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Research Article

How corona pandemic has affected sports

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INTRODUCTION

All of us are aware that the corona pandemic has affected all aspects of life including sports. Each and every aspect of sports is affected by this pandemic. It has also modified the sporting calendar. Even Olympic games are also affected.

The global sports industry was growing industry before pandemic but it is also severely affected during this period. It has three main aspects: Broadcasting, commercial, and match revenue. The professional sports leagues are as good as entertainment companies. The temporary shutdown due to corona has affected the financial aspect of sports severely.

To overcome this situation, the sports are trying to explore new ways to engross consumers. It is providing several options to the customers for enjoying the sports. It mainly includes online options. They are developing plans for games without live audiences. The absence of "Actual" sport has provided opportunity for virtual technologies to grow.

The sport is a major force for economic and social development of the nation. As per the Political Declaration of the 2030 Agenda, "the contribution sports make to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals, and communities, as well as to health, education, and social inclusion objectives,"

For the safety and health of athletes and all stakeholders, the major sporting events at international, regional, and national levels are being cancelled or postponed. Even the Olympics and Paralympics are postponed in the history of the modern games for the 1st time.

Due to corona pandemic millions of sports-related jobs are at risk at global level, including sports professionals, sporting

industries sports tourism, sports infrastructure, hospitality, and media broadcasting. The athletes are under pressure due to re-schedule of training and tournaments. They also were losing their sponsors.

The cancellation and rescheduling of games have impacted several economic and social gains of local and global sporting events which create social cohesion, thrill, and motivation for participation in physical activities. It helps in developing communication and bonding between communities and generations. It plays a key role in social transformation and progress in divided societies. It uplifts the marginal populations.

The sports organizations committed to reduce the spread of the virus. The educational institutes in the world closed due to corona pandemic. This has impacted the sports in education sector which includes sports ministries and local authorities, public and private education institutions, various sports organizations, and the athletes. It has also affected sports business, teachers, coaches, parents, and the beginners in sports. Entire society is trying to overcome this situation and ensure the safety of sports sector at all levels. The safety of athletes and fans is being taken care of. The physical and mental health of entire population can be restored only through sports.

The sport education can be a powerful tool for fostering the physical fitness, mental health, as well as social relationship. The Indian athletes belonging to different sports are not affected financially as the Sports Ministry has provided those allowances, monthly stipends, and their training-cum-competition expenditure.

To bring sports to normalcy, the first step should to draw the road map jointly by sports organizations and the government. The fans should be allowed in the stadiums keeping social distancing norms. The other step should be the use of technology in broadcasting the sporting events.

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-It is pleasing to see that sports sector is recovering from the corona pandemic, still it difficult to predict when it might come to complete normalcy.

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