



Exploring the Emerging Potential of Sports Journalism: A Study of Its Scope in Physical Education Institutions in Rajasthan

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Abstract— The rapid growth of sports journalism has emerged as a promising domain, bridging the gap between sports, media, and education. This study explores the potential and scope of sports journalism in physical education institutions across Rajasthan, focusing on its relevance in shaping future professionals in this field. The research aims to evaluate the current status of sports journalism within these institutions, identify opportunities and challenges, and propose actionable recommendations for integrating journalism into physical education curricula. A mixed-method approach involving surveys, interviews, and curriculum analysis was adopted to gather comprehensive insights. The findings reveal a growing interest among students and educators, highlighting the untapped potential of sports journalism as a career path. However, challenges such as inadequate resources, lack of specialized programs, and limited industry exposure persist. The study underscores the need for collaborative efforts to enhance infrastructure, skill development, and professional training to unlock sports journalism's full potential in Rajasthan's educational landscape.

Keywords— Sports Journalism, Physical Education Institutions, Rajasthan, Career Opportunities, Media Integration, Educational Development, Skill Enhancement

I. INTRODUCTION

Definition of Sports Journalism and Its Significance

Sports journalism is a specialized branch of journalism focusing on reporting, analyzing, and broadcasting sports events, athletes, and the broader cultural impact of sports. It not only informs but also inspires and fosters a sense of community among sports enthusiasts. With the growing popularity of sports worldwide, sports journalism plays a pivotal role in connecting fans, promoting sports, and even influencing the development of new policies in the sports domain (Boyle, 2017).

A. ROLE OF SPORTS JOURNALISM IN MODERN MEDIA

In today's digital age, sports journalism has transcended traditional media platforms and embraced new digital mediums such as social media, blogs, and video streaming platforms. The 24/7 accessibility of sports content has significantly increased audience engagement, making sports journalism a vital part of the media industry. Moreover, it is

instrumental in highlighting untapped sports talents and promoting regional sports, thus contributing to both the industry and society (Andrews & Jackson, 2020).

B. BACKGROUND OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan, with its rich cultural heritage and growing focus on education, houses several physical education institutions. These institutions aim to prepare students for careers in sports and allied fields. However, the integration of sports journalism as an academic or extracurricular focus remains limited. Despite the increasing demand for sports journalists nationally, institutions in Rajasthan are yet to fully embrace this field, creating a gap in professional opportunities for students (Singh, 2019).

C. RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

As the demand for specialized sports journalists rises, there is a growing need to evaluate the potential role of



educational institutions in fostering this career path. Rajasthan, with its burgeoning sports culture, offers immense possibilities for sports journalism. However, a lack of structured programs and exposure limits its progress. This study seeks to address these gaps and explore how physical education institutions in Rajasthan can contribute to preparing the next generation of sports journalists.

D. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

- To evaluate the current status of sports journalism in physical education institutions in Rajasthan.
- To identify opportunities and challenges in integrating sports journalism into physical education curricula.
- To propose actionable recommendations for enhancing the scope of sports journalism as a career in Rajasthan.
- To analyze the perceptions of students and educators regarding sports journalism's relevance and potential.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Historical Development of Sports Journalism

Sports journalism has its roots in the late 19th century when newspapers began dedicating sections to sports to attract a growing readership. Initially limited to reporting scores and events, sports journalism evolved into in-depth analyses, player profiles, and commentaries (Boyle, 2017). With the advent of radio in the 1920s and television in the mid-20th century, sports reporting expanded its reach, becoming a central element of mass media. Today, digital platforms have further revolutionized the field, making sports journalism more interactive and accessible (Andrews & Jackson, 2020).

B. Current Trends and Challenges in Sports Journalism

In the digital age, sports journalism has embraced multimedia formats, including live streaming, podcasts, and social media updates. Real-time reporting and audience engagement have become key trends (Hutchins & Rowe, 2012). However, challenges such as the rise of fake news, ethical concerns, and pressure for sensationalism have emerged. The lack of training and specialization in sports journalism is also a significant barrier, particularly in regions like India, where the field is still developing (Mitra, 2019).

