



YOUTH OF MANIPUR: SKILL AND DEVELOPMENT

Author:

Meghana Yendrebam

Student of Amity University, Noida

Co- Author

Dr. Anna Nath Ganguly

Asst. Professor

Amity Institute of Social Science

Amity University, Noida

ABSTRACT:

Nestled in the north-eastern region of India lies Manipur, a land of unparalleled beauty, cultural diversity, and a rich history. Known as the "Jewel of India," Manipur captivates visitors with its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant traditions, and the indomitable spirit of its people. This essay explores the unique characteristics that make Manipur a truly remarkable destination.

Manipur is located in the easternmost part of India, bordered by Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, and the international boundaries of Myanmar. The state's topography comprises lush valleys, rolling hills, and the iconic Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India. Its abundant flora and fauna, including the endangered Sangai deer, add to Manipur's ecological significance. Manipur is a treasure trove of cultural heritage, deeply rooted in its indigenous communities. The Meitei, Nagas, Kukis, and other ethnic groups contribute to the diverse tapestry of traditions, art forms, and festivals. The state's classical dance form, Manipuri, is renowned worldwide for its grace and elegance. Handloom and handicrafts, such as the intricate Moirangphee and Phanek textiles, showcase the artistic brilliance of the local artisans.

Manipur offers a plethora of tourist attractions that cater to various interests. Imphal, the capital city, is home to historical sites like Kangla Fort, which witnessed numerous battles and power struggles throughout history. The serene beauty of Loktak Lake and its floating phumdis (massive circular vegetation islands) enthrall visitors. The scenic beauty of the hill stations like Ukhrul, Tamenglong, and Churachandpur beckons nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts.

Manipur's love for sports, particularly football and polo, is legendary. The state has produced talented sportspersons who have excelled at national and international levels. Polo, known as the "Sport of Kings," has a rich legacy in Manipur and is played with immense passion. Adventure enthusiasts can indulge in trekking, mountaineering, and river rafting, with the picturesque Dzuko Valley and Barak River offering enthralling experiences.

Manipur's cuisine reflects its unique cultural blend. Traditional Manipuri dishes like Eromba (a spicy fish stew), Kangshoi (vegetable stew), and Singju (a salad made with indigenous herbs) tantalize the taste buds with their distinctive flavors. The use of aromatic herbs and spices adds a delightful twist to the culinary experience. Despite its charm, Manipur faces certain challenges that need attention. Infrastructure development, connectivity, and sustainable tourism practices are areas that require continuous efforts. By addressing these challenges, Manipur can unlock its full potential as a thriving tourism destination while preserving its natural

and cultural heritage for future generations. Manipur, with its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, and warm-hearted people, offers an enchanting experience to all who venture into its embrace. Its amalgamation of nature's splendor, rich history, and cultural diversity makes it a must-visit destination. As Manipur continues to evolve and preserve its unique identity, it holds the promise of becoming a shining gem that will forever captivate the hearts of those who visit.

Introduction

Manipur is a land of diversity. The eastern most state of the country has vast number of Tribals, people from all over India, many culture, history, heritage, religion, and traditions. The state is surrounded by hills and the only floating lake in the world can be found in this small state. But what truly amazing is the growing population of youth and their passion. The people of Manipur can be considered gifted when it comes to skills and creativity. From first bencher to the last, almost all the students are passionate about sports and extra curriculum activities. Manipuri people are very skilled when it comes to handicraft. There is a long history of using bamboo and banana leaves in day-today life. The people obviously have taken advantage of being one of the India's largest bamboos producing state. Many youngsters are keeping the tradition alive by being sustainable and even turning it into fashion and trends. In terms of handicraft, craft and handloom, Manipur holds a strong history. The skills are passed down from generations and the youths adds their creativity making unique and one-of-a-kind products. Sports play a crucial role in the lives of young individuals, shaping their physical, mental, and social development. Engaging in sports activities empowers youth by fostering essential qualities like discipline, teamwork, resilience, and leadership. This essay explores the significance of youth participation in sports and highlights the myriad benefits it offers to individuals and society as a whole.

According to the latest census of Manipur that was done in 2011, the approximate population of Manipur is 36.49 Lakhs.

Adding the culture, skills, potentials and the aids from government, the youths has much more to offer. But what is the next step? What does the people expect from the government? Where to focus?

Manipur and sport

Manipur places a lot of emphasis on sports. The state is frequently referred to as the sports powerhouse. Sport has a significant role in historical events, mythology, and traditional events. Polo was also a gift from Manipur to the world. Manipur's native sports include Sagol kangjei (Polo), Mukna kangjei, Yubi lakpi, Hiyang tannaba, Thang-ta, and Kang, among others.

Even after centuries, games and sports continue to be things that everybody may enjoy. Recent events demonstrated that Manipur is still as devoted to sports as it was in the past. A notable number of athletes from Manipur have competed in the Olympic Games. Manipur's initial Olympian is

- i. MC Marry Kom, a boxer, earned the bronze medal in the London 2012 Olympic Games.
- ii. In the weightlifting competition at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Saikhom Mirabai Chanu took home the silver medal.
- iii. At the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Shanglekpa Nilakanta Sharma, playing for the Men's Hockey Team, earned the Bronze medal.

In Manipur, there are three Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna winners and 20 Arjuna winners.

Youth

The state's young are quite outspoken about their demands and wants. While they embrace fusion and new ideas, they are equally proud of their culture. The state's youngsters are special in that they have a lifelong passion for sports. Youth are crucial to the development of a nation.

