

A Study on Cricket Vs. Other Sports: In the Indian Scenario

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Abstract – Maybe it is a reality that people in India consume cricket, work, sleep, chat and travel. It is massively overlooked to the point that our national sport hockey requires. The outcry over India's early departure from the Twenty-Twenty World Cup and our Hockey Team's second-in-row win in the Azlanshah Cup had a major impression on sport lovers. We neglected to send Vishvanathan Anand (who became the world champ in chess for the fourth time) and our own hockey team to win laurels for the country the significance they deserved, in the indignation of our emotions towards the Indian cricket players and their vehement criticisms. I'm sure the laurels are no better than every cricket laurel, but the issue emerges why the step-motherly handling in other sports?

It's bitter but quite real that there's one particular game in India that blots all other titles. Cricket fever eclipsed our National Hockey event. There is no possibility of any dispute in our nation whether cricket is destroying other activities. The Indians eat cricket, work, sleep, speak and play. Theoretically we all realize that hockey is our national game but its cricket fanatic in real terms throughout.

Keywords: Indian Cricket, Other Sports, Games.

INTRODUCTION

There are various forms of sports found in India but for decades, as we all know cricket has been the most liked sport. Cricket is profoundly ingrained in Indian hearts and after cricket almost half of the population plays. Cricket is India's national obsession since the facilities given to cricketers, such as stadiums and other services, are much more than other sports that make it our national sport to be football kabaddi or even hockey. Cricketers are paying more and known as popular athletes who aren't for other sports. I think the other sports should be viewed similarly with and consideration because every game has its own meaning and benefits.

Cricket fever has now eclipsed our regional hockey games. Theoretically, we all realize that hockey is our national game but its cricket crazy everywhere in realistic view. Nobody knows that Gagan Narang earned four gold medals at the 2010 Popular Wealth Games in Shooting, or Indian World Champion Wrestler Sushil Kumar won the gold medal at the 2010 FILA World Wrestling Championships, but we definitely know how many times the Indian cricket team has won the World Cup. You question a street kid like what would you want to become? They'll respond "Sachin Tendulkar" or "Virat Kohli" automatically, so why doesn't "Dhyan Chand" ever react? The

explanation is very easy, it's because the kids don't even know who he is and it's really embarrassing to us as a culture our kids don't know who Dhyan Chand is.

Many emerging athletes in sports such as shooting, running, hockey etc. are unwilling to pursue their interest owing to a shortage of foreign governmental support which is not the case for cricket. Massive crowd flooding the cricket stadium when there's a match between India and Pakistan, but seats at the stadium are left vacant during other sports. It's such a shame for us that Sunil Chhetri, our captain of the Indian football team, has had to make a video separately asking all the Indians to come to the stadiums to join our side. It's so sad that our football president has to ask us for our help, to raise their morale by labeling our present at the stadium because we don't think about heading to the stadiums to see their matches, which would never happen in cricket.

If this cricket mania persists, India will never be able to do well in coming years at the Olympics. Therefore, there is a need for governance, education, preparation and facilities provided to players in sports other than cricket so that they can shine brighter with their impressive performances and we as an audience need to provide all the support and respect to the players in all sports that

we are currently only providing to the cricket players.

CRICKET IN INDIA

Brits invented the cricket game in India in the 1800s, but only such brits played it before the 19th century. When these colonial rulers left India in 1947, the game began to grow, growing to such an extent that it is called the top most sport in India, and is being followed religiously here in India. In India, the cricket game was started to play by the privileged class of citizens i.e. The Parsis, it was then that were similar to the British. When Parsis saw those Englishmen playing daily, they picked up the. Parsis established its own cricket club called Oriental Cricket Club in 1848. Parsis was invited to compete against the Europeans for the first time in 1877 and turned out to be a great game. Even Hindus, followed by Parsis, took up cricket and formed their own PJ Hindu Gymkhana cricket club. The first triangular cricket competition was played in, 1907.

