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Master's Thesis of Global Sport Management

A new era of Paralympic movement in India: A case study of India's success in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

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Manish Kumar Pandey



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A new era of Paralympic movement in India: A
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Advisor: LEE Yongho

Submitting a master's thesis of Global Sport Management

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The Graduate School
Department of Physical Education
Seoul National University
Global Sport Management Major

Manish Kumar Pandey

Confirming the master's thesis written by

Manish Kumar Pandey

August 2023

Chair	<u>Lim, Choonghoon</u> (Seal)
Vice Chair	<u>Lee, Chung Gun</u> (Seal)
Examiner	<u>Lee, Yongho</u> (Seal)

Abstract

A new era of Paralympic movement in India: A case study of India's success in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

Manish Kumar Pandey

Global Sport Management, Department of Physical Education

The Graduate School of Education

Seoul National University

This qualitative research study investigates the factors that have contributed to the remarkable Tokyo 2020 Paralympic success of India. The objective of the study is to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying elements that have led to India's outstanding performance in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games through the perspectives and experiences of para-athletes and coaches.

Using a phenomenological approach, in-depth interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of athletes and coaches involved in India's Paralympic program. The interviews explored their perceptions, experiences,

and insights regarding the factors that have played a significant role in the India's Paralympic success.

Thematic analysis was applied to the interview transcripts, allowing for the identification of key themes and patterns. The findings revealed several factors that have contributed to India's Paralympic success. Firstly, a strong commitment to disability sports at the institutional level emerged as a central theme. The government, sports federations, and other relevant organizations have demonstrated unwavering support, investment, and resource allocation to the development of Paralympic sports.

Another significant factor is the emphasis on good governance, organization, and structure. India has implemented effective programs to identify and nurture talented athletes with disabilities from a young age. These initiatives provide specialized training, coaching, and support, allowing athletes to reach their full potential.

Furthermore, the presence of well-established support systems for athletes with disabilities from various NGOs and other private sectors also emerged as a critical theme. India has prioritized the provision of comprehensive services, including sports science support, medical assistance, adaptive equipment, and financial aid. These support systems play a pivotal

role in facilitating optimal performance and the overall well-being of athletes.

Societal recognition, appreciation, and media coverage of Paralympic sports were also identified as influential factors. India has cultivated a culture that values and celebrates the achievements of Paralympic athletes, raising awareness and inspiring future generations.

The insights gained from this qualitative research study shed light on the multifaceted factors that have contributed to India's Paralympic success. The findings have implications for other nations aspiring to enhance their Paralympic programs, highlighting the significance of institutional support, talent development, comprehensive support systems, inclusivity, and societal recognition. By applying these insights, countries can strive towards creating an enabling environment for Paralympic athletes to thrive.

Keywords: Paralympic success, Disability sports, Tokyo2020 paralympic games, Talent development, institutional support, Inclusivity.

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List of Abbreviations

IPC - International Paralympic Committee

IOC – International Olympic committee

PCI – Paralympic Committee of India

WHO – World Health Organization

WRD – World Report on Disability

CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

SPLISS – Sport Policy Factors Leading to International Sporting Success

MoSJE – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

NPC - National paralympic committee

GOI - Government of India

MYAS - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

SAI - Sports Authority of India

TOPS - Target Olympic podium scheme

Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1 Study Background

By the time the coronavirus pandemic engulfed us in 2020, everything had been flipped on its head. The virus that initially drove the world into an abyss of uncertainties and claimed the lives of millions of people still haunts our daily activities (Gallego et al., 2020). Numerous tournaments were canceled or postponed due to the virus, making supporters despondent. Sports was one of the primary victims. More than a year later, the Indian team put up a fantastic show of resolve at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, earning their best-ever medal total, making 2021 the most successful year for Indian sports to date (Pigozzi et al., 2021).

The fervor that started on July 23 in Tokyo came to an end on September 5 giving India 7 medals at the Olympics and 19 at the Paralympics. Before the Tokyo Olympics, India had never achieved this degree of accomplishment. India won six medals at the Olympics at the London 2012 Games, while its best paralympic medal total to date has been four, won in Rio 2016 and the 1984 New York Games (Imtiaz, 2021). Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi recognized, exhorted, lauded, and patted the para-athletes for their incredible performance in the Tokyo Paralympics and quoted:

"In the history of Indian sports, the Tokyo Paralympics will always have a special place. The games will remain etched in the memory of every Indian and will motivate generations of athletes to pursue sports. Every member of our contingent is a champion and source of inspiration,".

The humongous success of the Indian athletes in the Tokyo 2020 paralympic games, Was an eye-opener for the whole country. In the Tokyo 2020 paralympic games, 54 para-athletes from India took part in 9 sporting disciplines and managed to get 19 medals from the competition which indicates the massive success of the Indian para-athletes in that competition (Shah, 2021).

In India, the disability is identified as a communicable disease, and as a result, a person with a disability remains detached from society. In this scenario, this massive success in the Paralympics is bringing a new definition of success in the sports field of India. This Paralympic is identified as the most successful event for the Indian para-athletes who were able to snatch the medals from the other competitors. India finished this Paralympics with 24th position among all the countries (Venkat, 2021).

The main aim of the “International Paralympic Committee” is to spread the motivation against the concept of disability and promoting equality in society and this aim is slightly fulfilled by the Indian para-athletes. This

success of the athletes set an important example in the society of India against the existing misconception about disabled people and their reputation. Overall, this article is completely based on the huge success of the Indian para-athletes that indicates the new era in the field of sports and for the disabled people who are interested in sports. The dedication, the hard work of the athletes, and the changes in the strategic planning each, and everything are covered in this research (Ghosh & Chatterjee, 2022).

The first appearance of the Indian para-athletes was done in the year of 1968. The first medal in the Paralympic came in the 1974 game with the help of Murrlikant Patkar who won the gold medal in swimming (Chakraborty, 2020). The all-time paralympic medal for India is 31 and out of which, the most successful was Tokyo 2020 paralympic games. India grabbed a total of 19 medals in that paralympic games and among those 19 medals, 5 medals were gold, eight silvers, and six bronze. After snatching these medals India showed the most respectable position in the history of Paralympics with 24th rank among all the countries who took part in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games. The starting of winning medals was done with the help of 19 years old Avani Lekhara. She won the first gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games. After that one by one in different sports, the Indian para-athletes showed their brilliant performance and bagged their

medals in the Paralympics (Olympic Channel Writer, 2021). Para-badminton made its debut at the 2020 paralympic games and India secured 4 medals in that (2 gold,1 silver,1 bronze) This indicates the fact that the athletes showed an improvement over the last Paralympic games where they got just 4 medals which was held in Rio, 2016 and 1 medal in 2012 London.

In the Tokyo paralympic games, China got the highest number of medals, they won a total of 207 medals, but the position of India in the Paralympic of Tokyo shocked everyone because before this Paralympic India never won more than ten medals. According to various sports experts, this indicates a new era of Paralympic movement in India, which will open the door to equality in Indian society. In this Paralympic Bhavina Patel was the first woman who won the first medal in table tennis and Harvinder Singh won the first medal for India in the feat of archery (PTI, 2021). These data are showing that Indian athletes worked very hard to achieve medals in different fields where they never won a single medal before. This is the reason this research will show all the positive impacts of this huge success of the Indian para-athletes and how this is changing the future of Indian sports.

Today, it is quite obvious that individuals with disabilities are on an equal footing with everyone else when it comes to bringing honour to our nation through sporting accomplishments. Most of these athletes are from

rural areas, and despite widespread corruption, budget shortfalls, and the general apathy that characterizes our system, they work really hard to succeed. It is past time we recognized and understood the hardships they go through to compete in and win medals at major athletic events like the Paralympics (N. Visakamurthy, 2021).

