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International organization's facilitating female in sports

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Abstract

The current study focuses on two organizations at the international level which having specifically focuses upon girls and women in sports. The International Association of Physical Education and Sports for Girls and Women (IAPESGW), established in 1949, has as its aims (1) to bring together scholars and practitioners of many countries working in the fields of physical education, sport and physical activity, (2) represent and promote the interests of girls and women at all levels and in all areas of physical education, sport, dance and physical activity, (3) strengthen international contacts and networks, (4) afford opportunities for the discussion of mutual concerns and to share good practice, (5) promote the exchange of persons and ideas among countries, (6) promote research on physical education, sport, dance and physical activity for girls and women, and (7) cooperate with other organisations and agencies working to promote the interests of girls and women, physical education, dance, sport and physical activity.

The second international organization, Women Sport International (WSI) is an issue and action oriented organization which was founded in 1994. Strategies of this organization reflect its philosophy: (1) to identify and promote issues of importance to girls and women in sport and physical activity (2) to operate as an effective international advocacy group to increase participation and advancement of girls and women in sport and physical activity at all levels (3) to provide support for individuals or groups working to promote positive change (4) to produce and/or disseminating educational materials and other information relevant to increasing opportunities or improving the experience of girls and women in sport and physical activity (5) to work with international sports governing bodies and other organizations to promote the greatest possible participation of girls and women in sport and physical activity at all levels of involvement (6) to operate as a clearing house for sharing research, information, ideas and good practices.

Keywords: International, organization, female and sport

Introduction

The International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW)

The International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW) has its aims to (1) bring together scholars and practitioners of many countries working in the fields of physical education, sport and physical activity, (2) represent and promote the interests of girls and women at all levels and in all areas of physical education, sport, dance and physical activity, (3) strengthen international contacts and networks, (4) afford opportunities for the discussion of mutual concerns and to share good practice, (5) promote the exchange of persons and ideas among countries, (6) promote research on physical education, sport, dance and physical activity for girls and women, and (7) cooperate with other organisations and agencies working to promote the interests of girls and women, physical education, dance, sport and physical activity.

The International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW) was established in 1949 by Dr. Dorothy Ainsworth, as Director of Physical education for Women at Smith College (1926-1960), Ainsworth became a global figure, travelling extensively and organizing the First international conference on physical education for women and girls in Copenhagen in 1949 with 235 delegates from 24 nations. At the same time, Ainsworth was not shy in declaring her own American philosophy on the subject.

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Many of us in the various professions and particularly those of us concerned with the education of girls are eager indeed that women should bring to these new fields their own particular contributions. Much as we admire the work and special contributions of men, we believe that women have a different and special contribution to add to civic and professional life. The traditional admirable qualities of women such as thought for others as shown by their care of the young (or old), adaptability, graciousness and great strength of character have made our finer women the core and joy of the home. Should we not take these qualities with us into our professional and civic life, into the work outside as well as retain them in the home... We who teach the girls from the beginning to the end of her school days need to be aware of these qualities and to emphasize them... We need to think of the ways in which physical education will help to strengthen these qualities the girls will need if she is to be of the greatest value and to be most content in the world today ... She will need strength of character and body, but she should not be a rigid person. She needs adaptability but not weakness of character or physique. What we wish for her is the golden mean – the balance point between under and over development. (Dorothy, 1950).

Dr. Ainsworth, also founder and First President of the International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport, and Dance (ICHPER.SD), which includes men and women in its membership, was a member of the International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education, International Olympic Committee, and UNESCO. She related the International Council of Women (ICW) through the National Council of Women (NCW) to the United Nations. As President of IAPESGW from 1949 to 1961, her influence assisted in promoting issues related to girls and women in sport worldwide. Because of her personal charisma and dedication to human rights, she received the highest award from Finland for her work on the international level.

The 2nd women's conference in Paris four years later in 1953 attracted more than 500 delegates from 37 different countries, and while the previous conference had focused solely on female physical education, sport was now added to the agenda. It was also during this meeting that the International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW) was officially established with Ainsworth as president. From that time, it was agreed that a conference would take place every four years in a different country.

The 3rd IAPESGW conference held at London, England (1957) with 400 delegates from 25 countries. In this conference, the following aims of IAPESGW were decided: To bring together women of many countries working in the fields of physical education and sport; To cooperate with other organizations which encourage particular services of women to society; To strengthen international contacts; To afford opportunities for the discussion of mutual challenges; To promote activity in such fields as exchange of persons and ideas between member countries and research affecting physical education and sport for women.

4th IAPESGW conference held at Washington, DC in 1961, emphasised on Expanding horizons in physical education, where 500 delegates represented 25 countries. 5th IAPESGW conference placed at Cologne, Germany in 1965 with 700 delegates from 40 countries, discussed on Adolescents of today: Problems of physical education. In 1969, 6th IAPESGW conference held at Tokyo, Japan focused on

Traditional and modern forms of physical education, where 600 delegates of 26 countries participated. 7th conference held in 1973 at Tehran, Iran, theme of conference was Sports for all.