A Muslim team was established in 1912 and a fourth was also founded which included rest Sinhalese Buddhists, Jews and Indian Christians contributing to a five-team tournament in 1937. These matches were one of the key factors why cricket took a major move forward in the minds of Indians. Another major factor that gave rise to cricket in India was radio comment across the world. TV industry penetration in India is a very significant aspect that has held cricket in the hands of the viewers. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) gets all the credit for popularizing the game by broadcasting the games that helped BCCI to win in large numbers, which also permitted BCCI to start its own T20 league, i.e. the Indian Premier League, and this league became more popular only because India won the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup. And aside from the T20 World Cup victory and the Indian Premier League, the 2011 World Cup success in 50-over style has made cricket fans richer.

CRICKET AND THE OTHER SPORTS IN INDIA

To say cricket is India's most famous sport, will be an underestimate. Cricket is a faith and in India cricketers are regarded as gods. In officially it is India's national competition. The IPLs and T20s only contributed to its success. It's hard to find an Indian who isn't a cricket fan and almost every Indian must have dreamt of becoming a cricketer at one point in their life. I'm no exception to that and I just enjoy cricket. Yet what we shouldn't forget is that there are also other sports and they merit the same respect, appreciation and support.

India is second next to China with a population of more than a billion, but that's not even marginally

expressed in the medal count for the Olympics. Even African nations riddled by deprivation tend to win more medals than we do. The awards and accomplishments we receive are individuals' personal success, and not the accomplishment of the nation (which they are declared to be). The case of Abhinav Bindra, who earned gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in 10 m Air Rifle contest, reflects the government's indifference against other sports. What all of us don't realize is that Abhinav Bindra comes from a wealthy background, and all of his endeavors were self-financing, self-trained, and self-sponsored in winning the gold medal, with the least government funding.

It is definitely a sad state of affairs because citizens can quickly recall which cricket player is in the IPL team but they know barely 3-4 players from other sports such as hockey (India's national sport), football, badminton or chess. Equal consideration must be granted to all activities, and encouraged fairly.

Only the nation, though, cannot be held responsible for the scourge of other sports in the country. Next, BCCI has done a great job of promoting and popularizing cricket through the Cricket Control Board in India. It has continued to draw both advertisers and the public, creating tremendous revenues. Many sporting bodies have miserably struggled in this, and are not yet similar to the BCCI. We need to learn from BCCI to add interest in their sport. The BCCI will direct and financially help them, too. Second, it's always the media's duty to support cricket and ignore the other games. Sport is deemed a country's fourth pillar and it is the duty of the sport to support each sport fairly, rather than only cricket obsessing. To have people involved in other activities, they need to at least be educated about the games. Finally, we the viewers do need to know cricket is just like every other sport. They would like to see other activities in the same manner, as they are just as enjoyable as cricket.

MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE OTHER SPORTS:

1. Unlike BCCI, both of these regulatory agencies have no autonomous responsibility, and under the government they operate. The Gov. of India can put all sport organizations under one organization such that one game's income can be used as funding for other sporting events in the region.
2. Instead that, the government should enforce some terms and conditions on BCCI and send some of their income and promote other sports away from normal taxation.

3. Groups such as the National Hockey Federation and the Indian Olympic Association will maintain a time schedule much as the BCCI calendar year with daily planning sessions for sports activities such as Olympics, Asian Games and Common Wealth games etc.

PERFORMANCE OF INDIA IN OLYMPICS

India's the largest-most populated nation. Talent and team spirit was abundant. It is very disappointing that India is unable to move forward its success at the Olympic Games notwithstanding no shortage of enthusiasm or skillful aspirants.

India has earned 9 gold medals, 6 silver medals and 11 bronze medals since the 1900 Paris Olympic games; totaling about 26 medals at the Summer Olympic Games and none at the Winter Olympics. By contrast, China, the world's most populated nation, has received 201 gold medals, 144 silver medals and 128 bronze medals, touching a total of around 473 medals. The Chinese government has bagged about 9 gold's, 18 silvers and 17 bronze medals at the winter Olympics. This pronounced difference has one rather simple explanation, aside from cricket, for not stressing sports. Thanks to television and newspapers, young people in the world are introduced to cricket greatly. It is a daunting challenge to identify ways for instruction and competition in many activities.