The Paralympics were held from August 24 to September 5, 2021, and the venue was in Tokyo, Japan. In this event, para-athletes established a huge benchmark by winning a total of 19 medals. It was the first time when Indian para-athletes won this many medals in any international events as a result they got the respectable place of 24th rank (N. Visakamurthy, 2021). The review of the existing knowledge is not sufficient for the proper analysis of the reason behind this massive success. The medals, which were won by the para-athletes, are representing the strengths in those fields and their respected fields are mentioned in the table 1 below:

Table 1*List of all medal winners in Tokyo 2020 paralympic games*

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Gold	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's R2 10 meter air rifle standing SH1
Gold	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F64
Gold	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Mixed P4 50 meter pistol SH1
Gold	Pramod Bhagat	Badminton	Men's singles SL3
Gold	Krishna Nagar	Badminton	Men's singles SH6
Silver	Bhavina Patel	Table tennis	Women's individual class 4
Silver	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T47
Silver	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's discuss throw F56
Silver	Devendra Jhajharia	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46
Silver	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's high jump T63
Silver	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T64

Silver	Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	Mixed P4 50 meter pistol SH1
Silver	Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's singles SL4
Bronze	Sundar Gurjar Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46
Bronze	Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	Men's P1 10 meter air pistol SH1
Bronze	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T63
Bronze	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's R8 50 m Rifle SH1
Bronze	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's individual recurve open
Bronze	Manoj Sarkar	Badminton	Men's singles SL3

This data chart and the review is representing the complete fact that all the athletes played an important role in the various field rather than focusing on a particular type of sport.

1.2 Research Significance

Despite the fact that conditions have gradually improved, paralympic and disability sport remains a significantly understudied field with little scholarly literature (Brittain, 2016). The research is completely based on the success of Indian para-athletes in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games but the

factors, which are involved in this success, are not clearly described in the knowledge, which indicates the gap that is present in the review knowledge, which is used, for the preparation of the research. This gap is also raising some questions, which include the role of the Indian government behind the success of Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games. The role of the various Sponsors and the corporate companies is not also clear in the knowledge section, which played an important role in this massive success also. Besides all of this, the role of social media, coaches, and strategic planning is not clear also, these are the most necessarily needs to get success in the field of sports. The proper research and the primary data collection from the individuals who were part of this huge success can mitigate these gaps, which will ultimately produce an authentic and appropriate research thesis that will help to show the new era of paralympic movement in India.

For people with disabilities, this lack of apparent interest in Paralympic and disability sport just confirms their exclusion from the rest of society based on non-disabled people's opinions of their skills, which are mostly false. Because of this, one of the purposes of this research is to share this knowledge related to paralympic games, that would spark interest and lead to more investigation into this fascinating field of sport.

1.3 Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is to find out the key factors which helped Indian para-athletes to get this success in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games and to discuss how these factors lead to new paralympic revolution in India.

1.4 Research Question

RQ1. What are the key factors that influenced Indian para-athletes to achieve success in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games?

Chapter 2. Review of Literature

2.1 Persons with Disabilities

The Preamble to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) -2006, which was adopted by the United Nations, defines disability as the outcome of the interplay between individuals with impairments and the negative attitudes and environmental obstacles that impede their complete and active involvement in society at the same level as others.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) a disabled person is anyone who has “a problem in body function or structure, an activity limitation, has a difficulty in executing a task or action; with a participation restriction”.

Despite the fact that you may not regularly encounter disabled persons, the WHO has counted over 1 billion of them, 20% of whom experience significant functional challenges. The number of people with disabilities is increasing every year, especially among those who are vulnerable. This rise is due to the aging population and an increase in chronic diseases. People with disabilities are more likely to face negative socioeconomic consequences such as lower education levels, poor health, unemployment, and poverty. Poverty can increase the risk of disability through factors such as malnutrition,

lack of access to education, healthcare, clean water, and safe working conditions. Disability can also lead to poverty due to limited employment and education options, lower pay, and higher living costs associated with having a disability. (*Disability Inclusion Overview, 2022*).

2.1.1 Person with Disabilities in India

The statistics of disability in India are significantly high as compared to other countries. According to the 2011 census of India, In India, there are around 26.8 million people with disabilities, making up 2.21% of the total population. Of the total number of disabled people, roughly 15 million are men and 11.8 million are women. This encompasses individuals with various types of disabilities such as visual, hearing, speech, and physical impairments, mental illnesses, intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and other disabilities.

The below table 2 shows the number of people who are suffering from various disabilities in hearing, in seeing, speech restriction, mental disorder, restricted movement and many more (Census, 2011).

Table 2*People with disabilities in India*

Disabled type	No. of Males	No. of Females	Total
Seeing	2639028	2394403	5033431
Hearing	2678584	2394330	5072914
Movement	3370501	2066325	5436826
Mental retarders	870898	635066	1505964
Mental illness	415758	307122	722880
Mental disability	1162712	953986	2116698
Others	2728125	2199464	4927589

The 2011 Census data indicates that only 36% of people with disabilities in India are employed. This means that a large majority of persons with disabilities are not employed and may face difficulties in making ends meet or leading an independent life. However, there is a significant difference in the employment rate between males and females with disabilities, with almost twice as many men being employed compared to women. Among the

employed persons with disabilities, 31% work as agricultural laborers, indicating that agriculture is a sector that employs a significant number of people with disabilities.

In terms of age groups, the Census data indicates that around 50% of people with disabilities between the ages of 15-59 are employed, which is relatively higher than the employment rate of disabled people in other age groups. However, the data also reveals a concerning trend that only 4% of children with disabilities below the age of 14 are employed, which suggests that they may face difficulties in accessing education and future job opportunities.

Overall, the Census data highlights the need for policies and initiatives that can promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities in education and employment and ensure that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives.

2.1.2 The Role of Sport for people with Disabilities

Nowadays, it is becoming more common for individuals with disabilities to participate in sports and physical activities. In many developed countries, people with disabilities have the opportunity to showcase their abilities in sports from grassroots to professional levels. Sports are

particularly useful in promoting inclusion and adaptation since they help overcome language, cultural, and social barriers. Moreover, sports are an excellent means of fostering the well-being and inclusion of people with disabilities as they have positive effects on physical, social, and economic development (Neeraj Kumar Mehra, 2012).

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the first international agreement to address the rights of individuals with disabilities in sports. It calls on governments to ensure that people with disabilities have access to sporting and recreational facilities as both active and passive participants. The Convention also emphasizes the importance of including children with disabilities in physical education within the educational system and providing them with equal access to play, leisure, and sporting activities.

There is a ton of information that supports people with disabilities participating in sport and physical activity, including trends, challenges, and advantages. Numerous studies conducted over the past three decades have shown that people with specific disabilities who participate in sports have improvements in their functional status and quality of life. Across disability groups, scientific study has shown that participating in sport results in higher levels of physical health and wellbeing. Additionally, it has been

demonstrated to enhance general mood and fitness in mental patients with depressed and anxiety disorders. It has also been connected to increases in self-esteem, social awareness, and self-confidence, and it can help empower people with disabilities.

The creation of parasports is a successful strategy for assisting people with disabilities to enhance their physical fitness, seek physical and mental rehabilitation, engage in social activities, and achieve all-around growth. Additionally, it gives the general public a unique chance to advance social harmony and progress while better understanding the potential and worth of the disabled. Additionally, the growth of parasports is crucial for guaranteeing that people with disabilities can benefit from equal rights, an easy integration into society, and a share in the benefits of economic and social advancement. Sports participation is a crucial human right for people with disabilities and a crucial element of defending human rights.

The relationship between disability and sport into disability Sport appeared initially in the 20th century, and now it has become a huge movement in sports. The intricacy of the movement's structure, the revision of its goals and objectives, and its visibility have all increased along with its maturity. and as the availability of sports has increased, so too have the individual successes of athletes with disabilities. These underappreciated or

invisible athletes are becoming recognized as athletes first and individuals with disabilities second (DePauw, K. P., & Gavron, S. J. 1995).

In recent decades, there has been a significant increase in competitive sports for individuals with disabilities, from developmental to elite levels. The Paralympic Games have played a vital role in showcasing the abilities of people with disabilities and promoting integration, equality of opportunity, and accessibility. The Paralympic Games are considered the premier sporting event representing the wider Paralympic Movement. The media's coverage of the Games has helped change social norms around exercise as a preventive health measure and raised awareness of sport participation options for people with disabilities.

Sports can boost the self-perceived quality of life, confidence, and self-efficacy of individuals with disabilities, providing significant health and social benefits. Overall, promoting health, disability rights, and social integration through sports has the potential to transform the lives of participants and create more opportunities for the next generation of disabled athletes (Blauwet & Willick, 2012).

2.2 Paralympic movement

The Paralympic Games, which are a major sporting event for athletes with disabilities, rank second in size only to the Olympics. They have traditionally been held in the same host city as the Olympics and take place immediately after the Olympic Games have concluded. The International Paralympic Committee, which was founded in 1989 and is headquartered in Germany, is responsible for overseeing the Paralympic Games (Brittain, 2016).

