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Women in inter-university tournaments: Analysis of the first decade

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Abstract

Inter-University Sports Board is the operating and monitoring body of Inter-University Tournaments in India. The Board is a part of Inter-University Board of India. Inter-University Board of India started Inter-University Tournaments for men in 1940-41. After a long time the Board successfully started Inter-University Tournaments for Women in 1953-54. In this decade the Sports Board organized 39 tournaments in 7 different games i.e. Athletics, Badminton, Hockey, Kho-kho, Tennis Volleyball, and Table Tennis. The researcher analysed all those tournaments in various ways and viewpoints.

Keywords: Inter-university tournaments, first decade, inter-university sports board

Introduction

Although sports are considered to be primarily masculine, women's sports have been introduced in different parts of the world since ancient times, although, it has largely remained in the shadow of men's sports. In modern history, women in Europe and America have been seen participating in various sports. But in modern India, women's sports have always been neglected. Women's sports were included in the Olympics in 1900, the second Olympics, but the first female competitor from India participated in 1924. Subsequently, she did not show any significant improvement, participating in the Olympics in isolation. Until 196, a total of 9 women competitors participated in the Olympics. These were the status of the height level of Indian

Our field of study, the inter-university tournaments, continued in the same vein and started women's sports almost 14 years after the start of the men's tournaments. It took a very long time to start Inter-university Tournaments for women after starting the Tournament for men. First Inter-University Tournament in men was organized in 1940-41 and the first Inter-University Tournament in women was organized in the year 1952-53; after 12 years of men-tournaments were introduced. The Inter-University Sports Board was tried to organize Inter-University Tournaments in women at the same time the Inter-University Tournaments in men were introduced. Tennis was tried to organize in 1940-41, the very first year of the tournament. But due to lots of obstacles, it could not be possible.

After a long struggle, the Inter-University Tournaments in Women came into existence. It was a tremendous success of the Board. And now Inter-university Tournaments in Women became one of the successful and popular events.

Inter-University Board of India

The former name of the Association of Indian Universities was the Inter-University Board of India. Inter-University Board of India was established in 1925, as a common platform for the reciprocal recognition of their degrees and diplomas, and communication among the universities. The area of work of the Board was expanded over time, and a separate body was formed named "Inter-University Sports Board". In 1973 Inter-University Board of India got its present name "Association of Indian Universities".

Inter-University Sports Board

Over time the work of the board has expanded in various directions. Sports became one of them. But the administrators were aware of the importance and vast activities of sports, and

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they also understood the need for a separate sports body within the Board. Thus, the Inter-University Sports Board was established in 1939. It was established as a sister concern of the Inter-University Board of India. It regulates all the Inter-University Tournaments and promotes sports among the university students.

First Decade

In this study, the first decade means the decade first organized Inter-university Tournaments in Women. The first Inter-University Tournaments were organized in 1953-54, so, from 1953-54 to 1960-61 was considered as the first decade of Inter-University Tournaments in Women. Here, analyses were done on the tournaments organized throughout the decade.

Objective

The objective of the study is to discuss and analyze the result of the Inter-University Tournaments organized from 1953-54

to 1960-61 which was considered as the first decade of the Inter-University Tournament in Women. Though, the Inter-University Tournaments in Men were organizing from 1940-41 and was the third decade of Inter-University Tournament in Men.

Methodology

This study is a historical research; the researcher was depended upon both, primary and secondary data available. As a primary source, the researcher went through the Reports, minutes, Proceedings of AIU. As a secondary source, the researcher went through various books, journals, periodicals, newspapers, and magazines and collected relevant information and tried his best to make judicious interpretations on them.

