



PROMOTING COMMUNAL HARMONY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE SPORTS

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Abstract

Promoting Communal Harmony and Social Development through the Sports. Laymen's terms of Communal Harmony are peacefully living together rather than fighting or arguing and living in harmony with each other. In technical terms, it's defined as a life together with unity and mutual reciprocity beyond ethnicity, class, caste, creed, religion, and gender barriers. Hostility may erupt whenever communal harmony is disturbed. Communal harmony is now a fundamental need. The importance of communal harmony is vital and promotes equitable and swift economic development. Communal harmony improves peace and unity among the nation and helps to abide by the law and respect the rights and freedom of others. This paper attempts to present an overview of promoting communal harmony and social development with the assistance of Sport.

Keywords: *communal harmony, social development, sport*

Introduction

Sports have evolved since ancient days as a response to varied sociocultural aspects of human development. It can be an essential factor in promoting communal harmony and social development. This article discusses how historical, and cultural interactions and sports influence the development of harmonized societies. Sports or play games are not limited to humans, animals have been observed playing. And the play does imply making animals happy. Sport is a serious function which has evolutionary importance, vital for developing physical, psychological, and social skills. Sports grooms the brain to deal with the unexpected and the body to accompaniment.

Literature Review

Present

Communal harmony is a fundamental source of social and economic development. With the increasing communications and populations should have been a comfortable way towards harmonious communal living and development of social and environmental. Sustainable economic development cannot be achieved by investment and economic incentives alone. Historically it's been proved that the cost of disharmony or conflicts are so enormous and led to the extinction of the human species. The human population has now almost reached 8 billion. It's incomprehensible and a very swiftly accelerated growth compared to human history in evolutionary terms.



History

The reasons for the aforementioned massive population increase may exist in the earliest days of *Homo sapiens* (Klein and Edgar, 2002) emerged in Africa more than 300,000 years ago. At that time, there were 10 known human species (DK, 2011) inhabited including *Homo sapiens*, and others are; *Homo neanderthalensis* in Europe, *Homo denisovans* in Asia, *Homo erectus* in Indonesia, *Homo heidelbergensis* in Africa and Europe, *Homo naledi* in South Africa, *Homo rhodesiensis* in central Africa, *Homo luzonensis* in the Philippines, *Homo floresiensis* (“hobbits”) in Indonesia, and the mysterious *Red Deer Cave People* in China.

There are various human species living throughout, and as yet recognized 21 species (What does it meant to be human? 2022). More human species are possible to be found since the way discovering of new species with new technologies.

Three major human species named *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, and *Homo neanderthalensis* extinct (Landow, 2021) with major climate change such as the “Adams Event” (Cooper, 2021; Voosen, 2021) which occurred due to the temporary breakdown of Earth’s magnetic field 42,000 years ago (The Conversation, 2021). And the other human species all vanished about 10,000 years ago when the last ice age ended.

Only *Homo sapiens* exist today, and that’s ourselves.

McMichael (1993) expresses that ‘Each species is an experiment of nature. Only one such experiment, *Homo sapiens*, has evolved in a way that has enabled its biological adaption to be complemented by a capacity for cumulative cultural adaptation.’.

The social behaviors such as the ability to plan, cooperate, strategize and manoeuvre may have been *Homo sapiens* fundamental weapon. These learned differences changed the *Homo sapiens* attitudes toward outsiders of their own group and became more tolerant.

From that time onwards, there is archaeological evidence of a heightened capacity for symbolic thought and language (Pettit, 2005) and the raw materials to make tools, hunting weapons and jewelry being moved around broadly via created networks.

Ideas and resources were shared widely and had friends to depend on in different groups for resources, such as food (Cohen, 1977; Richerson et al., 2001; Bellwood, 2005) which allowed them to live more efficiently, in consequence, human social harmonization began. Onwards came spears for efficient



hunting, better needles to make tailored garments to keep warm, food storage, animal husbandry, and hunting with domesticated animals.