The motive of this event is to allow the people with disabilities to achieve their full potential and make their country proud. Athletic events that are within the Para sport are quite similar to the abled-bodied events. The athletes who are eligible to take part in Paralympics have a varied range of physical disabilities such as impaired muscle power, limb deficiency, irregular passive movement range, and even intellectual impairment.

“Let's not forget that the Paralympics, just like the Olympics, are built on a rich history”. - Stella Young

The National Spinal Injuries Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire, founded by Dr. (later Sir) Ludwig Guttmann, is where the Paralympic Games had their start by incorporating sport into the care of

paraplegic patients. Its primary objective at the time was to provide aid to the numerous combat injured civilians and veterans.

In July 1948, the hospital hosted a sporting event to coincide with the London Olympics Opening Ceremony. In 1952, this began to be an annual event and attracted the first international participation. Subsequently, it became known as the International Stoke Mandeville Games (Gold & Gold, 2007).

The Stoke Mandeville Games later evolved into the Paralympic Games, which were held for the first time in Rome, Italy, in 1960 and featured 400 athletes from 23 different nations. They have since happened every four years. The first Winter Paralympics were held in Sweden in 1976. Since the Summer Games in Seoul, Korea in 1988 and the Winter Games in Albertville, France in 1992, the Games have also been held in the same towns and locations as the Olympics thanks to a deal between the IPC and IOC.

“What I learned was that these athletes were not disabled, they were superabled. The Olympics is where heroes are made. The Paralympics is where heroes come”. - Joey Reiman.

Classification is essential to parasport because it creates a framework

for competitive play within the Paralympic Movement. Classification is used to categorize athletes with qualified impairments into sports classes based on how much their disability affects their ability to do the essential tasks in each sport. Its goal is to identify who is eligible to play in a Para sport (Tweedy & Vanlandewijck, 2009).

Athletes are classified to guarantee that the effects of impairment on each event are minimal, and that skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability, and mental focus are the factors that determine an athlete's success. All para-athletes who want to compete in parasport must take a class specifically geared toward that sport. Because disability has varying degrees of impact on a person's capacity to perform in various activities, classification is sport specific. Consequently, a Para athlete can fulfill the requirements for one sport but not for another (Tweedy et al., 2014).

2.2.1 Paralympic committee of India

In 1992, the Physically Handicapped Sports Federation of India was founded by Mr. M. Mahadeva, who was a Paralympian and recipient of the Arjuna Award. Mr. Mahadeva served as the organization's first general secretary, and it was later registered with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Bangalore, Karnataka. It was later renamed the Paralympic

Committee of India (PCI) and is now responsible for overseeing paralympic sports in India. Both the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports recognize the PCI. National Sports Federations and State Paralympic Associations affiliated with PCI work to develop and promote Paralympic sports. The PCI has a Registered Office in Bangalore and a Head Office in Delhi. Prior to the establishment of India's governing body in 1992, Indian Para Athletes had been participating in international competitions on their own for a considerable amount of time.

The PCI (Paralympic Committee of India) started collaborating with State Bodies and Federations in 2006, which opened up opportunities for the progress of Para Sports in India. The main aim of PCI is to support the development of sports and competitions, ranging from grassroots to elite levels, and to uplift Physically Challenged Sports and Wheelchair Athletes. PCI's efforts have enabled India to participate in various international events like the Para Asian Games, World Competitions and many others (N. Visakamurthy, 2021).

The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) is dedicated to promoting and advancing sports for athletes with physical challenges, such as mobility impairments, cerebral palsy, amputations, and visual impairments. To support future Paralympians, the PCI provides funding for sports equipment,

coaching, and travel in preparation for the Paralympic Games. The organization is a member of the International Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) in the Indian government as a National Sports Federation (NSF). Additionally, all the States and Union Territories in India have associated Sports Federations/Bodies with PCI (Mazumdar & Chaudhary, 2020).

2.2.2 A Brief History of India at the Paralympics

India made its debut in the summer Paralympic games in the year 1968. They again participated in the year 1972. The Indian team did not participate in the 1984 Paralympic games. After this Indian Paralympic team has participated in all the editions of the event but never took part in the Winter Paralympic games. Below mentioned are some of the events where the India Paralympic team participated successfully.

Table 3*India's performance in each summer paralympic games*

Games	Athletes	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Rank
1960 Rome	<i>Did Not Participate</i>					
1964 Tokyo						
1968 Tel Aviv	10	0	0	0	0	-
1972 Heidelberg	10	1	0	0	1	25
1976 Toronto	<i>Did Not Participate</i>					
1980 Arnhem						
1984 Stoke Mandeville/New York	5	0	2	2	4	37
1988 Seoul	2	0	0	0	0	-
1992 Barcelona	9	0	0	0	0	-
1996 Atlanta	9	0	0	0	0	-
2000 Sydney	4	0	0	0	0	-
2004 Athens	12	1	0	1	2	53

2008 Beijing	5	0	0	0	0	-
2012 London	10	0	1	0	1	67
2016 Rio de Janeiro	19	2	1	1	4	43
2020 Tokyo	54	5	8	6	19	24
Total		9	12	10	31	55

1968 Israel Paralympics

In 1968 in Tel Aviv, Israel, India participated in the Paralympics for the first time. The Indian delegation sent a total of 10 athletes, including two women and eight men, to the Games. India, however, did not bring home any medals from the Games, although it was their para-athletes' first significant exposure to the spotlight (Chakraborty, 2020).

1972 Germany Paralympics

India took part for the second time in this event. This event took place at Heidelberg, West Germany. The total number of athletes was ten out of which there were seven males and three females. India won a medal at the Paralympics, their first ever. In the 50m freestyle swimming competition, para-swimmer Murlikant Petkar established a world record time of 37.331

seconds to win the gold medal. However, it was India's lone medal from the Games, helping them place 24th out of 42 competing countries in the final medal count.

India made their mark at the Paralympics by winning their first gold medal in 1972, however they stayed out of the 1976 and 1980 competitions, with their next appearance coming in the 1984 Games.

1984 Stock Mandeville/New York Paralympics

Two different cities hosted the 1984 Summer Paralympics. Competitions for wheelchair athletes with spinal cord injuries were conducted in Stoke Mandeville, UK, while those for wheelchair and ambulatory athletes with cerebral palsy, amputees, and others were held at the Mitchel Athletic Complex and Hofstra University in Long Island, New York (others).

Total five athletes competed in this event and India delegation finished in a tie for 37th place with South Korea after winning four medals, which was a tournament high. In actuality, it was Joginder Singh Bedi's unique brilliance that enabled the nation to accomplish the achievement. Bedi won a silver medal in the men's shot put before winning two bronzes in the javelin and discus events. Bhimrao Kesarkar's silver in the javelin event gave India a total of four medals.

India experienced differing results during the Paralympics from their

biggest medal haul in 1984. From 1988 through 2000, the Indian teams had a hard time placing on the podium.

2004 Athens Paralympics

At the 2004 Games in Athens, the drought came to an end. India participated in the Athens Paralympic Summer Games and won two medals: one gold in men's javelin by Devendra jhaharia and one bronze medal in powerlifting by Rajinder singh rahelu. a total 12 athletes made up the team—eleven males and one woman. Indian athletes finished 53rd in the medal standings.

2008 Beijing Paralympics

India has sent a delegation of a total five athletes to the Beijing Paralympic Games. Among the athletes, no one has been crowned with a medal.

2012 Paralympic Medals

India sent 10 athletes to the 2012 Paralympics in London. One of them, Girisha Nagarajegowda, used the scissor technique to jump 1.74 meters, a personal best, and win the men's f42 high jump silver medal. India finished 67th and received just one medal overall.

2016 paralympic medals

India has sent its biggest team ever to the summer Paralympics, with

19 athletes competing across 5 sports. Devendra Jhajharia won a gold medal and broke the world record, contributing to India's most successful performance at the summer Paralympics to date, with a total of 4 medals won (2 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze). Mariyappan Thangavelu won a gold medal, Deepa Malik won silver, and Varun Singh Bhati won bronze.

2020 paralympic medals

India has achieved its highest-ever medal count at a single Paralympic Games during the Tokyo Paralympics 2020, securing a total of 19 medals including 5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze. This outstanding performance has placed India in the 24th position in the overall medal tally out of 162 participating nations. India's success is not limited to athletics, as they have also won medals in various other sports. (See table 4).