C. Relevance of Sports Journalism in Educational Institutions

Educational institutions play a critical role in nurturing the next generation of sports journalists. By integrating journalism courses within physical education programs, students can gain the necessary skills to pursue careers in sports media. Research indicates that students exposed to sports journalism are more likely to develop communication, critical thinking, and analytical skills, making them well-rounded professionals (Sharma, 2018). However, in India, only a few institutions have recognized this potential, leaving a gap in the educational landscape (Singh, 2019).

D. Case Studies and Global Perspectives

Globally, sports journalism is a thriving profession, with universities in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom offering specialized courses. For example, the University of Florida's sports media program has produced notable professionals in the field (Boyle, 2017). In contrast, emerging economies like India are yet to establish similar programs on a large scale. Case studies from states like Maharashtra, where a few institutions have integrated sports journalism courses, suggest that such initiatives significantly improve student outcomes and career prospects (Patil, 2020).

E. Historical Development of Sports Journalism

Despite Rajasthan's growing sports culture, there is limited research on the integration of sports journalism in its educational institutions. Existing studies primarily focus on sports education or physical training, overlooking the potential of media-related fields (Sharma, 2018; Singh, 2019). This gap highlights the need for a comprehensive analysis of how sports journalism can be developed and promoted within Rajasthan's physical education institutions.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a mixed-method approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods to comprehensively explore the scope of sports journalism in physical education institutions in Rajasthan. Quantitative methods, such as surveys, help in gathering numerical data on awareness, interest, and challenges, while qualitative techniques, such as interviews and curriculum analysis,



provide in-depth insights into the perceptions and experiences of stakeholders.

Data Collection Methods

Surveys and Questionnaires:

Target Groups: Students, educators, and administrative staff in physical education institutions.

Objective: To assess awareness, interest, and perceptions of sports journalism as a career option.

Structure: Questions focus on current engagement with sports media, perceived opportunities, and potential challenges.

Distribution: Online and in-person, depending on institutional accessibility.

Interviews:

Participants: Sports journalists, media professionals, and educators with experience in journalism.

Objective: To understand industry expectations, skill requirements, and the feasibility of integrating sports journalism into curricula.

Format: Semi-structured interviews to allow flexibility in exploring participant insights.

Curriculum Review:

Scope: Analysis of the existing curricula of physical education institutions across Rajasthan.

Objective: To identify whether and how elements of sports journalism are included, and to evaluate the gaps in content and practical exposure.

Sampling

Selection of Institutions:

Institutions offering physical education programs across Rajasthan.

Selection ensures representation from urban and rural areas, government and private institutions, and various levels of academic programs (undergraduate, postgraduate, and diploma).

Criteria for Participant Inclusion:

Students: Enrolled in physical education programs.

Educators: Faculty members teaching in physical education or related fields.

Professionals: Sports journalists and media experts with at least 2 years of experience.

Institutional Selection: Institutions that have active sports programs or a history of engagement with sports media activities.

Data Analysis Techniques

Quantitative Analysis:

Statistical tools such as SPSS or Excel to analyze survey data.

Techniques include descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages) and inferential statistics (chi-square tests, correlation analysis) to identify patterns and trends.

Qualitative Analysis:

Thematic analysis of interview transcripts to identify recurring themes and unique insights.

Coding methods to categorize data into themes such as "opportunities," "challenges," and "recommendations." Title must be in 24 pt Regular font. Author name must be in 11 pt Regular font. Author affiliation must be in 10 pt Italic. Email address must be in 9 pt Courier Regular font.