Tournaments organized for women

Table 1: Tournaments organized for women from 1953-54 to 1960-61

Year	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Tournaments			Athletics	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics
			Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	Badminton	Badminton
			Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey
							Tennis	Tennis	Tennis	Tennis
									Volleyball	Volleyball
			Kho-kho	Kho-kho	Kho-kho	Kho-kho	Kho-kho	Kho-kho	Kho-kho	Kho-kho
										Table Tennis

In this decade tournaments for women were successfully introduced. The first women tournament was organized in 1953-54 in Athletics, Badminton, Hockey, and Kho-kho.

Latter, Tennis was introduced in 1957-58, Volleyball in 1959-60 and Table Tennis was introduced in 1960-61. It was a great success of the Inter-University Sports Board.

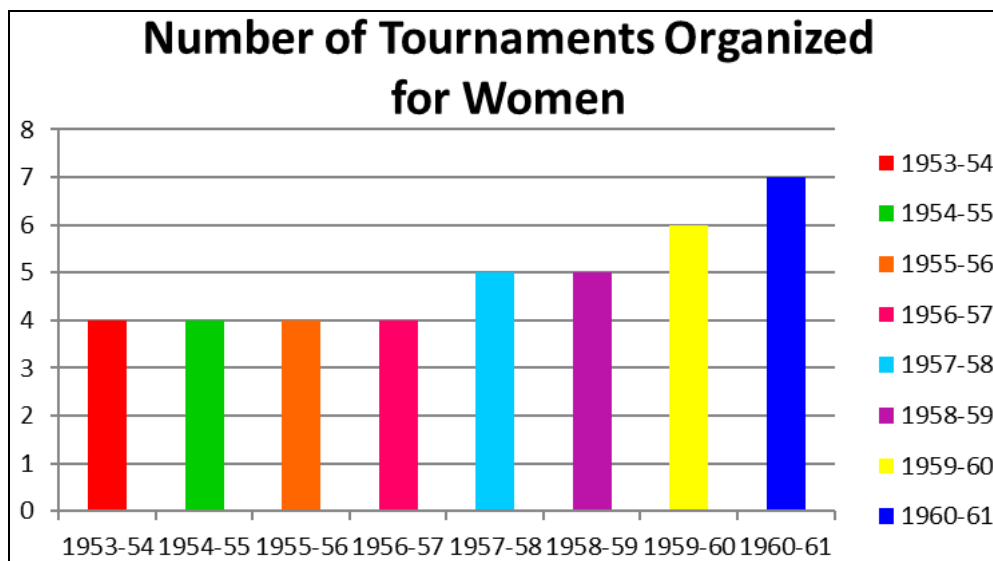


Fig 1: Year wise Graphical Presentation of 3rd decade of Tournaments organized for Women

All the tournaments were organized every year regularly and successfully after the introduction of the games. Athletics, Badminton, Hockey, and Kho-kho were continued till the end of the decade after introduced in 1953-54. These games were organized 8 times out of 8 in the decade. Where tennis was organized 4 times continuously every year, volleyball was

organized 2 times in the last two years of the decade and table tennis was introduced in the very last year of the decade. A total of 7 tournaments were organized for women, where; all the games were introduced in this decade.

Results

Table 2: Results of the Inter-University Tournaments in Women (1953-54 to 1956-57)

Year & Tournaments	Results	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Athletics	Champion	Bombay	Bombay	Bombay	Bombay
	Runners up	Mysore	Mysore	Mysore	Mysore

Badminton	Champion	Punjab	Punjab	Bombay	Report not received
	Runners up	Bombay	Bombay	Punjab	
Hockey	Champion	Results not found	Bombay	Bombay	Poona
	Runners up		Punjab	Punjab	Punjab
Kho-kho	Champion	Nagpur	Poona	Poona	Nagpur
	Runners up	Poona	Nagpur	Baroda	Poona

Table 3: Game wise Analysis of Inter-University Tournaments for Women (1957-58 to 1960-61)

