

Assessing the Role of Village Panchayats in Sports Development in Rural Nagaon

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Abstract- This study examines the role of Village Panchayats in the promotion and development of sports in rural Nagaon, Assam. The research focuses on understanding how local governance bodies contribute to sports infrastructure, community engagement, and the identification of local sports talent. Through a qualitative and quantitative approach, this paper assesses the effectiveness of Panchayats in nurturing grassroots sports and fostering youth participation. The study also explores the challenges and opportunities in rural areas, offering policy recommendations to enhance sports development at the grassroots level.

Keywords: Village Panchayats, sports infrastructure, community engagement, local governance bodies

I. INTRODUCTION

Rural areas in India, like Nagaon in Assam, have immense potential for sports development, yet face significant challenges. Village Panchayats, the local governance bodies, play a crucial role in bridging the gap between governmental sports policies and community-level participation. However, the extent of their involvement in sports development has not been systematically assessed. This paper aims to explore the various ways in which Panchayats contribute to sports development and their influence on community engagement, infrastructure development, and youth empowerment. The present research work deals with following objectives:

- To examine the role of Village Panchayats in promoting sports activities in rural Nagaon.
- To identify the challenges and opportunities in utilizing Panchayats for sports development.

- To suggest policy recommendations for improving sports governance at the village level.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review would encompass several key areas related to sports development in rural India and the role of Panchayats. The review should include studies on:

- **The Role of Panchayats in Rural Development:** According to Mahanta & Deka (2020), Panchayats are pivotal in grassroots governance and community development in rural Assam. However, their role in sports remains underexplored.
- **Sports Infrastructure in Rural Areas:** Sharma et al. (2019) note that many rural regions lack proper sports infrastructure, which inhibits youth participation in sports. Panchayats are key in managing limited resources and prioritizing sports development at the local level.
- **Youth Participation in Sports:** The study by Banerjee & Mukherjee (2018) emphasizes how sports can act as a tool for youth empowerment, but the rural landscape presents barriers such as socio-economic conditions and lack of awareness about sports opportunities.
- **Government Schemes and Panchayats:** Government schemes like Khelo India have seen success in certain areas, but their implementation at the Panchayat level has been inconsistent (Singh, 2021).

- Challenges in Rural Sports Development: Limited budgetary allocations, lack of trained coaches, and insufficient grassroots awareness of existing policies remain major barriers (Chatterjee & Prasad, 2017).

III. METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a mixed-method approach consisting of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study is based on the field work in the study regions. This fieldwork is based on the village to village survey and collect the data from the schools located in the study regions. In addition, interview and questionnaire methods have been also applied. As a athletic coach, the author (s) have also observed the sports condition in the study region.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 Gram Panchayat of Raha Sub division and its distance from district head quarter

Village Name (Gram Panchayat)	Distance from District Headquarter (in km.)
Amsoi	43.9
Amtola	29
Bagalajan	42
Chaparmukh	26
Dakhin Jagial	18
Dighaliati	28
Dighaldori	18
Ghahi	12
Hatbor	36
Kamargaon	29
Magurgaon	36
Phulaguri	14
Pramila	42
Ranthali	10
Sahari	24
Salmara	32
Barapujia	23
Jarabari	
Monipurtop	29

In table number 1 shows that the name of the gram panchayat (villages) and distance from the them headquarter. All these villages situated in the Raha subdivision, Nagaon, Assam. The conditions of sport facilities are discussed below.

Amsoi gram panchayat is located in the Raha subdivision of the Nagaon in Assam. It is situated 43.9 kilometer from the Nagaon District headquarters. The

present research found that sports facility is a compact football field is there, which can accommodate various sports activities simultaneously. Nevertheless, there is a notable absence of essential facilities such as spectator seats, gymnasiums, and sports equipment.

Amtola gram panchayat is located in the Raha subdivision of the Nagaon district in Assam. It is situated 29 kilometers away from Nagaon district headquarters. Amtola Gram Panchayat, is home to a dynamic population that demonstrates a growing passion for sports and leisure activities.

Amtola Gram Panchayat has many expansive playgrounds distributed across its jurisdiction, offering enough room for a range of outdoor sports activities like cricket, football, and volleyball. There are just a few indoor sports facilities, mostly located in schools and community centers. Indoor sports like badminton and table tennis have their dedicated facilities. Although the playgrounds are normally well-maintained, frequent maintenance and repairs are necessary to guarantee the safety and functionality of the amenities. The essential cricket kit such as bats, balls, and stumps can be found. While footballs and goalposts are easily obtainable, there is a scarcity of essential equipment like training cones, bibs, and goal netting. Moreover, most playgrounds come with volleyballs and nets, but wear and strain frequently necessitate their replacement. Schools and community centers provide equipment for indoor sports such as badminton and table tennis. However, there is a need for better quality and a larger amount of equipment.

Bagalajan Gram panchayat is located in the Raha subdivision of the Nagaon District in Assam. It is situated 42 kilometers from Nagaon District headquarters. Bagalajan Gram Panchayat community that is increasingly enthusiastic about sports and leisure pursuits. Strategically placed playgrounds throughout Bagalajan Gram Panchayat's jurisdiction provide a variety of opportunities for outdoor sporting activities such as cricket, football, and kabaddi. Interior. Schools and community centers offer limited indoor sports facilities. You can use these places for games like badminton and volleyball, with potential for further growth. Maintenance: The current playgrounds are typically in good condition, but regular maintenance is necessary to guarantee safety

and usage. Furthermore, it is critical to address issues such as irregular terrain and malfunctioning machinery. The equipment facilities include essential cricket gear such as bats, balls, and stumps; fields for footballs, volleyball, kabaddi, have available equipment, but they may require replacement due to damage or deterioration.