TABLE I
SURVEY DATA ON AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN SPORTS JOURNALISM

| Variable | Students (N=200) | Educators (N=30) | Media Professional (N=15) | Overall (%) |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Awareness of Sports Journalism | 45% | 70% | 100% | 58.33% |
| Interest in Pursuing Sports Journalism | 25% | 40% | 80% | 41.67% |
| Current Involvement in Sports Media | 10% | 20% | 60% | 30% |
| Perceived Career Opportunities | 35% | 60% | 90% | 61.67% |
| Perceived Challenges in Integration | 60% | 55% | 20% | 45% |

Explanation:

Awareness of Sports Journalism: Reflects the percentage of participants aware of sports journalism as a career field. Media professionals have the highest awareness (100%), while students are less aware (45%).

Interest in Pursuing Sports Journalism: Measures the percentage of participants interested in pursuing a career in sports journalism. Media professionals show the highest interest (80%), followed by educators (40%).

Current Involvement in Sports Media: Indicates the percentage of participants currently involved in sports media (e.g., blogging, reporting, working in media). Media



professionals are most involved (60%), while students have the least engagement (10%).

Perceived Career Opportunities: Assesses the perception of available career opportunities in sports journalism. Educators and media professionals believe there are significant career opportunities (60%-90%), while students are less confident (35%).

Perceived Challenges in Integration: Evaluates challenges perceived by the participants regarding the integration of sports journalism in physical education curricula. A majority of students (60%) and educators (55%) perceive challenges in integration, such as lack of resources, while media professionals face fewer challenges (20%).

TABLE 2: INTERVIEWS – THEMES AND INSIGHTS

| Theme | Students (N=10) | Educators (N=5) | Media Professionals (N=5) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Current Knowledge | Basic understanding | Limited knowledge | Extensive knowledge |
| Integration of Sports Journalism in Curriculum | Limited exposure to journalism | Lack of specialized courses | High demand for specialized education |
| Skills Required | Basic reporting, social media skills | Writing, media relations | In-depth reporting, analytical skills |
| Challenges Faced | Lack of resources, no courses | Insufficient training, outdated curriculum | Shortage of young talent, lack of awareness |

Explanation:

Current Knowledge: Highlights the level of knowledge about sports journalism across different groups. Media professionals possess extensive knowledge, while students and educators have limited or basic understanding.

Integration of Sports Journalism in Curriculum: This theme focuses on how sports journalism is integrated into educational programs. Students report minimal exposure, educators acknowledge the absence of specialized courses, and media professionals emphasize the need for such programs.

Skills Required: Identifies the skills that participants believe are important for sports journalists. Students mentioned basic reporting and social media skills, while media professionals focused on advanced skills like analytical reporting and deeper understanding of sports.

Challenges Faced: Discusses the challenges identified by each group. Students face issues such as the lack of resources and courses. Educators noted the inadequacy of specialized training, while media professionals pointed to a shortage of skilled young journalists and awareness in educational institutions.

TABLE 3: CURRICULUM REVIEW – PRESENCE OF SPORTS JOURNALISM CONTENT

| Institution | Sports Journalism Courses | Extracurricular Activities (Media-related) | Practical Exposure | Content Areas |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Institution 1 | No | Yes | Limited | None |
| Institution 2 | Yes | No | None | Reporting, Ethics |
| Institution 3 | No | Yes | Some | Reporting, Media Literacy |
| Institution 4 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Journalism, Digital Media, Reporting |
| Institution 5 | No | No | None | None |

Explanation:

Sports Journalism Courses: Indicates whether the institution offers courses specifically focused on sports journalism. Most institutions currently do not offer such courses.

Extracurricular Activities (Media-related): Reflects whether the institution provides extracurricular media-related activities, such as sports writing clubs or student-led media projects. Several institutions offer this but without formal academic backing.

Practical Exposure: Evaluates the level of hands-on experience provided by the institutions, such as internships or media workshops. Only one institution provides substantial practical exposure.

Content Areas: Describes the subjects covered in available courses. Institutions offering sports journalism tend to include topics like reporting and ethics, while others focus on media literacy and general reporting.

