

85% of Physical Education students not able to opt for a sports career ***Capacity Building of Sports Education need of the hour***

New Delhi, October 17, 2012. More than 90 per cent of the sports persons who take up sports as a passion leave it because of non-availability of opportunities in Sports Sector. On the other hand, those sports persons who reach the pinnacle suffer in the absence of support/ ecosystem in sports i.e. right kind of coaches, academy, event managers, sports scientist, physiotherapists, sponsorship experts and so on. Hence they look for experts from outside India.

Among those who pursue sports education in the form of Bachelors and Masters degree in Physical Education as high as 85 per cent of them are unable to pursue a career in sports because of lack of required skills, facilities for higher learning, global exposure and non-availability of options other than teaching physical education at primary or secondary levels. No less than 39,150 students obtain Bachelors degree and 3030 students a Masters degree in Physical Education from 783 registered institutions in the organized sector in India. Close to 7,000 more colleges at current rates will be needed if we need to meet the goal of 0.3 million sports support personnel by 2017. Alternatively all passing students from existing colleges will need to be shown sustainable careers in sporting fields to hold them from drifting into other professions.

These are the findings of a knowledge paper on '**Institutional Capacity Building of Sports Education Institutions**' by **FICCI, Skills Active and Tanjun Associate**. The paper recommends a two-fold approach for nurturing sporting aspiration and capacity building.

Step 1 would be:

- Introduce global best practices to showcase opportunities.
- Empower local institutions to promote sports.
- Remove stigma on opting for sports in schools.
- Raise community and parental involvement.

Step 2 would involve the following:

- Design, define and deliver training for a lifelong sports career.
- Showcase success stories through all mediums.
- Certify sports at par with regular education.
- Align with existing programs without re-inventing the wheel.
- Maximize investor interest through transparent policy
- Enhance stakeholder confidence through regular interactions.

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