In the process of formulation of Karnataka Sports Policy, Karnataka Jnana Ayoga (KJA) constituted as Task Group and sub-groups. Stakeholders’s Consultation Sub-group held its first meeting to elicit the opinions of the Sports Persons, Coaches/Sports Teachers and Parents on all aspects for growth & development of Sports in Karnataka. This Report contains the details of the Meeting. © KJA 2015
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Karnataka Sports Policy  

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Karnataka Sports Policy

1. Introduction

The Government of Karnataka constituted Karnataka Jnana Aayoga (Karnataka Knowledge Commission) in 2008 for a period of 3 years. The present KJA has been formally reconstituted on December 28, 2013 and started its full-time functioning from March, 2014 onwards. KJA is headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan and has 32 experts and department Secretaries as Members. The main aims and objectives of the present KJA are to recommend actions for institution building, policy innovation and excellence in the field of education, health, S&T, industry, entrepreneurship, research and innovation, traditional knowledge, agriculture, E-Governance, rural development and ANY other relevant areas. KJA tasks are “anchored” with one or more departments of GOK – so that after proof-of-concept stage by KJA, any executive implementation can get effectively coordinated by relevant departments of GOK.

The Government of Karnataka, through the Karnataka Jnana Aayoga and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, wishes to create and implement a comprehensive and holistic Sports Policy for Karnataka. To accomplish this KJA constituted a Task Group to formulate a comprehensive Sports Policy under the guidance and co-chairmanship of Sri. Prakash Padukone, Sri. Rahul Dravid, Members of KJA, and Dr. Nagambika Devi, Principal Secretary, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES). The objective of the Task Group is to develop a holistic and all-encompassing Sports Policy for Karnataka that not just defines a vision for sports development in Karnataka but also prepares a roadmap for further actions which can set Karnataka apart as a futuristic ‘Sports Destination’.

KJA Task Group, in collaboration with DYEs, wishes to elicit the views of athletes, parents, coaches, physical education instructors, educational institutions and other stakeholders in the sports eco-system to formulate a holistic sports policy for the State. To accomplish this, the KJA Task Group has planned for a state-wide consultation and formed a Consultation Group with Ms. Ashwini Nachappa as the lead to plan the stakeholders’ consultation meetings. KJA Task Group on Karnataka Sports Policy and Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports have planned to organise the consultation meetings in Mangalore, Bangalore Kalburgi & Bellari Regions. The first stakeholders’ meeting in Mangalore region was planned for June 12, 2015 at Dr. V.S. Acharya Sahbangana, Alva Education Foundation, Vidyagiri, Moodbidri and was jointly organised by Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYEs), GoK and KJA.

The target groups identified for this consultation meeting are athletes, coaches/physical education teachers and parents of athletes. The issues proposed to be covered in the stakeholders meeting are: challenges of pursuing sports as a career (athletes), systemic challenges of sports education and training (coaches) and perspective of parents of athletes on sports and system support to endure sports. Questionnaires have been prepared in 3 categories – Sports Persons, Coaches/ PE Teachers and Parents to obtain honest and unbiased responses on the issues identified by the experts of KJA’s Task Group.
2. Highlights of Consultation Meeting

a. Program flow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Volunteers-Alva Education Foundation</td>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Mohan Alva</td>
<td>10:00-10:15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Member-KJA; KJA- TGKSP and host</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief on KJA-TGKSP Consultation Group</td>
<td>Ms. Ashwini Nachappa</td>
<td>10:15-10:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chairperson-Consultation Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Remarks</td>
<td>Shri. H S Venkatesh, IPS,</td>
<td>10:30-10:45</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Director, Department of Youth Empowerment &amp; Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion on questionnaire and consultation</td>
<td>Mr. Hakim, Dr. Sankar and Ms. Reeth Abraham</td>
<td>10:45-11:15</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tea Break 11:15-11:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open House Discussion</td>
<td>Panellists’-Director, DYES, Dr. Mohan Alva, Ms.</td>
<td>11:30-01:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashwini Nachappa, Mr. Hakim, Dr. Sankar and Ms.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reeth Abraham</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coordinator: Mr. Sateesh, DYES / Mr. Deepak, KJA</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Filling-in questionnaire consultant by Mr. Sateesh / Mr. Deepak</td>
<td>Stakeholders</td>
<td>02:00-03:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Presidential speech by Dr. Mohan Alva