Year & Tournaments	Results	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Athletics	Champion	Bombay	Mysore	Punjab	Punjab
	Runners up	Delhi	Poona	Poona	Poona
Badminton	Champion	Bombay	Bombay	Bombay	Bombay
	Runners up	Banaras	Punjab	Jabalpur	Jabalpur
Hockey	Champion	Poona	Poona	Punjab	Punjab
	Runners up	Punjab	Bombay	Poona	Poona
Tennis	Champion	Madras	Madras	Punjab	Punjab
	Runners up	Kerala	Mysore	Delhi	Delhi
Kho-kho	Champion	Nagpur	Nagpur	Poona	Poona
	Runners up	Poona	Baroda	Gujarat	Gujarat
Volleyball	Champion			Allahabad	Allahabad
	Runners up			Delhi	Delhi
Table Tennis	Champion				Results not found
	Runners up				

Athletics

Athletics was introduced in 1953-54 in which Bombay University was the champion and Mysore University was the runners up. Bombay University won the title 5 times continuously till 1957-58. Mysore won the title in 1958-59

and was runners up 4 times from 1953-54 to 1956-57. Punjab University was 2 times champion in 1959-60 and 1960-61. Delhi University managed to take runners up position in 1957-58 and Poona was 3 times runners up from 1958-59 to 1960-61.

Table 4: Events of Athletics for women

Year	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Events	100 m dash	100 m dash	100 m dash	100 m dash	100 m dash	100 m dash	100 m dash	100 m dash
	200 m dash	200 m dash	200 m dash	200 m dash	200 m dash	200 m dash	200 m dash	200 m dash
	Long lump	Long lump	Long lump	Long lump	Long lump	Long lump	Long lump	Long lump
	High jump	High jump	High jump	High jump	High jump	High jump	High jump	High jump
	Discuss throw	Discuss throw	Discuss throw	Discuss throw	Discuss throw	Discuss throw	Discuss throw	Discuss throw
	Javline throw	Javline throw	Javline throw	Javline throw	Javline throw	Javline throw	Javline throw	Javline throw
	Short put	Short put	Short put	Short put	Short put	Short put	Short put	Short put
	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay	4*100 m relay
					50 m dash			50 m dash
	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles	80 m Hurdles

Inter-University Athletics Tournaments were introduced in 1953-54, in which 9 events were included and organized in the next every year of the decade. Only 50 meter Dash was introduced in 1957-58 and after that, this event was included in 1960-61 only. The entire events are showing in the Table-24.

Badminton

Badminton was also introduced in 1953-54, in the same year of starting the women tournaments. Punjab University was the first champion University in Badminton. Punjab won the title one more time in the very next year i.e. 1954-55. Remaining all the years Bombay University was the champion. Bombay (1954-55) and Banaras (1957-58) Universities were one time runners up each. And Punjab and Jabalpur were 2 times runners up in 1955-56, 1958-59, and 1959-60, 1960-61 respectively. In the 1956-57 report was not found.

Hockey

Hockey was also introduced in 1953-54 as Athletics and Badminton. But the result of the first Inter-University Hockey Tournament in Women was not found. And Bombay won the championship for the next two years, after that, Poona

University won the title 3 times from 1956-57 to 1958-59 and the last two years of the decade Punjab was the winner. Punjab has also achieved the runners up position for 4 times continuously from the tournament started. Bombay was one time runners up in 1958-59 and Poona 2 times runners up in 1959-60 and 1960-61.

Kho-Kho

Kho-Kho was one of the introductory games for women as athletes which were introduced in 1953-54. Nagpur and Poona Universities won the championship four times each, and Poona 3 times, Nagpur one time and Baroda and Gujarat were 2 times runners up.

Tennis

Tennis was introduced in 1957-58 and Madras won the title for the first two years and Punjab won the last two years of the decade. Kerala (1957-58) and Mysore (1958-59) were runners up one each. Delhi was runners up in 1959-60 and 1960-61.

