

Why medals are so important for a country?

Olympics games are most prestigious games on this earth. Here every country shows their sporting strength on the world stage. It is dream platform for all sportsmen connected with Olympic games. Olympics is one of the oldest sports event also considering claim of inception of Olympics from 776 BC. However, first time Olympics held under upgraded model in 1896 in Athens later categorised as Summer Olympics.

Olympics games are the main event on world level considering high level of qualifying test conducted for sportsmen desirous or nominated by every country. When result starts coming from Olympics games then it is quite evident that United States and China always compete for first slot in ranking. At this time we see some relatively small countries in terms of population like United Kingdom and France etc also doing well in terms of medals. As Indians we feel sometimes saddened to see Indian tally lagging behind in spite of high population. India is second largest country just after China in terms of population. Even then we rank in bottom or in middle in medal tally.

Now, it is pertinent question that why medals are so important for a country. Why China designed whole programme for better performance in Sports. Why India needs to think about its not so good medal tally.

Answer lies in the fact that this medal tally shows human resource management of the country. Can Indians sit with this thought that India does not have better sportsmen despite of having second largest population in this world? Answer is clear "No". India has so diverse topography and also demography. Indian population is also relatively young in proportion as compared to other countries.

Therefore, the real problem is human resource management. For competing and delivering best result in any event one need to have strong mechanism to select best available talent. Then selected person needs to be provided with world class infrastructure and best training. This will definitely bring good result.

Biggest problem in India is mapping of human resources coupled with identification of talent at very early stage. Can anyone say that India is not having good swimmers. Whenever you visit holy places near sacred rivers in India you will see small children jumping in the river and bringing with in minutes coins usually thrown by passerby out of sheer religious feelings. If we identify these talent at early stage and provide them best training we can always bring medals.

Human resource mapping and careful selection of young talents at early stage will not only benefit our sports but also Research and development. It is high time that future of young ones should not be decided by their parents from their narrow exposures but this task should be taken over by government. Example of China and Singapore is quite relevant here where government do have programme at school level.

Intervention of government at school level is quite needed as there is bad perception in Indian society for children who are good at sports but average in studies. Now a days this perception has changed a little bit considering encouragement given by government and print and electronic media for sportsmen performing well for India. However, overall Indian culture does not favour sports as career considering prevalent poverty which result in desire of secured job in government or in private sectors. This desire for jobs needs to be diversified and government can prevent the wastage of talent at early stage by running talent identification programme. This programme can be designed by studying models adopted by other successful countries. Organizing matches and athletic events at Tehsil and Block level will help government in mapping sports talent at grass roots level. This will uproot the system where only few families enjoys the stadium facilities.

Medals does not show only country's sporting strength but also human resource management. Now a days India consistently improving medal tally as compared to previous events. This shows increasing facilities being provided to our sportsmen but grass root talent identification will drastically change face of Indian sports.

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