By 1977, women members of IAPESGW were among the first multiracial group to use the Nico Malan Theatre Complex as a congress site in Cape Town, South Africa. Isabelle Nel, congress organizer, was successful in soliciting 500 delegates from 32 countries who participated in an all-embracing program of creative and expressive dance and movement. Delegates joined hands, literally, spiritually and emotionally, regardless of color, creed, race, or politics, and learned and performed national folk dances from all over the globe. The 9th conference held at Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1981, 10th conference held at Warwick, England in 1985 and 11th IAPESGW conference held at Bali, Indonesia in 1989 focused upon better family life through physical education and sport.

12th international congress, held in 1993 in Melbourne, Australia, focused upon sport science research related to girls and women in physical education and sport. Dr. Gertrud Pfister (Germany), Cheryl Stock (Australia), Celia Brackenridge (UK), and Dr. Barbara Drinkwater (USA) served as keynote speakers in areas of sport science. As a result of sport science research, the IAPESGW Board of Directors passed a resolution to change training practices that negatively affect the lives of female athletes and dancers.

The IAPESGW Board of Consultants is presently investigating ways to dialogue and work collaboratively with other organizations within and outside of sport throughout the world. IAPESGW members are also looking forward to the 13th quadrennial congress in Helsinki, Finland, in 1997, Special 50th Anniversary conference in Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts USA. The 14th international conference in Alexandria, Egypt in 2001, and 15th IAPESGW conference held at Montreal, Canada in 2005 with 400 delegates from 32 countries. In 2009, 16th conference held at Stellenbosch, South Africa with 250 delegates from 30 countries focused upon Physical education and sport in the spirit of UBUNTU. In continuation 17th conference in Havana, Cuba in 2013 themed on Adelante Muchachas-Moving together for a better world. The most recent 18th international congress, held at World Congress hosted at Barry University, Miami, USA in 2017, the chosen theme for the event was Women and Girls in Sport.

The IAPESGW Board of consultants is presently investigating ways to dialogue and work collaboratively with other organisations within and outside of sport throughout the world. IAPESGW members are also looking forward to the international congress in Tokyo, Japan.

Women sport international

Women Sport International was founded in 1994 to meet the challenge of ensuring that sport and physical activity receive the attention and priority they deserve in the lives of women and girls. The main purpose of WSI is to serve as an umbrella organization that can bring about positive change for girls and women. WSI operates on the philosophy that while increasing number of girls and women playing sport or involved in physical activity internationally is important, this does not ensure gender equity-that is., sport and physical activity will automatically become available to girls and women.

Objectives of Women Sport International reflects its philosophy-

1. To identify and promote issues of importance to girls and women in sport and physical activity
2. Operate as an effective international advocacy group to increase participation and advancement of girls and women in sport and physical activity at all levels
3. Provide support for individuals or groups working to promote positive change
4. Produce and/or disseminating educational materials and other information relevant to increasing opportunities or improving the experience of girls and women in sport and physical activity
5. Work with international sports governing bodies and other organizations to promote the greatest possible participation of girls and women in sport and physical activity at all levels of involvement
6. Operate as a clearing house for sharing research, information, ideas and good practices.

girls and women in sport and physical activity primarily at the international level.

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2. <http://womensportinternational.org/index.php/non-accidental-violence-sexual-harassment/>
3. <https://womensportinternational.org/index.php/wsi-task-forces-committees/>.

Women Sport International shall normally consist of an Executive Board comprising of a President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and an Advisory Board not exceeding 10 members reflecting the geographical and ethnic diversity of the mission of *WSI*. The total number of *WSI* Board members shall not normally exceed 15. Membership is available to women and men who wish to become actively involved, who support aims and objectives of *WSI*, full or part time students, or organisations. In keeping with its philosophy to represent needs and interests of all women, *WSI* has also established a membership sponsorship program which encourages women and men who feel they are able to do so, to sponsor a member, particularly, from the developing world, for whom, the individual membership fee, presents an economic hardship. *WSI* welcomes participation of all women on its various committees, as key contact points within their countries or in current projects or ongoing programs.

Women Sport International is both an issue and action oriented organisation. Over the past year, *WSI* completed four task force reports and have produced reports which are archived and part of the *WSI* record:

- Deaf Women and Sport
- Female Athlete Triad
- Sexual Harassment
- Physical Activity and Women's Health

(<https://womensportinternational.org/index.php/wsi-task-forces-committees/>)

WSI is now building on its previous work from the 1998-2004 Task Force on Sexual Harassment, which produced a position statement and a brochure about how to address sexual harassment. The original Task Force was initiated after the realisation that combating sexual harassment and abuse in sport had been rapidly rising up the sports agenda, largely, due to the work of *WSI* members in the research, advocacy and policy fields. The Task Force stimulated a range of projects and worked in partnership with numerous organisations and individuals. (<http://womensportinternational.org/index.php/non-accidental-violence-sexual-harassment/>)

Finally, in keeping with its objective of working closely and cooperatively with key international sports organizations, *WSI* is currently in discussion with the International Olympic Committee on developing a formal working relationship which would oversee the implementation of shared projects and programs to increase opportunities and advancement for