Table 4

Medals by sports

Sport	1	2	3	total
Shooting	2	1	2	5
Badminton	2	1	1	4
Athletics	1	5	2	8
Table tennis	0	1	0	1
Archery	0	0	1	1
Total	5	8	6	19

Table 5*India's medal winners list in each paralympic*

Athlete	Medal	Event	Games
Murlikant Petkar	Gold	Swimming, Men's 50m freestyle 3	Heidelberg 1972
Bhimrao Kesarkar	Silver	Men's javelin throw L6	Stoke Mandeville/New York 1984
Joginder Singh Bedi	Bronze	Men's javelin throw L6	Stoke Mandeville/New York 1984
Joginder Singh Bedi	Silver	Men's shot put L6	Stoke Mandeville/New York 1984
Joginder Singh Bedi	Bronze	Men's discus throw L6	Stoke Mandeville/New York 1984
Devendra Jhajharia	Gold	Men's javelin throw F44/ 46	Athens 2004
Rajinder Singh Rahelu	Bronze	Men's 56 kg	Athens 2004
Girisha N Gowda	Silver	Men's high jump F42	London 2012
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Gold	Men's high jump F42	Rio 2016
Varun Singh Bhati	Bronze	Men's high jump F42	Rio 2016
Devendra Jhajharia	Gold	Men's javelin throw F46	Rio 2016
Deepa Malik	Silver	Women's shot put F53	Rio 2016
Bhavina Patel	Silver	Women's singles table tennis Class 4	Tokyo 2020
Nishad Kumar	Silver	Men's high jump T47	Tokyo 2020
Avani Lekhara	Gold	Women's 10m air rifle shooting standing SH1	Tokyo 2020
Devendra Jhajharia	Silver	Men's javelin throw F46	Tokyo 2020
Sundar Gurjar	Bronze	Men's javelin throw F46	Tokyo 2020

Yogesh Kathuniya	Silver	Men's discus throw F56	Tokyo 2020
Sumit Antil	Gold	Men's javelin throw F64	Tokyo 2020
Singhraj Adhana	Bronze	Men's 10m air pistol shooting SH1	Tokyo 2020
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Silver	Men's high jump T42	Tokyo 2020
Sharad Kumar	Bronze	Men's high jump T42	Tokyo 2020
Praveen Kumar	Silver	Men's high jump T64	Tokyo 2020
Avani Lekhara	Bronze	Women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1	Tokyo 2020
Harvinder Singh	Bronze	Men's individual recurve - open archery	Tokyo 2020
Manish Narwal	Gold	Men's 50m pistol SH1	Tokyo 2020
Singhraj Adhana	Silver	Men's 50m pistol SH1	Tokyo 2020
Pramod Bhagat	Gold	Men's singles badminton SL3	Tokyo 2020
Manoj Sarkar	Bronze	Men's singles badminton SL3	Tokyo 2020
Suhas Yathiraj	Silver	Men's singles badminton SL4	Tokyo 2020
Krishna Nagar	Gold	Men's singles badminton SH6	Tokyo 2020

2.3 Sports Policies of India

The Indian government established the All-India Council of Sport (AICS) in 1954 to promote sports in the country. This advisory group is responsible for providing guidance to the government on various aspects related to sports, such as formulating national sports policies, allocating government funds to sports governing bodies, regulating sports governing bodies, providing coaching to elite athletes, selecting national teams to

financially support in international competitions, building sports infrastructure, and selecting athletes for the prestigious Arjuna Award, the highest recognition given to athletes in India (*Sport in Modern India: Policies, Practices and Problems*, 2022).

National Sports Policy of 1984

In 1982, the Indian government created a Ministry of Sport within the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which led to the development of the National Sports Policy in 1984. The policy focused on improving coaching and physical education teacher training, increasing participation in sports and physical activity, and developing sports infrastructure.

To achieve these goals, the government established the Sports Authority of India in 1984, which supervises the promotion of sports in all sectors and provides funding for specific programs. Additionally, two government organizations were created to promote physical education and sport: the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sport, which trains coaches in various sports, and the Lakshmi Bai National College of Physical Education, which trains physical education teachers. These institutions serve as models for state governments to improve their coaching and physical education training programs (Dhauta, Rajesh, 2014).

Over time, it has become apparent that while though the National

Sports Policy, 1984 covers many different aspects of fostering sports in the nation, its implementation is far from perfect and leaves much to be desired. The Policy's stated goals and objectives have not yet been fulfilled in large part. Therefore, it has been recognized that the National Sports Policy needs to be reformulated in more explicit terms, outlining the specific actions that must be taken by the many agencies that are involved, in various ways, in promoting sports in the country (McLeod et al., 2021)

National Sports Policy 2001

In India, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is in charge of sports-related matters. In 2001, the Ministry revised the National Sports Policy to make it more specific and to outline the necessary steps and organizations, such as state governments, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and national sports federations, to implement the policy. The previous National Sports Policy of 1984 was not effectively executed, and its objectives were not achieved. The new policy focuses on two main objectives: encouraging participation in sports at all levels (known as mass sport) and achieving excellence in sports at the national and international levels (known as elite sport).

National sports policy 2007

The Comprehensive National Sports Policy of 2007 seeks to expand

on earlier sports policies in order to complete unfinished business and solve India's rising difficulties in the twenty-first century, most notably the national objective of quickly becoming a worldwide, yet inclusive, economic power. It strives to increase the effectiveness and inclusivity of the sports framework in India with the full ownership and participation of all stakeholders. In the Comprehensive National Sports Policy, the participant or athlete shall take center stage, with all other stakeholders acting in a promotional, supportive, and cooperative capacity. Sports for All, Sports Excellence, and Contingent Constitutional, Legal, and Institutional Measures to Operationalize the Policy are the three main goals of the Policy.

2.3.1 Scheme of Sports and Games for the Disabled

In 2009-2010, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports initiated the "Scheme of Sports & Games for the Disabled" as a Central Sector Scheme, with the aim of encouraging more people with disabilities to participate in sports. The Paralympic Committee of India, Special Olympics Bharat, and the All India Sports Council for the Deaf provide separate support to high-performing disabled athletes who compete in competitive sports under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. This funding covers various aspects, including participation in national and international competitions, training, equipment, and support for trainers.

The following elements make up the Sports & Games for the Disabled Scheme:

- Grants for sports coaching and the acquisition of consumable and non-consumable sports equipment for Schools.
- Grants for Coaches' Training
- Grants for the organization of Disabled District, State, and National Competitions.

The redesigned Khelo India program seeks to support and encourage sports among people with disabilities at all levels. The government has previously taken a number of actions to encourage people with impairments to participate in sports. The following organizations that promote sports among disabled people have received official recognition as a national federation:

- Paralympic committee of India (PCI)
- Special Olympic Bharat (SOB)
- All India sports council of Deaf (AISCDD)

The Khelo India scheme aims to enhance the government's ongoing efforts and create opportunities for individuals with disabilities and talented athletes in three federations. The program will identify these individuals and provide them with advanced scientific training that meets international

standards, with the goal of nurturing their talent and enabling them to succeed in national and international competitions.

Components to be implemented under this scheme are:

- the development of specialized sporting facilities for people with impairments, player categorization, and equipment support
- the creation of training facilities for disabled athletes and the training of Indian classifiers
- In order to train athletes with impairments and advance their coaching careers, both athletes with disabilities and people who are able-bodied can apply for scholarships for coaching diplomas.
- Support for disabled individuals competing in sports and training of teams to compete in such tournaments, especially the Paralympics.

The Persons with Disabilities Act (PwD), 1995, served as the foundation for Indian disability rights until The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which was passed in 2016, replaced it. Indian athletes with disabilities are just starting to be recognized as citizens who can boost their nation's status in the sporting world thanks to a new disability rights law passed in 2016 (Chennapragada & Jain, 2020).

Table 6*Funds provided to PCI*

year	Budget allocated (amount in crore)	Funds Utilized
2017-18	6.00	3.30
2018-19	6.03	6.35
2019-20	10.00	5.88
2020-21&2021-22	10.30	3.81 (till nov 2021)

2.4 the context of parasport in China and Brazil

China made its debut in the Paralympic competition during the Summer Games held in New York City and Stoke Mandeville in 1984. From the Athens 2004 Games onward, China has consistently been the top-performing country, winning the most gold medals, silver medals, and overall medals at every Summer Paralympics. They have won the Summer Paralympics five times and the Winter Paralympics once as of 2022. China is the most successful country in the Asia region and is ranked third in the all-time Paralympic Games medal table, having participated in 10 Summer and 6 Winter Paralympics.