IS CRICKET AFFECTING OTHERS SPORTS IN INDIA?

Yeah, it's disappointing but it's really real that there is one particular game in India that blots all other games. Cricket fever eclipsed our National Hockey event. There is no possibility of any dispute in our nation whether cricket is destroying other activities. The Indians eat cricket, work, sleep, speak and play. Theoretically we all realize that hockey is our national game but its cricket fanatic in real terms throughout.

In India cricket has become an obstacle in other sports' development. Television, advertisement, and the promotional sector have been encouraging cricket to such an degree that it's become a Mount Everest that affects many sports in the country badly. Not all activities in the world are given fair access. In a short time, new comers in cricket sport are having name & popularity. As unlike other sports stars that doesn't happen.

Many emerging athletes in sports such as shooting, running, hockey etc. are unwilling to pursue their enthusiasm owing to the absence of foreign governmental support that is not the case for cricket. The lack of parks, playgrounds and weak athletics infrastructure in college schools

often forces people's participation in other athletics down.

Massive crowd floods the cricket stadium when there's a match between India and Pakistan to raise their country's morale but where this "morale raising squad" falls when sportsmen of other than cricketers require it.

Paradoxically our nation always struggles hard to shape a strong squad of football players. Indian football is losing the little magic it had won day after day. JCT club recently agreed to dissolve and pull out their squad. It was not really surprising news because only last year Mahindra United agreed to discontinue her football squad. The same for our national hockey team. There was a period when India won the 1975 Hockey World Cup and people were taking a strong interest in the sport but no longer so. The sport died spontaneously as a result of a lack of guidance and funding.

If this cricket mania persists, India will never be able to perform well in coming years at the Olympics. Therefore there is a tremendous need to improve the governance, infrastructure, preparation and facilities provided to players in other sports than cricket so that with their outstanding results they will shine brighter. Many athletes have the opportunity to push the pecking order upwards.

No one recalls that in Shooting, Gagan Narang earned four Gold medals in Common Wealth Games 2010, or Indian World Champion wrestler Sushil kumar won the gold medal in FILA 2010 World Wrestling Championships or Olympic bronze medals won by tennis player Leander Paes (Atlanta, 1996), but Anil Kumble's 10-wicket catch, Harbhajan's hat-trick and Virender Sehwag's 309 would be evergreen in mind.

It's normal sight kids play great cricket with bat and ball in roads, road, gardens. Yet people don't know how to play other sports, or what other gaming laws are they? A young sports kid who is almost as big as the bat he carries says he'd be like "Tendulkar" soon. Why not like "Ajit pal singh" or "Dhayan chand?" Response is really clear they don't know about these heroes. We can't play some game of guilt here because it's our culture that's liable for this circumstance.

INDIA'S PROGRESS IN TEST CRICKET OVER THE YEARS

Therefore, from the 1970s onwards, the national cricketing side might carry a lot of prized laurels to a pressurized populace and thereby excel in rendering the game the strongest venue to convey the popular urge to prevail over India. It was not lethargic for the central government headed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi to use such wins for its own good. This sought to use the multi-regional cricket team as

a escape valve from which it might harmlessly dissipate different socio-economic tensions. Again, this reference to 1952 shows that 'sporting nationalism has often been most strong where there is a general feeling of weakness or inferiority.'