Dr. Mohan Alva, Chairman, Alva Education Foundation in his Presidential address brought the need to recognise sports as special subject in curriculum. He highlighted the achievements of Ms. Ashwini Nachappa, Arjuna awardee and Ms. Reeth Abraham, Arjuna Awardee and their continued contribution to the Sports even after their Sporting careers. He highlighted the need to develop sports with special emphasis in the Education and Health Policy policies of Government as well. He lauded the efforts of Hon’ble Minister for launching on-line transfer of Scholarships to the achievers in Sports; development of Athletic infrastructure in many centers including Moodbidri. He urged the Hon’ble Minister to ensure higher quota for Sports Persons in CET so that Sports person get an equitable chance to pursue
professional courses like Engineering & Medical; he requested to have common sports events covering all types of schools viz State Affiliated, CBSE Affiliated & ISCE Affiliated so that there is level playing opportunity for sportspersons at that level; awarding of grace marks to sportspersons who represent schools, colleges, universities, state and nation at various levels of competitions; to give incentives and felicitate achievers; to provide job security to the achievers to lead a respectable life; increase the sports budget from INR 125 Cr to INR 500 Cr in the coming Financial Year.

c. Inaugural speech by Hon’ble Minister for Sports

The Consultation Meeting at Moodbidri was inaugurated by Sri. Abhaychandra Jain, Hon’ble Minister for Sports, Govt of Karnataka. In his address to the gathering, he highlighted the need importance of sports in the education life of a student. He emphasized on provisioning higher quota for seats in professional courses for students who have represented state and the country during their student career till 12th standard. He also brought to the notice of the gathering on decision of Hon’ble Minister for Home, Govt of Karnataka to recruit sportspersons who have represented State and completed Bachelor’s Degree as Sub Inspector’s directly; Sports Department is implementing a novel program, “Nammura ShaleNammura Yuva Jana” to promote Sports from Village level schools and also launched Health Insurance Scheme to Sports persons/coaches. He voluntarily agreed to lead the delegation of leading sportspersons of the State to meet and urge the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Karnataka to allocate higher budget for the Growth and Development of Sports in Karnataka with a world class sports infrastructure and facilities. Hon’ble Minister lauded the efforts of KJA and DYES in their efforts towards drafting a comprehensive Sports Policy with wide consultation and engaging State’s most successful Sports person’s to guide and advice on the same.

d. Technical Session – Questionnaire Administration & Consultation

Mrs. Ashwini Nachappa expressed thanks to Dr. Mohan Alva for hosting the Stakeholders Consultation Meeting and brought out the importance of this Consultation. She observed that views and opinions of stakeholders across the state is very important to draft a comprehensive policy covering socio-cultural, economic and administrative aspects affecting Sports in Karnataka. She mentioned that another Consultation Meeting would be held in Mangaluru.

Mrs. Reeth Abraham mentioned about the importance of passion to excel in Sports and sought the honest opinion/response from the stakeholders. She said that during their sports career they never went after cash prize but with an aim to win the competition; to achieve any result “there is no short cut to success”; to achieve success at national and international level, one needs to put in 10-15 years of hard work; all the sports persons are special because they are pursuing Sports and Education with equal interest.

Mr. Satheesh Sajjanar explained the rationale behind the Questions devised to elicit the opinions of various stakeholders like Coaches/PE Teacher; Sports Persons & Parents. He said the Committee had a lot of discussions and deliberations have been undertaken to build the Questions with the probable answers as choices. He urged the stakeholders to give honest and open response.
The following was the composition of Stakeholder present in the Consultation Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Type of Stakeholders</th>
<th>No of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sportspersons</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coaches/PE Teachers</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>278</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Committee had open discussion with the Coaches and PE Directors/Teachers. The following are the highlights of the discussion.

1. **Questionnaires to be administered in Kannada as currently it was in English.** Mr. Satheesh Sajjanar mentioned that Department has undertaken this activity and Kannada version would be made available before next Stakeholders Consultation Meeting.