Table 7*China finish top of the medals table for fifth consecutive Paralympics*

2004 Athens	63	46	32	141	1	1
2008 Beijing	89	70	52	211	1	1
2012 London	95	71	65	231	1	1
2016 Rio de Janeiro	107	81	51	239	1	1
2020 Tokyo	96	60	51	207	1	1

China differs from other nations, such as the United States, where Paralympic and Olympic training is self-funded, in that it is state-funded and managed. Chinese Paralympic competitors are able to invest more time in training thanks to the substantial funding (Mao & Sun, 2018).

The China Administration of Sports for Persons with Disabilities operates a network of hundreds of training facilities for disabled athletes from which qualified athletes are chosen through competition to train at the national level. The system is set up like a pyramid, with local training facilities for disabled individuals at the base, where the most talented students are chosen at a young age to train under state funding. The national team is

comprised of the best (Zhen, 2008).

The historical separation of persons with disabilities from those without them in China's public education system formerly operated in parallel with this sporting system; ironically, this division may make it simpler to discover the physically gifted. Its implementation is being halted. In China, public schools started accepting blind and visually impaired pupils in 2014. All students with impairments were able to enroll in public schools and subsequently universities in 2017 according to a new law (Zhixun Guan, 2015).

China has made progress in enhancing accessibility and promoting inclusive education. The expanding exposure of the Paralympics and the increasing number of disabled persons living and working alongside non-disabled people changed the perceptions among the general population (Mao & Sun, 2018).

The Paralympic events become an essential component of Chinese sport and the advancement of people with disabilities. The government places a high value on fostering its development. The Paralympic Games in China entered an era of competitive development between 1983 till today (Dreyer, 2020). The development of competitive sports was prioritized and organizational development, system construction, and human resource

reserves are being encouraged.

Over time, the Paralympic movement gradually established a structured and scientific management system. Since then, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games have provided China with hitherto unheard-of prospects for the growth of the Paralympic Games. In China, the development of the Paralympic Games has reached a mature stage. The trajectory of the Chinese Paralympic Games' development marked the start of a strategic shift away from the emphasis on competitive sports and toward the all-encompassing promotion of disabled sports (Lu, 2018).

Regarding Brazil, the 2016 Paralympic Games were held there, and the nation placed eighth in the medal standings, setting a record for the most medals ever won at a Paralympic event. This achievement indicated that the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games had a positive impact on the consolidation of para-athletes' sporting careers in Brazil. Brazilian Paralympians were able to build successful and secure sports careers thanks to ongoing investments in sporting infrastructure, the construction of a national training facility, and the upkeep and expansion of athletic programs to foster excellence (Brittain, 2016).

Despite this, studying the development of para-athletes through the prism of the Brazilian parasport system may have a number of advantages

and provide early insights and helpful strategies that may be applied to situations in other nations and circumstances. One must, without a doubt, use caution when extrapolating findings from the Brazilian context. When spreading information to foreign nations, it is important to take into account the diversity among various athletic systems (Brittain & Mataruna Dos Santos, 2018).

Chapter 3. Methods

3.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the data collection and data analysis will be discussed which is based on the Indian Paralympians who participated in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games to analyze the determinant of accomplishment in those games. The main objective is to identify and explain the research model, who are the participants considered for this study, explain how the data is collected, the tools that will be used and the analysis of the results.

3.2 Research subjectivity statement

The design of the study, data collecting, data analysis, and drafting of the final report are all influenced by the researcher's worldview and interpretive lens. The researcher's inner, subjective environment has an impact on their lens. This Subjectivity shapes the perception of the outside world and prompts inquiries in reaction to our experiences. These inquiries in turn affect how we interpret our experiences and how we perceive ourselves, other people, and the past (Dirkx et al., 2006).

The researcher is a former para-athlete and the researchers' involvement in this group, their participation in these activities, or their attitudes toward the members of these groups may have a big impact on the

study questions they ask, the methodology they choose, and the interpretation of the qualitative data.

3.3 Research Design

Qualitative research is a valuable method for gaining a deep understanding of a particular area of study. It allows for the exploration of complex issues and the ability to ask follow-up questions that can provide further insight. By analyzing people's words and actions, researchers can gain a better understanding of human behavior and social interaction and focus on the quality rather than the quantity of data. Ultimately, qualitative research is a means of understanding how people experience the world around them, and it can provide valuable insights into culture, society, and behavior.

3.4 Data collection method

The research utilized interviews as a means of data collection. The participants were interviewed over the phone to gain insight into their personal experiences and viewpoints regarding a specific set of topics.

The qualitative research project relied solely on semi-structured interviews as its source of data. The interviews followed a predetermined set of open-ended questions, but the interviewer also asked additional questions based on the conversation with the interviewee/s (DiCicco-Bloom & Crabtree, 2006).

Purposeful sampling techniques was used because this process involves identifying and selecting individuals or groups who possess significant information and experience related to a specific topic of interest. It is crucial to consider factors such as availability, willingness to participate, and the ability to express experiences and ideas effectively. In addition to expertise and experience, good communication skills are essential in selecting suitable participants. (Palinkas et al., 2013).

Prior to the interview session, a confirmation and acknowledgement mail were sent to all these 6 participants for seeking their permission and confirmation in order to conduct an interview with them and to use their opinion in this research study. interview questions were based on our research questions centering on the subjective experiences of participants and aim to assess experiences, views, and opinions (see table 8 for interview guide structure).

Table 8*sample questions from the interview guide*

Interview guide structure		
Interview section	Aim	Exemplar questions
Introduction, para sport background and rapport building	To explain the research and identify sporting achievements and develop background and develop trust and rapport between the researcher and para-athlete	Tell me how you got involved in Paralympics? How long you been competing? Highest level you achieved?
Identification of para-athlete profile	Identify and explore factors that lead to para-athlete success in tokyo2020 paralympic games	What factors attributes to your success? What changed in Tokyo 2020?
Support network and key support services	Identify the role of government, sponsors, pci in and out of their para sport	How government supported you? How sponsors helped you? What was the role of media towards your success

3.5 Demographics of interview participants

The researcher interviewed 6 people, out of which 4 were men and 2 were women, and each interview lasted almost 30 minutes. After collecting data from these 6 participants, the researcher observed that the data collected was sufficient or "saturated" in terms of the consistency in the responses

provided. Thus, collecting more data would not necessarily provide new insights or a better understanding of the issue at hand. Ritchie et al. suggest that the best approach is to collect data until theoretical saturation is reached, as in qualitative research, collecting more data may not necessarily lead to an increase in understanding.

Table 9

categories of informants

Informants	Numbers	Fields	interview date
Men	4	2 coaches 2 Paralympians	1 nov - 6 nov
Women	2	Paralympian	7 nov

3.6 Data Analysis

In order to evaluate the collected data a Thematic analysis were conducted. The purpose of selecting thematic analysis were to find out participant's views, opinions, knowledge, experiences, or values from a set of qualitative data (Kiger & Varpio, 2020). This Thematic analysis is mainly used to analyze any unstructured audio, text, video, focus group, surveys, journals, social media article, and image data. Based on the response collected from the semi structured interview, several themes were framed. The themes that were framed are primarily based on the most relevant keywords that came from the interview response.

Chapter 4: Findings

4.1 Introduction

The research outcomes of the information gathered from the case study sample data are presented in this chapter followed by a discussion of the findings. The interview serves as the primary source of data. The findings will be discussed in light of the research objectives stated in this thesis which is to find the major factors towards India's success in Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games. The methodological chapter already covers the data analysis process.

4.1.1 Results

The thematic analysis revealed four higher-order themes, which were categorized as government support; governance, organization, and structure; role of media and sponsors. The experiences and perspectives of Paralympic athletes and coaches has been illustrated with quotes.

