

Effect of the Inclusion of Sports Component in Comprehensive School Evaluation System: On the Girl Students' Attitude towards Sports and Games

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Girls are significantly less likely than boys to participate in sports. At the primary and secondary school levels, most girls do not actively take part in sports and games even during the allotted period. Factors like socio-economic background, family structure and school have effects on socializing boys and girls into athletics (Videon, 2002). Schools have the primary social responsibility of educating girl students on how crucial it is to involve in sports activities in order to keep themselves fit, to display courage and determination, and to take up leadership roles.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (*CBSE*), one of India's national educational boards introduced a new evaluation system - "continuous and comprehensive evaluation" (*CCE*) in 2009 and this included sports as a co-scholastic aspect of child growth that needs to be recorded. It is felt that the *CCE* system has an impact on girl students' participation in sports. This paper reports the findings of a study of changes, if any, in girl students' attitudes towards games and sports after the introduction of this system and the related development of qualities such as self esteem, positive attitude and adaptive behaviour.

The study was conducted using questionnaire responses of 30 girl students, their parents and two teachers of games and sports in an all-girls *CBSE* school in Chennai, India. Data was triangulated using semi-structured interviews of the same sample. Findings show that interest had risen among girl students as a result of the switchover to *CCE* system. Greater support from parents and teachers, higher self esteem and a more positive attitude towards participation in sports were reported by students and their parents. Teachers showed that they had become more assertive within the school on issues of participation of girl students in sports.

Key words: *Girl student, School, Evaluation, Sports, Social responsibility, Gender Parity*