Chaparmukh is located in the Raha subdivision of the Nagaon district. It is approximately 26 kilometers from Nagaon's district headquarters and 5 kilometers from Raha's sub-district headquarters. The Chaparmukh distributes numerous expansive playgrounds throughout its jurisdiction. These well-maintained recreational areas provide enough room for engaging in a variety of outdoor activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball.

Dakhin Jagial is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon District. It is approximately 18 km away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Dakhin Jagial Gram Panchayat has multiple playgrounds spread across the region, providing a variety of outdoor games like cricket, football, and kabaddi. Indoor sports facilities are rare but available in schools and community centers. These venues may accommodate sports such as badminton and volleyball, but expansion may be required to meet rising demand. Most playgrounds include basic cricket equipment such as bats, balls, and stumps.

The location Dighaliati gram panchayat is located within in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district. The location is situated 28 kilometers west of Nagaon District headquarters. Dighaliati boasts several playgrounds spread across its area, providing ample space for various outdoor sports such as cricket, football, and volleyball. While limited, indoor sports facilities are available in schools and community centers. Basic cricket equipment, including bats, balls, and stumps, is provided in most playgrounds. Footballs and goalposts are readily available, but there may be a shortage of supplementary equipment such as training cones and bibs, essential for effective training sessions.

Dighaldori is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon District. It is approximately 18 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Dighaliati has many expansive playgrounds

distributed across its territory, offering abundant room for diverse outdoor sports activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball. Although they are not abundant, schools and community centers do provide indoor sports facilities. Schools and community centers design these facilities for activities like badminton and table tennis.

Ghahi gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district. It is approximately 12 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Ghahi Gram Panchayat has many well-distributed playgrounds, offering enough room for a range of outdoor sports activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball. Schools and community centers do provide indoor sports facilities. People may use these areas for activities like badminton and table tennis.

Hatbor gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district. It is approximately 36 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Hatbor has many spacious playgrounds distributed across its territory, offering abundant room for diverse outdoor sports activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball.

Kamargaon gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district. It is approximately 29 kilometer away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Kumargaon's schools and community centers do provide indoor sports facilities like badminton and table tennis.

Magurgaon gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 36 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Magurgaon has many strategically located playgrounds around its territory, offering ample room for a range of outdoor sports activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball.

Phulaguri gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 14 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Phulaguri's schools and community centers do provide indoor sports facilities. Schools and community centers design these areas for activities like badminton and table tennis

Pramilla gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 42 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. In Pramila, sports facilities such as badminton and table tennis can be seen in schools and community centers. Most playgrounds come with basic cricket equipment like bats, balls, and stumps. Footballs and goalposts are easily obtainable, but there can be a scarcity of other equipment like training cones and bibs, which are crucial for productive training sessions.

Ranthali gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 10 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Ranthali has many strategically located playgrounds, offering ample room for a range of outdoor sports activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball.

Sahari gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 24 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Sahari Gram Panchayat has several well-distributed playgrounds throughout its territory,

Salmara gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 32 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Salmara Gram Panchayat has many playgrounds, which offering abundant room for a range of outdoor sports activities like cricket, football, and volleyball. These grounds are basically belonging to particular schools.

Barapujia gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state. It is approximately 23 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters, Barapujia Gram Panchayat has several well-distributed playgrounds, offering indoor and outdoor sports activities, including cricket, football, and volleyball.

Monipurtop gram panchayat is situated in the Raha sub-division of the Nagaon district of Assam state under kapli block. It is approximately 29 kilometers away from the Nagaon District headquarters. Monipurtop has many strategically located playgrounds, offering abundant room for a range of

outdoor sports activities like cricket, football, and volleyball.

Issues and suggestions

Funding constraints provide difficulty in enhancing sports infrastructure and procuring new equipment due to limited financial resources. Engaging in collaborations with nearby enterprises or pursuing governmental grants may effectively ensure the acquisition of funds for enhancement endeavors. It is critical to improve community involvement and raise awareness about the benefits of sports participation. Implementing frequent sporting activities, seminars, and training programs may foster increased engagement among people. It is crucial to have a well-organized maintenance plan for sports facilities and equipment to guarantee its durability and safety. This may include training local personnel or volunteers to perform maintenance duties and implementing a consistent timetable for conducting inspections. Without a fair and fine selection, players lose motivation and become less engaged in the game. In all games and sports, fair selection is very important, and it plays a critical role in motivating athletes to participate. In the Nagaon District, a single stadium serves as the sole venue for simultaneous sports competitions. These games include basketball, volleyball, Kabaddi, football, cricket, and hockey. At this very moment, there are rehearsals taking place in both the morning and the evening. In spite of this, athletes have a difficult time concentrating on their own game when they are playing many games at the same time. This situation could potentially lead to injuries for the athletes involved. The stadium authorities also use this pitch for numerous competitions, which complicates training.

V. CONCLUSION

Although many Gram Panchayats have a basis of sports infrastructure and equipment amenities, there is a desire for further progress and improvement to cater to the changing demands of its inhabitants. By tackling the identified obstacles and executing the suggested tactics, the Panchayat may establish a favorable environment for sports involvement and community welfare. In conclusion, while Village Panchayats in rural Nagaon play an essential role in sports

development, their efforts are constrained by resource limitations, a lack of awareness, and inadequate infrastructure. To improve the effectiveness of Panchayats in sports development, there needs to be an emphasis on better funding, capacity-building, and the establishment of stronger ties with regional and national sports organizations.

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