Volleyball

Volleyball started in 1959-60 and only two times were

organized and Allahabad University won the championship and Delhi was the runners up in both the years.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis was introduced in 1960-61, but, the result of the Table Tennis was not found.

Pre-Concluding Analysis

In the first decade, a total of 39 Inter-University Tournaments

were organized for women in 7 different games. The results of 3 tournaments were not found. The results of the remaining 36 tournaments have been analyzed. As can be seen, the champions and runners-up positions of the tournaments are limited to only 13 universities. Only 7 universities got the champion position and on the other hand, only 11 universities got runners up position, out of which 5 universities got both championship and runners up positions. A graphical representation has been given below for better understanding.

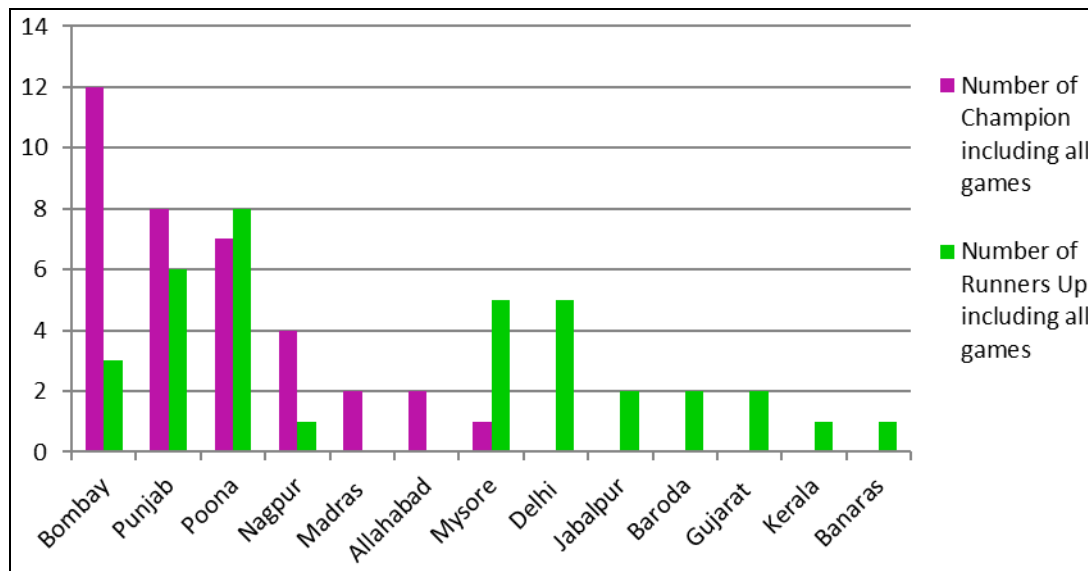


Fig 2: University wise number of Champion and Runners Up position achieved

When the inter-university tournament for women started, that is, in 1953-54, about 34 universities were under the Inter-University Board of India. And later within 1960-61, about 18 more universities were established in this decade. Out of a total of 52 universities, only 13 universities took first or second place in the inter-university tournament for women in the first decade. Maybe the university was less interested in women's sports in the beginning or less number of universities participated due to lack of required participants. Due to which the position of the tournament was limited to only 13 universities.

Moreover, most of the universities that got the position were old. Although, the newly established universities also taken place here. For example, Jabalpur University was established in 1956 and was runners-up in badminton for two consecutive years in 1959-60 and 1960-61. Besides, the universities of Punjab (1947), Poona (1959), and Gujarat (1950), those were established after independence, and were able to earn respect. Punjab University came second with 8 championships and 6 runners up positions with a total of 14 positions. Whereas, Bombay University came 1st with 12 championships and 3 runners ups with a total of 15 positions.

Conclusion

All in all, the Women's Inter-University Tournament, although took a long time to start and the participants were limited in number, but in this decade it gave strong signals that the tournaments will be able to flourish more widely in the future, as we see today.

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