Starting in 1978, cricket's success reached fresh heights in India. Throughout that same year, surprisingly throughout a series against just Pakistan's arch-rivals, India actually unveiled a bowler who could be called 'personal' according to foreign jargon - Kapil Dev. He is the main competitor of Sunil Gavaskar in terms of social prominence of Indian cricket mythology. Through his emergence cricket took the most important phase towards being the merriment of the Indian people. He was the commoner's dream icon as a cricketer, an attacking fast bowler and a hard-hitter who balanced Viv Richards and Ian Botham. To understand him, one does not need to get into the intricacies of a googly or floater, or have the colossal endurance required for a Bombay batsman to determine an ideal series. In fact, his personal presence was clearly as plain as his game plan, including the iconic Palmolive grin and his family history. And, as Vinay Verma, the collaborator for his memoir, has noted,

The rickshaw-puller, whose life expectancy is no greater than 40, is being fueled by the adventures of this guy. The guy pushing a load of two tons on a cart with his hand is pleased when Kapil blasts a fast 50. India's teeming millions require a warrior with blood and guts to hold their flag for them.

The 'filtration effect' has already dominated Indian cricket when the urge to play the game first engulfed the top level of society – i.e. the rulers and the capitalists – and then penetrated the middle strata throughout Gavaskar's reign. Then the Indian masses eventually got deeply hooked on the game throughout the 1980s, owing largely to the influence of Kapil. There were also several other auspicious reasons that helped render cricket this decade squarely the 'people's game.'

The most notable among these being the introduction among Indian one-day cricket. Indeed since 1974 India has competed in this shorter variant of the event. Yet its record was so bleak before 1980, that it was granted little publicity by the Indian public. The Indian team proved to be remarkably slow learners in this style, following change in its Test performance in the 1970s. The batsmen either clumsily guarded or quixotically struck, the bowlers usually bowled outside of the off stump, making for quick scoring opportunities, and the fielding remained awful. The only victory over Pakistan over a Test-playing country, up to 1980, came in 1978. This was a little surprising as one-day cricket was not new to the domestic Indian scene. The Talim Shield had been there for a long

time and, in 1973–4 and 1977–8 respectively, limited-over tournaments such as the Deodhar Trophy for the zonal teams and the Wills Trophy for the provincial sides were added. But a wave of transition began sweeping over the Indian cricket field from 1979. Then a host of utility all-rounders like Roger Binny made their debuts, and they established the core of a theoretically productive one-day side along with Kapil. As Sunil Gavaskar once explained, it was in the 1980–1 tour down under that the Indians actually understood the basics of the shorter style. There they had to play on the trot for ten days, and the Indian cricketers realized that the new one-day (ODI) trend was still here to live. This recognition led India to gain its first ODI series, over England in 1981–2 and early 1983 a morale-boosting triumph over the West Indies. Still, with the advent of the 1983 one-day World Cup, India was not granted a ghost of chance under Kapil.

Times of how the Indian squad made fools out of the commentators by winning the planet on 25 June 1983 have been recounted out of hundreds. Performance was definitely significant but it was perhaps more crucial to the societal influence it had. As Mike Marqusee had noted, from a sociological point of view the final match, disputed between India and the West Indies, two dark-hued teams, was particularly fascinating. The match at Lord's was a brief glimpse of victory over a violent culture for hundreds of thousands of South Asians and Caribbeans who deliberately looked down upon them. Marqusee has especially described an Indian factory worker's panicked reaction as India slowly advanced from a nearly impossible situation toward the award. His countrymen back home were far more joyful with their fervour. The Secretary of State. Mrs. Gandhi declared 'we can do it' to the nation, while India's iconic singer Lata Mangeshkar wrote a number in memory of the band. Yet, the average man's response was more definitive. Within a couple of months of the World Cup triumph Indian small towns such as Jamshedpur and Guwahati, situated in areas not renowned for their cricketing excellence, created large crowds kept there for one-dayers. Many of these backers would have originated from the same social capitalist history as the factory worker Marqusee's. Limited-over cricket had in effect mixed the qualities of a day-long entertainment that the Indians enjoyed (as stated earlier) with the prospect of an result. To the typical Indian person, that was irresistible.

Over the next two years India has won three more one-day crowns, including the 'International Cricket Championship' over Australia – a.k.a. the Benson and Hedges Cup, owing to the mixture of a wide and diverse batting line-up with a range of powerful all-rounders. This tournament provided a new spectator experience for the Indian. The WCC was televised live on TV, which slowly made its debut in India. Channel Nine's excellent reporting of the