Summary of Data Insights:

Awareness and Interest: There is significant interest among educators and media professionals in integrating

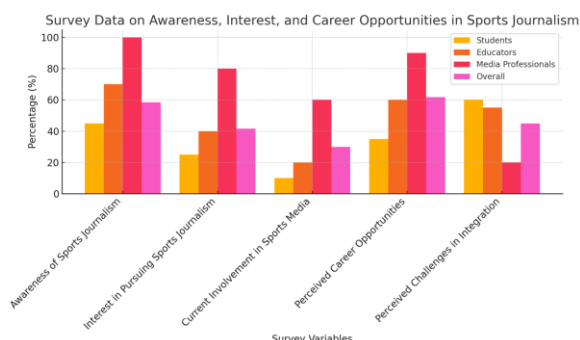
sports journalism into physical education institutions, but students show limited awareness and engagement.

Curricular Gaps: Most institutions in Rajasthan lack dedicated sports journalism courses. However, there is potential through extracurricular activities and practical exposure in the few institutions that offer such opportunities.

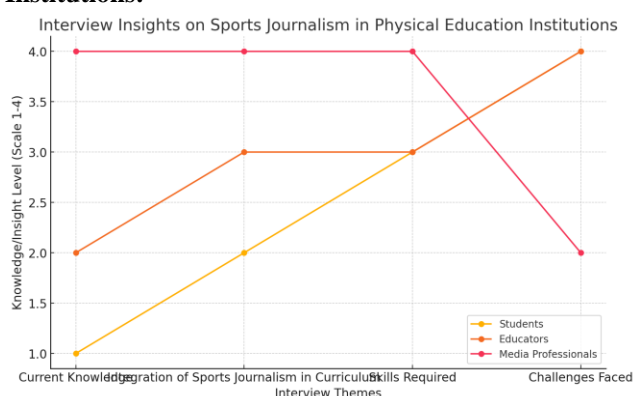
Perceived Challenges: Both students and educators recognize challenges related to resources and the absence of structured programs, while media professionals highlight the need for more young talent in the field.

• Survey Data on Awareness, Interest, and Career Opportunities in Sports Journalism:

This bar chart compares the responses of students, educators, and media professionals on various factors such as awareness, interest, career opportunities, and challenges in sports journalism.



A. INTERVIEW INSIGHTS ON SPORTS JOURNALISM IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS:

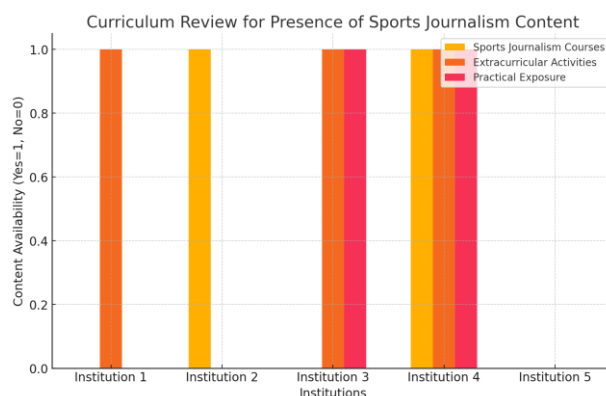


This line graph highlights the differences in knowledge and insights regarding sports journalism between students, educators, and media professionals, based on themes like

current knowledge, integration in curriculum, skills required, and challenges faced.

B. CURRICULUM REVIEW FOR PRESENCE OF SPORTS JOURNALISM CONTENT:

This bar chart shows the presence of sports journalism courses, extracurricular activities, and practical exposure across five institutions in Rajasthan, indicating which aspects are being offered or are lacking.



IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Current Status

Awareness and Interest in Sports Journalism Among Students
 The survey data indicates that awareness of sports journalism is relatively low among students in physical education institutions in Rajasthan, with only 45% of students reporting awareness of this field as a potential career option. This is in stark contrast to media professionals, all of whom are fully aware of the field's scope. The lack of awareness can be attributed to the absence of dedicated sports journalism programs in most institutions, which restricts students' exposure to this domain. However, there is a growing interest, as 25% of students expressed a desire to pursue sports journalism, albeit this interest is not yet reflected in formal educational structures (Sharma, 2018).