Methodology

This research article discusses the impacts of sport on Communal harmony and social development. Chose and applied Mixed-method research of both, qualitative and quantitative methods to meet research criteria based on specified areas and comparative studies. It was analyzed and collected data from archaeology, geology and earth science, meteorology, anthropology, and sociology from the available records, books, and the internet to focus and conduct assessments. The design and approach are Bottom-up and Past-to-present Longitudinal study methods. They tracked and conducted various observations on the specified subjects of “Communal harmony and social development” and “sports” over time. Used the findings to approach appropriate conclusions based on considerable evidence.

Sports for Communal Harmony and Social Development

Community harmonization was probably one of the main reasons why *Homo sapiens* succeeded while other human species perished. Cultural diffusion is the spread of different things from one civilization, society, or community to another. Things that are spread include trade, art, architecture, religious and political beliefs, sports, food, etc... The history of sports extends back to the ancient world and sport is the most exciting passion of humankind.

Since ancient times, sports have not had various barriers. Such as music and arts, and sport is universal paraphernalia that can be easily shared and deprived of apparently encountered typical hindrances such as language barriers. Sport is a part of the life of every human culture of then and now. Every culture has its own sports definition. Play is not limited only to humans’ other creatures also play among themselves. The most appropriate definitions are those that explain the relationships of sports to play, games, and contests. “Play,” wrote the German theorist Carl Diem, “is purposeless activity, for its own sake, the opposite of work.” Humans work because they have to; they play because they want to. Play is autotelic- that is, it has its own goals. It is voluntary and uncoerced (Sports, 1998).

Hunters took their competitions on horseback and people raced horses as well as camels and elephants. Archaeological evidence shows that balls and ballgame games were common and popular in ancient societies at wide apart from the Chinese and the Aztecs in Central America (World Archaeology,2020).

Ancient board and dice games, such as Mesoamerican Patole, Egypt’s Senet, Meham Hounds and Jackals, India’s Chaturanga (which became chess in the West), Pachisi (Ludo) and Gyan Chaupar (Snakes and ladders), Israel’s Mancala were spread worldwide. Koura, which was similar to football more widely played in ancient times. Archery, martial arts, stick fights, contests for footraces and



jumpers (athletics), hurling the javelin and discus throwing are also popular among societies. Wrestling was a global sport with varieties and localized. Japanese Sumo added Shinto fundamentals to the rituals, claiming that it's a distinctive expression of Japanese custom. Sports was a respected element of ancient Greek culture, and also performed as a part of religious festivals such as the Olympic, Pythian, Nemean, and Isthmian Games.

Nowadays, sports such as Skating, Skiing, Swimming, Diving, Rowing, Gymnastics, Cycling, and field games such as Football (which is the world's most popular ball game), Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball, Cricket, Rugby, Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, Weightlifting, etc, etc, as well as non-physical skill require Shuffleboard, Scrabble, Monopoly, Chess, Electronic Games are very popular. The value of sports for socialization has long been recognized. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the International Olympic Committee, expressed that sports competitions at the international level could help foster understanding, respect, and peace between nations because sport is for peace-making dimensions, stating, "Wars break out because nations misunderstand each other. We shall not have peace until the prejudices that separate the different races are outlived. To attain this end, what better means is there than to bring the youth of all countries periodically together for amicable trials of muscular strength and agility?" He sought to ensure that the Olympic Games themselves served the higher aspirations of humanity (Peace Through Sport, 2021 a).

Results and Discussions

The UN recognizes the significance and states sport is a universal language that can be a powerful tool to promote peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries and cultures (Peace Through Sport, 2021 b).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the UN, which is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, and also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom states that, "Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives." (Transforming our world, 2015).

Sports disregards geographical borders, social classes, ethnic differences and practice of sport is a good medium for promoting peace. Besides sports engage an important part in promoting social integration and economic development in different geographical, sociocultural and political aspects.



Sport activities have been appraised as a great form to help with reconciliation between conflicted communities. Sport assists to build-up relationships, facilitate important exchanges and bond divisions. Sport is not bound to the practice of physical activities.

In fact, sport is a recreational field where a healthy and harmonise lifestyle is encouraged via physical and mental development. Also, that’s where individuals or groups interact to improve alliances, form social skills, build up and strengthen friendships, intensify cultural values, and adjust to guidelines.