Table 10*The thematic and sub thematic framework*

Themes	Sub-themes	Raw data exemplar/ verbatim	Number of participants mentioning this
Government support	1.inclusive policies (TOPS scheme)	“My inclusion in the target Olympic podium scheme helped me in so many ways, especially hiring different professionals related to the sports, which reaped a medal in tokyo2020”.	6
	2.cash awards	“Cash award policy which we have in our country. no other country in the world has it”	
governance, organization and structure	1. national and international exposure	“National and international exposure which we got enhanced our performance a lot”	6
	2.increased federations & associations	“Increased federations and disability sport associations gave new height to paralympic movement in India”	
Role of media	1.social media	“This never happened before that a Paralympian is invited in any talk show or any reality show before, what more can we ask”	6
	2.society awareness	“After getting a gold medal in tokyo2020, immediately people started to pour love on social media and I became an overnight superstar” “there's a major change towards society perception on people with disabilities and more people are coming forward in	

		support of paralympic movement in India. Special thanks to media for this”	
sponsors	1.ngos-gosports foudation-olympic gold quest	“The javelin, which was sponsored by go sports foundation, today that javelin only made a world record for me”	6
	2.private sectors	"This is the first time any corporate entity in the country has put in place a unified and complete program and commitment for para-athletes,"	

Theme 1: Government Support

The theme of government support encompasses that the Indian government took a huge part in the success of Indians in the Paralympics. The government of India had allocated a huge amount of funds to the PCI for the purpose of providing all the Indian athletes of India with all the required facilities so that they can perform well during the Paralympics. As a result, such athletes were hugely facilitated and faced very less problems during the event (Mukherjee, 2021). The prime minister himself praised para-athletes for their self-assurance and will power. one participant said:

I met the prime minister not once, not twice, but thrice. What else can I ask in life? Whenever I pass by near to my street, people don't recognize me as a paralympic medalist, but they definitely say he met our prime minister 3 times (para-athlete 3).

The participants in this study said that the government has introduced a number of policies and initiatives for athletes to ensure proper support for the athletes. Target Olympic Podium Scheme, or TOPS, is one of these initiatives. Specially created programs to provide top athletes in the nation with much-deserved financial support and assistance to help India perform better at the paralympics. one of the participant quoted,

In terms of job strategies and the TOPs program, we are on par. Any central government program you choose will work the same way. They are aware of the categories and allocation for disabilities. There is one para-athlete representation on every government initiative. We have ambassadors for every initiative, including Fit India, Phir Khelega India, and Swachh Bharat. The government has been quite helpful. 38 of our athletes are covered by the TOPs program. They are focused on us. We are experiencing a lot of mainstream sentiment (para-athlete 2).

A TOPS Elite Athletes' Identification Committee and a Mission Olympic Cell were established with the goal of assisting athletes in winning paralympic gold for their nation. The organization was responsible for identifying the best para-athletes and rewarding them in various ways.

The program includes equipment purchases, training from reputable coaches in top-notch facilities, and financial support for physiotherapists, sports psychologists, mental trainers, and physical trainers. Additionally, the athletes receive a monthly incentive of 50,000. As of February 2021, about

106 athletes/teams are a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, according to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) website. Athletes earned 19 medals at the Paralympics and seven at the Olympics, continuing the success stories.

For the past three years, I've had the opportunity to compete in Italy, France, and Tunisia. Thanks to the Indian government for giving me that international exposure which will gain me insight into the various environments, which will be useful when training for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris (para-athlete 1).

The government had allocated about more than thirty-two crores to the "Paralympic Committee of India " In addition to that an extra amount of ten crore was spent by the government of India on the various para athletes who take part in the Paralympics in Tokyo. The amount was specially spent on those who had more probability to get medals mainly for the purpose of their better-quality training. In addition to this the "Paralympic Committee of India" (PCI) had properly ensured that each of the participants who are going to take part in the Paralympics in Tokyo were properly covered by proper financial; assistance for the purpose of ensuring better as well as smooth preparation (Srikanth, 2022).

In addition to the expensive price of my air gun, ammunition, and accessories, the Ministry of Sports paid for the installation of a

computerized digital target in my home during the coronavirus pandemic (para-athlete 4).

Facilities like the SAI center in Gandhinagar or the table tennis stadium in Indore are also set up for para-athletes with coaching techniques that have evolved through time. The government is observing the facilities and equipment that athletes require and approving them as necessary. The government's encouragement encourages players to approach situations professionally, which is bringing about the much-needed reform in parasports. Increased incentives and the creation of new opportunities have increased attendance. There were 1,800 para-athletes competing at the Nationals in 2019 compared to 700 in 2015.

Additionally, the government of India also provided the athletes of the Paralympics with proper training camps from a long time before the start of the Paralympic so that they can properly train with more time. In addition to this the government also provided with various expertise like the psychologist, physiotherapist, nutritionist, medical staff as well as coaches and support staff for the various Paralympic athletes who will part in the Tokyo Paralympics 2020.

Theme 2: Governance, organization, and structure

when para-athletes were asked to describe about paralympic committee of India's governance and its working, they said it's going on the right direction and they are much happier after the appointment of new president in PCI, who is also a paralympic medalist in 2016 paralympic games.

In 2015 the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) suspended India as a result of a number of issues and disputes involving various individuals and parties. This comes after a number of issues, most notably at the National Para-Athletics Championships in Ghaziabad, when it was allegedly reported that competitors were housed in unfinished structures without access to drinking water or restrooms (PTI, 2016). Since then, PCI started to work in a much better way for the betterment of para-athletes across the country.

It was the first time that a prominent athlete was elected as a president of the paralympic committee of India, she was the first women para-athlete to win a silver medal in 2016 paralympic games.

Indian Para Badminton attracted attention when it made its Paralympic Games debut and other para sports made a mark in paralympic games where athletes showed potential in other para sports too (Kulkarni, 2021).It highlighted the potential that para-badminton has in the nation and

offered encouragement that a performance like that would encourage other players to take up the sport. one of the participants mentioned,

if we focus on more para sports surely, we will be in top 10 overall ranking in paralympic games and one such example is para badminton which was introduced for the first time in tokyo paralympic games and we made the best performance in our debut, bagging two gold one silver and one bronze medals (coach 1)

Theme 3: Role of Media

Coaches and athletes mentioned that another major factor for the success of India in 2020 Paralympics is the change in the alternation of the society's perception for the disabled people. The Paralympics is actually altering the watt by which the common people mostly perceive various disabilities. Normally the social views show that the various people who are with disabilities are often very much less restricted by their disabilities as compared to the various barriers which are put on these disabled people by various societies (Bassam, 2021).

It goes without saying that the mass media, which includes newspapers, magazines, television, radio, films, and the Internet, had a larger influence on how the public feels about the paralympic movement in India. A specific segment of society is affected by the beliefs, values, and traditions

that are expressed through various media platforms. Greater social responsibility was shown by the media in context of Paralympics and media was also aware of social welfare initiatives undertaken by governmental and non-governmental organizations towards persons with disabilities.

This particular way of thinking had allowed the plea to have the right to have proper access and also to participate in all possible levels in the society. With an increasing number of people with disabilities involved in the sports this has successfully changed the perception of society especially towards the Paralympics (Judge, 2021).

there was a time when several members of the Indian contingent i.e olympians were not even aware that there was something called 'paralympics'. Things are changing, and it's in the right direction only (coach 1).

Participants acknowledged that the people are getting more aware about Paralympics. In recent years awareness of common people towards the Paralympics has grown to a high level but such games hugely lag behind the amount of attention which are usually to the Olympic Games. The most important factor for increasing the awareness of Paralympics among people is the media. The television coverage of Paralympics has increased

significantly all around the world especially in 2020 and also specially in India (Srikanth, 2022).

Social media has also played a huge part for the success of India for the success of India in Paralympic 2020. Various platforms of social media like Facebook, twitter, YouTube had made various athletes of India among the common people of India. one of the participants mentioned saying

We live in an era which believes in storytelling, and I am calling all media guys that if you want to cover the best story then come listen to my journey and after couple of medals i must say everyone covered my story in the best possible way (para-athlete 3).

There was great appreciation for the achievement which India has achieved during the Paralympics which definitely bought the actual spotlight especially on the paralympic sporting in india. Also as a result of social media the Paralympic event and the para-athletes had become very much popular among common people (Kumar, 2022).

During lockdown in India because of coronavirus we had a lot of webinars, cared for the mental health, defended at-home training, and mastered the art of communication through social media (coach 2).

#Praise4Para, #Cheer4India, #Tokyo2020, and #Paralympics are a few of the hashtags that were used to join in the discourse around the

Paralympics. Accounts that share ideas and wishes as well as those that capture in-the-moment activity use these hashtags.

Everyone, from politicians to government officials, expressed their support for the Indian athletes competing at the Paralympics in Tokyo online. Since the majority of them had lots of followers and blue tick accounts, the traction resulted in assisting athletes and their sport in gaining recognition and support. video clips of their victory and medal-accepting moments were widely circulated be it in twitter, Facebook or in Instagram.

