

Chapter 54

Disparity Between Boys and Girls: Concerning Sports in Secondary Level Academic Institutions

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ABSTRACT

Gender inequality is the most eminent issue that happens to women in many ways. Perceiving gender inequality and discriminatory treatment towards women has inspired and derived to do this study. The objectives of this study were to examine the interrelation between and among gender inequality, gender stereotyping, perception - support of parents and teachers for girls' sports in the secondary level academic institutions in Dhaka city, Bangladesh. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods have been implied in conducting this study. Findings are such that the socio-bio- cultural constrains influence the facilities, perceptions and participation of girls in sports. Education so as Sports is powerful agents of socialization and plays influential roles in the construction of masculinity and femininity also an influential factor of empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has established tremendous changes in the global life style. The impact of globalization has a cumulative socio political and economic reflection in the everyday life. This global reality has been contributing in improving relevant issues in life and livelihood. Social advanced and conscious section of people is actively working to drive away the impediments relating to the fundamental elements of development. Huge numbers of organizations are working with the same objective around the world either nationally or internationally. Among those Gender inequality and discrepancies the most eminent issue. In this regard author has had an urge to find out and locate the principle disparity between boys and girls concerning sports in the secondary level academic institutions.

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Today's children are tomorrow's leaders and resources of a nation. This is our moral responsibility to help them bloom and fragment in a sensible manner. Sports or physical education in this stage is very helpful and important to build up children in a healthy manner. But in most cases, more or less commonly people are unconscious and unaware about girls' sports. Usually, boys are appreciated and promoted in sports actively while male plays the dominant role in sports sectors. As we know Gender is a socially constructed, multidimensional issue which is not meant to biological differences. Eventually, the respective role of parents, peers and the media are imperative in this regard especially in the area of sports. Sports are integral aspects of life and a vital issue in childhood and adolescence. Education is a powerful agent of socialization and plays an influential role in the construction of personality. It could be the agents that break down the image and promote changes within the society. This is to focus the issues involved with gender and sports, and gives achievable implications to promote changes. Relation between Sports and gender refers to:

- Gender divide in sports interest and male domination.
- Sign of gender roles in sports.

Though the social learning theory has a psychological explanation regarding 'Gender socialization' it also has a close link with social upbringing of a child. Through social norms, peer, parents' family and social institutions make a child of either sex to learn 'Gender roles' and play a vital role in Children's Psyche. Socialization is the process by which children are supported to learn and aware about the appropriate behavior for their sex identity and relationship with the opposite sex. In a society children are linked into a set of formal and informal relations by which they learn their gender role. Even the social network is also important to involve a person over the life span. Children's activities, achievements and attributes gained from social relationship in between and among the certain networks. These networks provide not only an immediate context for child activities and development but also a range of conduits to social resources, supports to societal institutions, values and policies (Holland & Tisdall, 1997). Frank Zappa said "High school isn't a time and a place, it's a state of mind". Truly, one's age (approximate 11-16) being at Secondary School level student is the personality building phase and it is the time to learn a lot and get a lot. Sports have a great impact on this for every student. Sports play a key role in socio-cultural process to construct masculinity and femininity. Hence Gender equality is the goal of worldwide development while sports also a worthy and enchanting means. It promotes bonding, encourage, and build inherent strength. It helps to have good health sound mind set with improving one's leadership quality.

In recent years, sports and physical activity appears as a strategy for the empowerment girls and has been gaining recognition worldwide. Gender discrimination is a common problem in all aspects of our country; it is extremely prominent in some sectors and sports is one of these. Usually after reaching the puberty age of girls are highly restricted from sports in families and in schools. This is because of the existing gender notions of society that girls' mobility and outwards heavy activities that requires a 'physical or bodily exposure' which should be limited, restricted and veiled! Girl in family and in her school where she grows up learned that – she should not play long jump, high jump and should not run 'like a boy'! Regarding these restrictions most of the female students stated that they enjoyed more freedom while they were kids and there were no differences in school sports also. Puberty snatched girls' golden moments of sports in life and also bring bunches of restrictions for girls.

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