2. A question (Question No 8 in Athletes Questionnaire) about Special attention to girls is to be amended to include boys to give their opinion about the equal opportunities being extended to girls in their Institutions.

3. Mr. Jayaram, Coach, DYSS, Hassan observed that there is need for including appointment of Physical Education Teachers, trainers, coaches, sports persons, sports medicine Institutions and implementation aspects in the Questionnaire on Coaches/Physical Education

4. Mr. Sunil Kumar Shetty, International Athlete & President, KAAA – need to separate Sports Coach and Physical Education questionnaires as PE teachers do not know much about sports and related rules as they are generalists in schools; to change enrolment policy to sports hostel as 5th standard is the entry level for sports persons who do not know basic up-keeping nuances. Therefore, there would be difficulties in developing them as full-fledged sports persons from the early age and the new sports policy needs to look into this issue on priority. DYSS should conduct sports events at all levels.

5. Mr. Disouza, PD, Nitte Institute of Technology mentioned that
   a. Sports facilities and grounds deficiency are going to big problem in the next 10 years as there are number of institutions are using the same ground for their sports and physical education activities which is grossly in inadequate (4sq mts/student). Every Affiliated Institutions should have its own ground & facilities. These needs to be given utmost importance to improve sports, though there are rules and guidelines to find-out that implementing them in true spirits. Affiliation Commissions have failed to impose these.
   b. Selection of Physical Education Teachers is not done on merit or there is no pre-qualification to appoint them and PE should be made compulsory.
c. Making Sports test mandatory for every student every year with minimum standard on par with academic excellence, where by when a student moves from one school to another meets the minimum sports capability. This encourages every parent and child to play sports.

d. Ms. Ashwini remarked that it is difficult to give grades without a program & guidelines and efforts would be made to work on this advise. A ration of Student – Teacher ratio with respect to sports.

6. PD, NIT, Suratkal on incentives-informed that no incentives for 4th class students, Sportspersons of Government schools and no adequate support from the Sports department to attend the competitions held at various levels. Many a times parents bear the expenses as Institutions do not have sufficient funds to support and promote these students. There is a need to look into this aspect in the new sports policy and allocate funds to Physical Education from sports budget. Sharing of facilities between the Institutions at nominal cost than charging exorbitantly. For this Ms. Ashwini mentioned that Education Department looks into this and the New Sports Policy would consider this aspect appropriately as KJA is dealing with Education Policy and Health Department would be involved in this process. Mr. Shankar said that the new policy to have guidelines for attendance and special classes for sportspersons and award grace marks after studying the provisions of Kerala State’s Sports Policy. Ms. Ashwin said the new policy to have a provision of conducting additional/supplementary exams incase sportspersons miss regular exams due to their preoccupation with State/National/International sports. Ms. Reeth Abraham mentioned that Committee will also look into awarding grace marks to the sportspersons.

7. Mr. Arun Rao, Secretary, Athletic Federation, Mangaluru observed that athletes are not participating at events due to lack of interest and awareness about sports achievements, which was witnessed in recent Federation cup event held in Mangaluru. Therefore, there is need to create sports culture among children and parents, which can be done incorporating a chapter or two in text books on sportspersons and their achievements like Milka Singh, Ashwini Nachappa, Reeth Abraham. This creates mass awareness and a good base would be built for Sports, then Sports infrastructure can be setup. He said that each should be asked to send a team for each sport, compulsorily. Ms. Ashwin commented that there is a mandatory NOC / Clearance required on possession of own Sports ground, but that is all compromised.

8. Mr. Vasanth Kumar, Athletic Coach appreciated the efforts to devise New Sports policy but wanted clarity on the target group for which this sports policy cater to like, competitive sports/non-competitive sports/Athletics/government schools/non-government schools/school federations; if it is being done for Govt. schools & institutions then it is required to understand background of Coach/PE Teachers/Administrators before giving them the responsibility, if this is not done, the Sports policy will have no meaning; it is important to know how many skilled/trained coaches are available to coach/train; it is advised to create eligibility and qualifying criteria for coaches/PE Teachers/Federation office bearers before initiating Policy on Sports; there have been
many efforts in the past on devise new policy. Therefore there is a need to have policy which serves as a beacon or model to all the stakeholders of the Sports arena. Karnataka Athletics has very low coaches to Athletes ratio, with this it is very difficult to produce winning sportspersons and Karnataka has performed miserably at National level. This effort should not end up in mere consultation but should result in comprehensive policy with the following suggestions