Many former Olympic champions and well-known athletes expressed their congratulations on social media for the paralympic medalist, reflecting the mood of the country. As they originate from a place of interpersonal camaraderie among other athletes, from people who have either been there or hope to be there at the Paralympics, these tweets and postings bring an extra layer of value to the broader conversations (Srikanth, 2022)

Thums Up had launched a campaign on digital and social media platforms to engage people with the Games and support Indian participants. The campaign features six athletes, including Mariyappan Thangavelu (High Jump), Sakina Khatun (Powerlifting), Suyash Yadav (Swimming), Navdeep

(Javelin Throw), Sumit Antil (Javelin Throw), and Avani Lekhara (Shooting), who are shown overcoming daily challenges while wearing T-shirts with the taunts they face every day. The background phrase used in the campaign was "TaanePalatDe".

This shows that the awareness of Paralympics has greatly increased among the common people as compared to the past. By the process of broadcasting various performances of various para-athletes in the Paralympic to billions of people all throughout the world in different channels, the media has played a huge role for the purpose of increasing awareness about various persons with any particular disability.

Theme 4: Sponsors

Participants emphasized how private partnerships and NGOs also had an impact. The Go Sports Foundation " which is a non-profit organization which continuously works for the purpose of development of and bringing up a variety of talents in India specialty in the Paralympic in India. They promote para sports in India by providing scholarships to the athletes as well as establishing some "knowledge building programs" all throughout the country of India. The GoSports Foundation has been working with para-athletes since

2008 and was connected to 11 of the 19 para-athletes for Rio 2016 (Clarke & Mondal, 2022). When the Department of Sports approached them prior to the Tokyo Games, they maintained their efforts. Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ), another private organization, supported para-athletes this time; ten of them took home medals. one of the participant quoted:

I received a prosthetic blade worth 7 lakh from go sports foundation, they not only provided me with a blade but also educated me about how to run with that leg and gave me a tour around the prosthetic organization, knowing how these types of legs are made (para-athlete 2).

The GoSports Foundation and Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN) teamed up to find and support Indian para-athletes competing in a variety of Paralympic sports. The assistance included high-intensity training, travel and competition requirements, nutritional counseling, injury and fitness management, recovery, physiotherapy, and strength training.

To help para-athletes in India with their training, travel, and competition expenses, Sony has joined with the GoSports Foundation. Their performance and fight against the societal stigma connected with their impairment are both boosted by the support. In addition to providing financial aid, the company leverages the influence of its media platforms to raise

awareness of Paralympic sports and promote the empowerment of people with disabilities in India through sport (ET Online, 2021).

Because of the greater obstacles that we encounter, Sony Pictures Networks has the foresight to see the significance of creating sports for people with disabilities in India. Their long-term goal is to enhance India's sports narrative. Through such agreements, Sony Pictures Networks is happy to assume the social duty of empowering India's gifted athletes (para-athlete 4).

IndusInd For Sports, a vertical inside the bank, was established in April 2016 with the goals of enhancing India's sporting potential and ingraining sports into the mentality and DNA of its staff. The bank and the GoSports Foundation have partnered for the IndusInd Para Champions Program, which aims to promote the Paralympics in India and so far they have supported many para athletes who won medals at the Paralympics (indus-ind, 2020)

Major companies are changing their ways, as evidenced by the backing of para-athletes from companies like Puma. Lekhara, Bhavina Patel (table tennis), and Ekta Bhayan are three para-athletes among the 18 athletes the sports brand has signed for 2021. Lekhara was chosen as the brand ambassador for Rajasthan's "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative last year.

Another official partner of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games was Thums Up, a domestic soft drink brand owned by the world's largest cola company, Coca-Cola. This partnership with the Paralympic Games marks the beverage industry's debut. Additionally, it is now the first FMCG company to collaborate with major sporting events. Thums Up's main aim was to promote diversity and honor the true heroes of Tokyo 2020 with this collaboration, who continue to overcome obstacles in order to smash the glass ceiling and are now representing India in this renowned para-sports (PTI, 2021).

In order to acquire funding for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) also teamed with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The PCI got the financial support from SIDBI for the purchasing of sporting goods and equipment. Javelins, badminton racquets, running shoes, discuses, and shot-put balls are among the items on the list.

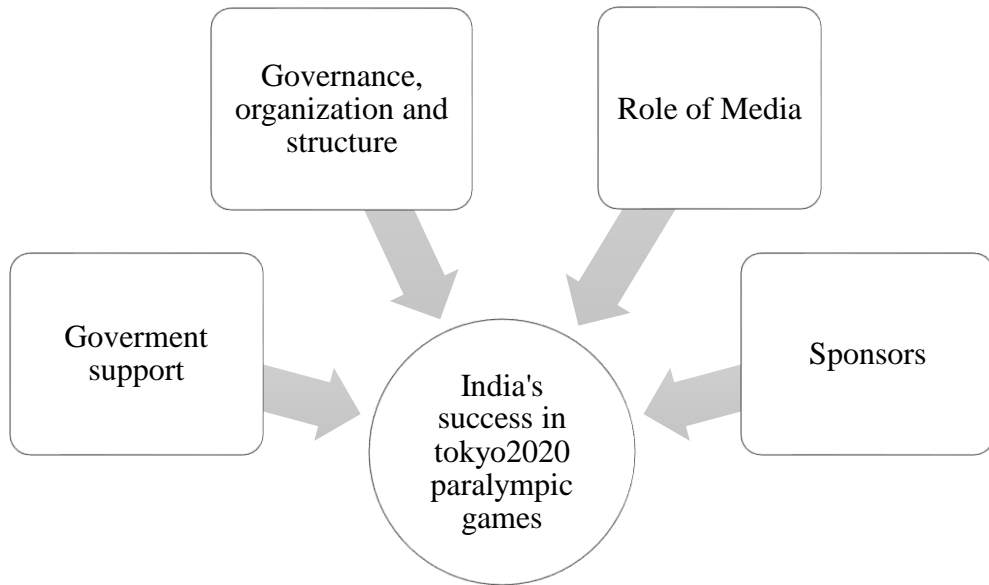
Chapter 5: Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Discussion

Given that little is known about the reason behind India's success in the Tokyo2020 paralympic Games, the results from this study are among the first to understand the reason behind this massive accomplishment in the Paralympic games. In general, the results showed that this success was mostly because of four main reasons: government support, governance, organization and structure, the role of media and sponsors presented in figure 1.

Figure 1

contributors to India's accomplishment in tokyo2020 paralympic games.



while current literature on India's accomplishment in the Paralympic games doesn't talk much about any factors. The interview with the Paralympians and the coaches expands on the existing literature and understanding of India's glorious victory in tokyo2020 paralympic games.

Due of nations' ambition to compete for medals in elite sports, elite sport policy has received more attention during the past 50 years. Due to this, governments, and national sports organizations all over the world now devote

a large amount of money to support elite sport (Veerle De Bosscher et al., 2015).

the paralympic medal producing coaches in this study gave importance on groundbreaking corporate social responsibility established in India by the government, mandating specific businesses to donate 2% of their income to social development, such as initiatives to combat poverty and promote sports, based on their profits has really taken the paralympic movement to a different level. The foundation has depended on donations from individuals and small organizations, but its most recent directive has brought in cash from significant partners like international corporations. thus seeing more medals in Paralympics (Harneja, Alka;Lal, Rajender, 2014).

Every para-athlete acknowledged that these financial incentives have had a huge impact on them, some of them come from very low-income families. They also demonstrate that sports can be a respectable and lucrative profession to a society that is predisposed to academics. athletes can see the money now, which points out that government awards and sponsorships may net athletes hundreds of thousands of dollars (Cardoso et al., 2018). For example, the Haryana government announced a cash award of 6 crore (60

million) for his record-breaking gold medal in javelin event (S. Shibli et al., 2016).

India has won 19 medals in Tokyo Paralympic games 2020 whereas there were only 4 winners in 2016, in the past 4 years India has developed a lot and seen an increase mass participation in para games. From a record it has been said that private investors are not ready to invest for para-athletes, but the Indian Government took an initiative to help the athletes to develop their skills in their athletic field (Weed et al., 2015).

The winners stated that the government helped the athletes with expensive equipment and the needful requirements like bearing the expenses of the athletes. and also, the Indian government provided proper diets and dieticians to look after the food habits of the athletes. To optimize the athlete's health the Indian Government provided all necessary medicines, medical staff to the athletes and the government took the responsibilities of all expenditure (Veerle De Bosscher et al., 2008)

The results also indicated the importance of the media towards changing the perspective of people about paralympics. Earlier the media coverage was controversial a little bit but now it has become less. The

portrayal of positive life stories makes people inspired and to support the participants positively. The young generation is being inspired by the success of those winners.