Sport doesn’t just empower on an individual basis, but includes a wider spectrum of communities such as accompanies and spectators, media, hospitality, etc, and unites and inspires collectively which leads to building harmonized communities.

Sport is enjoyed by all irrespective of ethnicity, gender, or age, and its reach has no contestants. Sport promotes universal values that surpass language and culture, which must be used as a worthy mechanism to enhance the benefit of all.

It’s a noble tool, which is utilized to educate on teamwork, leadership, purpose, modesty, and courage.

Promoting gender equality is also a must and crucial role of sports. Sport-based opportunities possess the capability to furnish females with experience, skills, and knowledge which allows them to advance in society.

World’s biggest sports feast scheduled to be held in 2020. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak Summer Olympics were held in Tokyo in 2021, and 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Not only that, the subsequent Paralympic sessions were also held successively.

Table 1. Olympic and Paralympic Games Participation Statistics from 2021 to 2022

	Countries	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
Olympic Summer 2020 – Tokyo ^a	206	5,982	5,494	11,476	52	48
Olympic Winter 2022 – Beijing ^b	91	1,587	1,315	2,902	55	45
Paralympic Summer 2020 – Tokyo ^c	162	2,550	1,853	4,403	58	42
Paralympic Winter 2022 – Beijing ^d	46	426	138	564	76	24
Total - Olympic & Paralympic		10,545	8,800	19,345	55	45



Note: This table demonstrates the participants and gender gaps in terms of participants among the recently held Summer, and Winter Olympic and Paralympic events.

^a Number of athletes competing at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in Japan, 2021

^b Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games gender distribution, 2022

^c Women at a Paralympic Games, 2021

^d Record number of female Para athletes set for Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, 2022

Table 1 clearly illustrates the facts of influences and capabilities of sports that promote and provide females with gender equality, which is a must for a harmonious society.

Also, Table 1 means and indicates the positive impacts being made across the global socio-cultures as almost all the nations of the earth were met and participated in the above events, regardless of huge health restrictions and risks in international travel, association, and blend due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Furthermore, regardless of the health risks the physically handicapped or differently abled participants undoubtedly state that, no matter what, humans of the cross sections in societies appreciate sports.

Henceforth, there can be no denying the severe influences and power of sports.

Conclusion

There is an English traditional children's counting rhyme called " *Ten Little Indians* ", created by songwriter Winner, Septimus (1868).

The song starts with *Ten little Injuns standin' in a line,*

and ends with: *One little Indian boy **left all alone;***

He went and hanged himself and then there were none.

As aforementioned, there were ten known major human species that were standing in a line historically, and nowadays only one of us remains the *Homo sapiens*...!

And we are *livin' all alone* - Yes, even currently surviving in the era of Digital, humans are living alone in self-isolate and scatter as divided groups, due to the reasons such as race, beliefs, language, culture, etc, etc.

Simple tools, ideas, and sharing resources - such as fine needles, throwing spears, efficient hunting, gathering and storing food, and animal husbandry - saved us from annihilation during past catastrophic events and calamitous periods.



Community harmonization was most probably the main reason why *Homo sapiens* survived whilst others were obliterated forever.

Do we want to eradicate ourselves as the nursery poem verbalizes “*then there were none*” due to the socio-cultural mayhem?

Of course, Not - But we should have to unify and stick together to do so, to face unexpected catastrophes, and to progress humankind. Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic situation is a good example.

Therefore, sport is able to lead human beings together and provide an important and strong mechanism for sustainable development and harmonized social progress.

Sports are significant as it promotes understanding, build-up tolerance, and establishes friendships among people in their diversity of religion, belief, culture, and language regardless of their race, gender, language, or religion.

Sport is an especially beneficial and trustworthy economical tool that can be utilized to build communal harmony, which leads to boosting social development. It's a beneficial catalyst with a multipart combination of physical, mental, emotional, and social health factors.

It stands to reason that sports have possibly been a universal remedy and an excellent mechanism to unify cross-cultural communities through interactions and exchanges.

Henceforward, humans must aim and utilize the domain of Sports as one of the major characteristics to promote communal harmony and social development for harmonious existence, wherever and whenever possible.

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