a. There should be budgetary allocation for sports events
b. Qualification & Eligibility for appointing Coaches/ P E Teachers / Administrators
c. Do not appoint coaches as Administrators
d. Do not provide all facilities in all places; study the local demands and provide infrastructure
e. Create database of Sportspersons as per their representation level
f. Publish a common annual sports calendar with coordination from Universities/colleges/schools at state level
g. Sports Science to be introduced at Training level than after injury; create a specialised Sports Medicine courses in Medicine
h. Providing nutritional food to students who participate in sports with additional item like egg/milk
i. Provide Job to achievers in Sports, who otherwise compromise their excellence in sports for the sake of Job and livelihood.
j. Opinion of Parents is also very important

Mr. Satheesh made observation that this time KJA and DYSS have come together in a coordinated manner to devise New policy and is in consultation with Education and Health Departments to make more comprehensive policy where Sports Calendar, supplementary exam, special classes etc would be looked into in totality and this is time bound. Therefore, stakeholders consultation meetings are being organized in different regions of the State.

Ms. Ashwini remarked that Policy which is being devised has to become an Act and then only it gets implemented. She also said that the Hon’ble Minister for Sports has assured of this.

Mr. Shankar mentioned that Task Group has deliberated on the role of parents in creating a sports person and a separate questionnaire has been prepared to elicit the opinion of Parents.

Ms. Reeth mentioned that the hope should not be lost and we should fight, that is the character of sports. She also mentioned though their sports careers ended long back, they are working for creating a better and fair sports environment for the upcoming sports persons.

9. Mr.Sundaresh, Hockey coach mentioned that every stadium is having Synthetic tracks of 400x400 mt turf at all places, but this can be broken into half (200x200) so that more spaces are covered. This will provide opportunities for children at smaller places as well
Ms Ashwini agreed with his views and opinioned that political pressure is forcing for this anomaly. Even Mr. Satheesh echoed her view.

10. Mr. Tukaram, Wrestling Coach, mentioned that sports hostels have priority to send their sportspersons to district level competition which denies chances for sports persons of other
schools/institutions; therefore there should be a rule that every school/institution to send 2 sportsperson in each sports, it provide opportunity for everyone. With regard to Rural sports there is lot of malpractice in selection of sportspersons from rural areas and Sports hostel children should not be allowed to compete in Rural sports. He also mentioned that many a times, a trained Coach is sent along with the team at State level and national level events. This is proving discouraging especially to women sportspersons as the team coach does not want take risks as he is not trained in that sports. Therefore, a qualified coach of the particular sport should accompany the team.

11. Mr. Ravi Prakash, Basketball Coach mentioned that technology has been very informative and many a times it is felt that there is no need of Trainers/Coach. But when it comes to strategizing or making game plan, the need of coach arises as the mere information cannot overtake experience. Therefore, presence of Coaches/Trainers are important to develop sports and sports persons more so, their job security and remuneration. There is also need to conduct more sports meet at State levels. In today’s scenario, every institution requires name and fame, but many a times due to clash in exam times and communication about the events, sportspersons are not able to participate in the competitions.

12. Other suggestion are as follows
   a. To increase the remuneration to Coaches of the Sports Department
   b. To make them regular employees of the Department
   c. To provide higher allocation to Schools towards procure sports articles
   d. To exclude Sports from other youth services like NCC, Sevadal, NSS in the sports quota
   e. Interaction with parents should not be through questions. Department should make Sports and Physical Education from class 1, itself. Separate DYSS from Youth Empowerment activity, the Sports department should handle only sports and related subject only. Otherwise, the importance Sports loses its importance.
   f. Training for sports Teachers/Coaches should be organized.

Mr. Satheesh made concluding remarks where he mentioned that the views/suggestions expressed by the Coaches/PEs/PDs would be given due consideration along with the answers given by Sportspersons, Parents and Coaches in the Questionnaires. He thanked all the participants and Alva Education officials for facilitating the Stakeholders Consultation Meeting.
e. Press Reports