Every para-athlete acknowledged that throughout social media the news has been reached to each and everyone. People nowadays have become more aware about the “Paralympics”. It is the second largest game held. After winning medals one by one people started to notice the growth of India. And started to appreciate the hard work of the para-athletes. Changes in policy have also improved media coverage and raised public understanding of the requirements of athletes with disabilities (De Knop, 2008).

The results of this study give decision-makers a greater understanding of the many strategies needed to organize and structure parasport, which could eventually result in more medals and a new era of paralympic movement in India (Jacqueline Martins Patatas et al., 2020).

till date, there is not specifically developed parasport sport policy model or framework. The study's findings compel anyone developing paralympic movement to take into account the unique setting and requirements mentioned in this study and consideration of factors influencing

the development of paralympic on various levels, such as personal, environmental, infrastructural, cultural, political, and demographical (Patatas et al., 2018)

5.2 Practical Implications

This study's findings are presented in a form that is understandable to both academics and practitioners. The framework aims to summarize current knowledge, assist decision makers in paralympic with the addition of fresh knowledge, and encourage additional future research.

As a result of this initiative, groups and institutions connected to paralympic sport will soon be able to raise money for their initiatives, promoting the growth and careers of new athletes in the nation.

The framework has embryonic ramification for the management and development of paralympic extensively well beyond india. The framework is intended to be used by practitioners as a general reference to improve competitive success and the elite sport structures that support para-athletes. The framework could be used by a practitioner to help determine the support requirements for a particular athlete.

The framework can be employed in a club and educational setting, to provide guidance for the distribution of resources and the delivery of support services. In order to help create a customized, individualized support package.

5.3 Limitations and Strengths

Like any investigation, this one had both advantages and disadvantages that must be taken into account when evaluating the findings. The solidity of the study was the authenticity of findings across data sources (coaches, para-athletes). Thus, results that were discovered to be published throughout these sources were therefore given special consideration, and the validity of our conclusions was increased. In addition, the profiles of para-athletes and coaches allowed us to see numerous factors influencing Paralympic performance.

Second, the interviewees showed a lot of cooperation, sincerity, and openness in their interactions. They seemed at ease making both favorable and negative comments regarding the circumstances that led to India's complicity in this incident. The investigation's broad reach was one of its third advantages.

talking about limitations, because the study was done in India therefore the finding may show characteristics of accomplishment distinctive to India only. The results of this study suggest that there may be elements influencing success and progression of India's performance in Tokyo 2020 paralympic games that were not taken into account and, as a result, were not included in the findings.

5.4 Conclusion

This study aimed to identify factors that lead to India's success in the Tokyo 2020 paralympic games. Furthermore, to confirm the importance of several factors formerly pointed out in non-disabled literature. The four factors that resulted from these findings were government support; governance, organization and structure; role of media; sponsors.

These findings are given in a framework to raise awareness among policy makers, high performance directors and other key figures in parasport industry. This framework's goal is to make it easier to comprehend the nuances of para-athletes' performance in paralympic competitions and where to work more to bring more medals in paralympic games.

even though the available literature was employed to group the variables into policies. The results of this investigation show that, in addition, to what lead to this accomplishment in paralympic games context variables should be taken into account when looking at influencing elements for parasport policy development, particularly in relation to different parasports.

Future studies should investigate the organizational perspectives of a wider sample of stakeholders, in more parasports, and with para-athletes from various countries in order to broaden the generalizability of the study's findings.

Finally, this study revealed variance in the variables influencing India's performance at the 2020 Paralympic Games, supporting the idea that additional research into the variables influencing success in various parasports is required. Academics have already emphasized the necessity for additional research in other parasports situations to examine the variables affecting success. Future development of sport-specific frameworks and more contextualized modeling may result from investigations in other parasports.

The paralympic sports scene in India is expanding daily. New rankings and achievements show that athletes, coaches, and managers

consistently put in a lot of effort and have excellent planning skills. At every new competition, the level of performance of Paralympic athletes astounds. As a result, India is seen as a rising force in the Paralympic sport globally. Yearly efforts to improve the sport expand and have the potential to both strengthen India's place in the global landscape and turn it into a major producer of Paralympic athletes.

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Appendix 1: Interview Questions

General Information:

- Age
- Gender
- Sport
- Type of Disability

Can you explain what type of disability you have?

How did you come to know about the Paralympics? And what motivated you to become a sports person?

How was your overall experience in the Tokyo 2020 paralympic games?

What are the actions that contribute to keep your performance high?

What factors attributes to your success?

What factors lead to your success in tokyo2020 paralympic games?

What support did you get from the central government as well as from your state government? Can you please elaborate on that?

You had any sponsors supporting you during paralympic games? If yes, then in what ways?

How would you describe the role of social media during paralympic games and how you benefitted from it?

What support did you receive from your family, friends and society. If you can elaborate on that?

What do you believe are the greatest challenges most athletes are facing today?

What further resources would you liked to be improved?

국문초록

인도 패럴림픽의 새로운 시대 :
2020 도쿄 패럴림픽에서 뛰어난
성과를 거둔 인도의 성공 사례 연구

Manish Kumar Pandey

글로벌스포츠매니지먼트 전공

체육교육과

서울대학교 대학원

이 연구는 인도의 2020 도쿄 패럴림픽 성공에 기여한 요인들을 조사하는 질적 연구이다. 본 연구의 목적은 인도 패럴림픽 선수들과 코치들의 관점과 경험을 통해 2020 도쿄 패럴림픽 경기에서 인도가 뛰어난 성과를 거둔 근본적인 요소를 파악하는 것에 있다. 이 연구에서는 인도 선수들과 코치들을 대상으로 깊이 있는 인터뷰를 진행하여 인도가 패럴림픽 성공에 중요한 역할을 한 요인들에 대한

인식, 경험, 견해에 대해 살펴보았다. 인터뷰 내용을 주제로 분석하여 중요한 주제와 패턴을 도출했다. 연구 결과 인도의 패럴림픽 성공에 기여한 몇 가지 요인들을 밝혀냈다. 첫째 장애인 스포츠에 대한 제도적 차원의 강한 의지가 중심 주제로 등장했다. 정부, 스포츠연맹, 그리고 다른 관련 단체들은 패럴림픽 스포츠의 발전에 대한 변함없는 지원, 투자, 그리고 자원 배분을 보여 주었다. 또 다른 중요한 요소는 훌륭한 체계, 조직 및 구조에 대한 강조이다. 인도는 어린 나이부터 장애를 가진 재능 있는 선수들을 발굴하고 육성하기 위한 효과적인 프로그램을 시행했다. 이러한 제도는 전문적인 훈련, 코칭 및 지원을 제공하여 선수들의 잠재력을 최대한 발휘할 수 있도록 한다. 또한, 다양한 NGO와 다른 민간 부문의 장애인 선수들을 위한 잘 확립된 지원 시스템의 존재 또한 중요한 주제로 떠올랐다. 인도는 스포츠 과학 지원, 의료 지원, 적응형 장비 및 재정 지원을 포함한 포괄적인 서비스 제공을 우선시했다. 이러한 지원 시스템은 최적의 성과와 선수의 전반적인 복지를 촉진하는 데 중추적인 역할을 한다. 인도 사회에서 패럴림픽 스포츠에 대한 사회적 인식, 감상, 언론 보도도 영향력 있는 요인으로 확인되었다. 인도는 패럴림픽 선수들의 업적을 높이

평가하고 기념하는 문화를 조성하여 인식을 높이고 미래 세대에게 영감을 주었다. 이 연구를 통해 얻은 통찰력은 인도의 패럴림픽 성공에 기여한 다양한 요인에 대한 이해를 돕는다. 이러한 결과는 제도적 지원, 인재 개발, 포괄적인 지원 시스템, 사회적 인식의 중요성을 강조하면서 패럴림픽 프로그램을 개선하려는 다른 국가에 영향을 미친다. 이러한 통찰력을 적용함으로써 다른 국가들은 패럴림픽 선수들이 번영할 수 있는 환경을 조성하기 위해 노력할 수 있다.

키워드: 패럴림픽 성공, 장애인스포츠, 도쿄2020패럴림픽대회, 재능개발, 제도적지원, 포용성.

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