leaders part of Mahila Jan Adhikar Samiti and HAQ's Football program in rural Ajmer in Rajasthan.

The girls, who have been part of the Football program for the past 2 years, were provided an introduction to coaching methodologies, learning basic skills and capabilities to start their journeys as coaches and lead programs for other girls in their own villages. Topics included understanding their roles as a coach, planning and organization of sessions, effective communication in coaching and First Aid.

2nd Teacher Training part of Community Program Held

The 2nd in a series of training workshops for school teachers part of the Community Sports Program (CSP) in Bhubaneswar, in partnership with Tata Trusts, was held on 15th and 16th September, 2018. Six teachers from 6 schools part of the CSP attended the workshop.

The workshop, part of our efforts to ensure future sustainability of the CSP, focused on strengthening the teachers' understanding of the sports-based curriculum, and provided them with practical knowledge of First Aid.

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