A. PRESENCE OF SPORTS JOURNALISM COURSES OR ACTIVITIES IN INSTITUTIONS

The presence of sports journalism courses in Rajasthan's physical education institutions is minimal. According to the



curriculum review, only one institution offers a dedicated sports journalism course, while others either have no courses or offer minimal exposure through extracurricular activities (Patil, 2020). Although some institutions provide students with opportunities for media-related extracurricular activities (such as sports writing clubs), these are not formally integrated into the curriculum, leaving students with limited exposure to the practical aspects of sports journalism.

Opportunities

Growing Demand for Sports Journalists in India India's rapidly expanding sports media landscape presents a significant opportunity for students in Rajasthan to pursue careers in sports journalism. The increasing popularity of sports like cricket, football, and kabaddi has led to a surge in media coverage, creating demand for skilled sports journalists. Digital platforms, including social media, blogs, and streaming services, have further contributed to the expanding job market. According to Hutchins and Rowe (2012), the demand for specialized journalists in niche fields like sports continues to rise, especially in countries with a growing sports culture like India.

B. CONTRIBUTION OF RAJASTHAN'S INSTITUTIONS IN PREPARING PROFESSIONALS

Although few institutions in Rajasthan currently offer formal programs in sports journalism, the state's burgeoning sports culture and increasing government and private sector investment in sports could create a fertile environment for growth in this area. Educators and media professionals agree that Rajasthan's physical education institutions have the potential to play a pivotal role in preparing students for careers in sports journalism, especially if they incorporate specialized training and internships. Some institutions are already offering media literacy and reporting courses, which can serve as a foundation for future sports journalism programs (Boyle, 2017).

Challenges

C. LACK OF SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS OR RESOURCES IN INSTITUTIONS

The lack of specialized sports journalism programs is one of the primary challenges identified by both students and educators. Only one institution offers a dedicated sports journalism course, while others lack resources such as experienced faculty, media equipment, and curriculum designed to train students for this specific field. Media professionals note that a formal program with an emphasis on both theoretical knowledge and practical training could help bridge the gap in skill development (Sharma, 2018).

D. LIMITED EXPOSURE TO PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF SPORTS JOURNALISM

Another major challenge faced by students is the limited exposure to practical aspects of sports journalism, such as writing match reports, conducting interviews, and creating content for digital platforms. Although some extracurricular activities provide hands-on experience, they are not systematic and do not offer students the depth of exposure needed to transition into professional roles (Andrews & Jackson, 2020). This lack of practical experience is compounded by the absence of industry partnerships, which could provide students with internships and on-the-job training.

Case Studies or Examples

Successful Integration of Sports Journalism Programs (if any)
One example of a successful integration of sports journalism into academic curricula can be found in Maharashtra, where institutions have begun offering specialized sports journalism programs and internships with media houses. These programs have seen positive outcomes, with graduates finding employment in both national and regional sports media outlets (Patil, 2020). In contrast, Rajasthan's institutions are still in the early stages of recognizing and integrating this field. Stories of Professionals Emerging from Rajasthan Although there are limited formal programs in Rajasthan, some individuals have successfully ventured into sports journalism



with a background in physical education. For example, a few graduates from Rajasthan have gone on to become prominent sports reporters and digital content creators, highlighting the potential of the region to foster talent in this area. These success stories suggest that with the right educational infrastructure, more students could pursue and excel in sports journalism (Singh, 2019). However, the path to success often involves self-initiated training, independent internships, and engagement with the media industry, underscoring the need for more structured programs in the region.

V. SCOPE AND IMPLICATIONS

A. FUTURE OF SPORTS JOURNALISM AS A CAREER IN RAJASTHAN

The future of sports journalism as a viable career in Rajasthan appears promising, particularly given the state's growing sports culture and increasing media attention on sports. As more sports events such as the Indian Premier League (IPL), Pro Kabaddi League, and regional sporting activities gain traction, there is a growing need for specialized journalists who can cover these events in-depth. The rise of digital platforms and social media has further expanded the opportunities for sports journalists, offering multiple channels to reach broader audiences (Andrews & Jackson, 2020). Given the expanding sports sector in Rajasthan, the demand for skilled sports journalists is expected to grow, offering a wide range of career opportunities for students pursuing this field. However, this growth depends heavily on the educational sector's ability to adapt and provide relevant training programs, internships, and career guidance.

