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## Impact of professionalization on male basketball players in India

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### Abstract

Rightly is it said,

”Passion when becomes Your Profession gives Pleasure”.

Often Players in India have faced the passion paradox that inhibits the very existence of dreams. Until a few decades ago, people believed that life without dreams is going to be an easy one. But with the Evolution of Human mind and psychology, the barriers to conquer their passion as profession have been surpassed.

Being Professionalized in Sports is all about a personnel getting a larger share of societal respect and reward by playing well on an Unambiguous level.

The present investigation has been conducted with an objective to illuminate the impact of professionalization on the male basketball players in India. It would give an insight into the changes brought in the Arena of Basketball when adopted at a professional level and the significant social impact that it has, specifically on the lives of Indian Male Basketball Players.

The Research has been carried out at a holistic level to highlight the extent of Professionalization of Indian Male Basket Ball Players and to ascertain the demand of choosing Basketball as their career.

**Keywords:** Amateurism, professionalization, Indian male basketball players

### Introduction

Let us look at the names like Lionel Messi, Roger Federer and Virat Kohli and think of what they have in common?

Apart from being famous Sports personalities, these names are counted among the richest people of the world. On a short note, these men make billions by doing what they truly love. In a nation like ours, sports have always been misjudged as a risky career move. But this belief has been proved wrong as these world beaters have been the flashes in the pan. If we look at the past, we see that being a basketball player meant to live two juggling lives, one to play & the other to make their both ends meet. This has not only been the scenario in India but if we look into the story by Geoff Watson, in the countries like New Zealand, amateurism has always been the dominant form of sports whereas professionalism was considered as morally dubious. But in 1976, the New Zealand Amateur Athletics Association (NZAAA) negotiated a deal with their Olympic and decided to pay and facilitate the new upcoming players. This had been a major step towards professionalization in sports.

In India, Basketball was introduced in the year 1891, but it was only the Professionalization of basketball players that made this sport viable in the smaller cities than other sports. Recently, for the first time in Indian basketball a few young male players were signed by the United Basketball Alliance (UBA) (that officially came out on February 1, 2018) [3] which had been a milestone for other Indian male basketball players. The first multi years contract offered by UBA not only rewarded the players with money but also facilitated them with official training from the top experts of USA, along with the nutritional guidance to maximize their performance. This filled in them an extremity of zest and energy to compete and adopt basketball as their sole profession.

This qualitative study has been carried out to highlight the impact and importance of professionalization in Indian male basketball players and to unfurl the necessity to completely sync their passion of playing with their career. We have often heard that by transforming your passion into profession, you'll never have to wait for weekends. Here, we tend to explore to the depth of this statement, its impact on young Indian Male basketball players by analyzing the changes brought into their lives by adopting their game as their profession.

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## Methodology

Projective techniques used for re-researching the impact and extent of professionalization in Indian Male Basketball players includes close reading of Literature and qualitative studying as a research tool. A proficient study was done to acknowledge the behavioral as well as the social changes brought about by the adherence of expertness in the game of basketball. A descriptive research was done that also included a detailed analysis of the Professional Basketball players in India.

After the invention of Basketball in 1941, Basketball Association of America was established in 1946 which three years later modernized to the National Basketball Association (NBA). It was only after its development, that players like Satnam Singh, Princepal Singh, Amjyot Singh came closer to reaching NBA and inspired the other Indian Male Basketball players for acquiring the same position. By the searches made in the field, it was revealed that this made people to believe that basketball as a career came with scant options that could be pursued with utmost dedication and hard work. Though not everyone could reach this ultimate level of success, but there have been passionate players who could work hard towards perfection and grab this opportunity. The article published by The New York Times (dated Oct 3, 2019) [5] magazine talks about if there exist players who have fallen in love with the game and if they could attain supremacy in the same. It threw light on the views and goals of one of the best shooters of NBA Ankit Hooda, who comes from Haryana.

Though NBA believes that India could be its next Billion Dollar Market, it has been seen that it requires to put a lot more efforts to convince the young Indian Basketball players to be passionate about their game. The need of the hour is to eradicate the fear of earning their livelihood. Though NBA has trained more than 10,000 Physical Education Teachers in India and hosted more than 1500 events across 34 Indian Cities but the figures remain enormously small on comparison with the International Cricket Council World Cup 2019 that attracted 545 million viewers alone. The fact remains that Cricket has still been the most dominant and loving sport of our country.

Another study was done to carefully observe the actions of UBA, the first men's professional league of basketball in India, towards uplifting the living standards of Basketball players in India. The UBA hosts a season of league each year and the players compete to ultimately yield better results. Siddhant Shindey who played his debut match in the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of UBA has now been evolved as the superstar of Indian Male Basketball Players.

## Result & Discussions

Observational study reveals that even if the Indian male basketball players make it to NBA and their sport would be popularized, they still have to be realistic and ensure to secure a financial source of income for themselves. This shows that there is still the need to expand professionalization among Indian Male Basketball Players so that they believe that they have plethora of options in pursuing their game as profession.

Being one of the most former countries to have introduced Basketball, India has given the nation and its people the most avid players in this game who have done wonders by winning several trophies for their country. But the major demand of the time is to encourage these male Basketball players to dedicate their lives fully towards their game rather than sticking around it on a part time basis. Here, for reference we look at how enrolling into UBA Professionally

brought about major changes in the performance as well as the perspective of the Indian Basketball player Siddhant Singh Shindey in his life and career.

**Fig 1:** Impact of Professionalization on the Performance Growth of UBA Male Basketball player – Siddhant Shindey

| Sr. No. | Elements | Season 4 | Season 5 |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1.      | Points   | 9.2      | 18       |
| 2.      | Rebounds | 2.4      | 04       |
| 3.      | Assists  | 4.4      | 05       |

The growth of his performance is unquestionably tremendous as he now represents India in the most prestigious events organized by FIBA (International Basketball Federation). He mentions in one of the articles that Joy and Basketball are inseparable for him. It feels like India needs more such organizations, both at State and National Levels, to enhance and expand basketball professionally to find more jewels like him.

## Conclusion

Based on the study the following conclusions have been drawn:- Though Basketball has adopted a form of professionalism, the Indian Male Basketball players still doubt it to be realistic to sync their game with their careers. This calls for a greater work and effort to be done in the same field. Impact of Professionalization on Indian Male Basketball players has been indisputably productive and have lead them to success, but there's a room still which needs to eradicate the darkness and identify the truly talented Indian Male Basketball Players and bring them to light.

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