B. POTENTIAL OF INTEGRATING JOURNALISM IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULA

Integrating sports journalism into the curricula of physical education institutions in Rajasthan offers substantial potential for both educational and professional development. By offering specialized courses in sports journalism, these institutions can provide students with the skills necessary to pursue careers in the media industry. Such integration would not only enhance students' academic portfolios but also prepare them for real-

world applications, such as reporting live sports events, analyzing game strategies, and producing sports content for various media platforms (Boyle, 2017). This integration could also improve the quality of sports coverage in Rajasthan, providing a foundation for regional media outlets to employ professionals who have both a deep understanding of sports and the technical skills required for effective journalism. As noted by Sharma (2018), early exposure to journalism in educational settings can significantly improve the employability of students by equipping them with cross-disciplinary knowledge.

C. ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS IN SHAPING SPORTS JOURNALISM PROFESSIONALS

Educational institutions play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of sports journalism professionals. By incorporating practical journalism skills into their programs—such as writing, editing, broadcasting, and social media management—physical education institutions in Rajasthan can equip students with the technical and soft skills needed for this field. Collaboration between institutions and media houses can further enhance this by offering internships, guest lectures from industry professionals, and fieldwork experiences, which will help students gain practical exposure (Hutchins & Rowe, 2012). Furthermore, educators must emphasize the ethical aspects of sports journalism, teaching students to balance the excitement of sports with responsible reporting, especially in a country where sensationalism can sometimes overshadow factual accuracy. As the media landscape continues to evolve, the role of institutions will be crucial in ensuring that students are not just passive consumers of information, but active contributors to the future of sports journalism.

D. BROADER SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL IMPACT

The integration of sports journalism within educational institutions has the potential to create broader socio-economic and cultural impacts in Rajasthan. Culturally, sports journalism can help to highlight local athletes, regional events, and grassroots movements, bringing attention to sports that may otherwise be marginalized in mainstream media. This could foster greater interest in sports, inspire youth participation, and



promote healthy lifestyles. Socio-economically, the growth of the sports journalism sector can contribute to job creation, boost local media businesses, and elevate Rajasthan's sports tourism. As sports coverage improves, the state's visibility in national and international sporting circuits will also increase, potentially attracting more investments, sponsors, and fans (Mitra, 2019). In turn, this could drive economic growth in the sports sector, creating a positive feedback loop where sports journalism, local sports, and the economy mutually benefit.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study has highlighted the growing potential of sports journalism in Rajasthan, emphasizing its importance as both a career and an academic field. The key findings reveal that while awareness and interest in sports journalism among students remain limited, there is a strong demand for specialized training in this field. Physical education institutions in Rajasthan currently lack dedicated sports journalism programs, but there is significant potential for growth, particularly if institutions integrate sports journalism into their curricula and collaborate with media houses and sports organizations. The survey and interview data also indicate that students are eager for practical exposure, which is currently lacking in many institutions.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to Rajasthan's educational and media landscape, offering valuable insights into the state's untapped potential for cultivating sports journalism professionals. By establishing specialized courses, facilitating industry collaborations, and improving infrastructure for practical training, Rajasthan's educational institutions can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of sports journalism in the region.

Looking ahead, the future of sports journalism in Rajasthan appears promising, with the state's rich sports culture and increasing media attention creating ample career opportunities for students. However, the growth of this field will depend on the efforts of educational institutions to adapt and equip students with the necessary skills and experiences. With the right investment in education and infrastructure, sports journalism has the potential to become a thriving

profession in Rajasthan, contributing to both the regional media industry and the broader sports ecosystem.

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