Government's aid

Sports

Project Name : District Youth Skilling, Entrepreneurship and Employment Centres in 6 districts

Location : Imphal East (Rs. 10 crore) , Imphal West (Rs. 10 crore), Churachandpur (Rs. 10 crore), Senapati (Rs. 5 crore), Ukhrul (Rs. 5 crore) and Tamenglong (Rs 5 crore)

Outlay : Rs.45 Crore

Implementing Department : Planning Department

Executing Agency : MPHC Ltd

Economic Benefit : The largest barrier preventing young people from starting their own businesses has been high commercial space rents. Many young people also find it difficult to take time away from their jobs to join in programmes for upgrading their skills. 5 significant business regions in the State will have centres built as a result of this initiative. Young people looking to launch their own businesses will be able to rent out commercial spaces. Government Start-Up Scheme participants would be given preference. Additionally, this institution will offer training facilities so that the young may improve their abilities close to where they work. They will be able to obtain better loans from financial institutions thanks to having a business outlet. This initiative will promote entrepreneurship, credit linkage, and also combine credit linkage with other government programmes.

National Sports Academy

The National Sports Academy is a residential, coed, English-medium public school that was founded with the goal of creating athletes of the highest national and international standards. The Academy offers both general education and athletic instruction. The Academy was founded on July 24, 2007, thanks to a special package from the Indian Prime Minister. Government of India's Ministry of DONER is responsible for the package.

Aim

The National Sports Academy's main goal is to develop young athletes in the nation into elite athletes in the designated sports disciplines via scientific training.

Location

The Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, in Imphal, houses the National Sports Academy. The Vth National Games were held in February 1999 at the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, which is located in the centre of Imphal.

The Campus

Within the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, the Academy has its own campus that includes the administrative building, school buildings, boys' and girls' hostels and staff housing. In addition to this, Academy students have access to all of the stadiums and other amenities housed inside the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex. The Khuman Lampak Sports Complex has 168 acres in total, including the areas used by the Academy. The Academy currently has the following structures and sporting facilities:

(a) Buildings:

- i) School building with Class Rooms, Library, Science and Math Labs.
- ii) Separated by Boy's and Girls hostels (150 bedded each).
- iii) Administrative Block.

iv) Residential quarters for staff.

(b) Sports Infrastructure:

i) Indoor Haal for wrestling, judo

ii) Taekwondo training centre with imported mats

iii) 2 Boxing Rings

iv) Archery Shooting Range

v) Standard Swimming pool

vi) 400 mts. Synthetic, 8 Lane & 200 mts. Synthetic, 4 Lane Athletics Tracks

6 weight training Gyms (16 Stations)

Handlooms and handicrafts

One of the Directorates established by the Government of Manipur under the management of the Department of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Govt. of Manipur is the Directorate of Handlooms & Textiles. The Manipur Gazette Notification was published on January 2, 2017, and the Directorate of Handlooms & Textiles was formally established on December 30, 2017. The office is situated at Lamphelpat, Imphal West, within the Department's Directorate Complex. Under government-sponsored programmes, the Department carried out a significant number of development projects to help handloom weavers, textile workers, and craftsmen of handicrafts confront the difficulties of a globalised world. Manipur also holds a variety of melas to display the goods. The Sangai Festivals, an annual cultural event held by the Manipur Tourism Department from November 21 to 30, is one of the largest melas.

Manipur has produced a lot of football players as well. The selection of eight participants for the 2017 FIFA World Cup for players under the age of 17 sparked a major excitement across the country. The Tri-Nation Football Tournament's opening game features Myanmar and the Sunil Chhetri-led Indian team.

Handloom and Handicraft

Manipur produces its own handicrafts and textiles. The most sought-after indigenous shawls include moirangfee, mora, lee-gi-faak, and polang. Tribal shawls come in a wide range of textile types. Five hill areas in the State produce tribal shawls with unusual patterns and themes. Manipur's fabrics and shawls are in high demand both domestically and abroad. Manipur State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society (MSHWCS). The state's residents are renowned for their artistic talent and inventiveness. The state produces a vast variety of handcrafted goods that are made locally. A charming collection may be created with Manipuri bed coverings, Moirangfee, silk and cotton sarees, scarves, shawls, and other items. The back-strap loom known as a loin-loom, which is frequently employed by hill people, is used to weave tribal fabrics. The handloom industry is a decentralised cottage business run by households. For the women of the State, it is second only to agriculture in terms of job generation. In addition to serving as a status symbol for women in Manipur, the art of handloom weaving is a crucial component of the country's socioeconomic system.

Robert Naorem is an Indian-born fashion designer, from Manipur, businessman, and makeup artist. He is renowned for his contributions to Manipur's handicraft and textile industries.

Education

Manipur now has a literacy rate of 74.04%. Male literacy rates are 86.49% and female literacy rates are 73.17% in 2020. The teaching profession has evolved into a last option in the employment market for capable and qualified individuals. Manipur appears to be lacking in enthusiastic educators. After the 10th board test, students

and parents opt to further their education outside of the state. Education institutions require the most improvement. Most students choose careers in medicine, engineering, and general fields.

Entrepreneurship and start-ups

Manipur's economy is benefiting from the state's burgeoning entrepreneurial culture. Starting and expanding a business is now simpler thanks to social media and the support of the government, whether it be creating one's own café, a car dealership, or flower store.

Some of the popular and well-known start-ups that the public adores are Dwellers, Leikol creations, Veronica Bakes, and Blooming Trails. With the use of social media, they increased their following and public awareness.

Govt aids

Startup Manipur

The "Startup Manipur" project was started by the Manipurian government in an effort to foster long-term economic development and provide significant new employment possibilities. The state government established a number of incubators as part of the Manipur Startup Policy 2018 to support the expansion of at least 1,000 cutting-edge technology-based enterprises across the state. We examine "Startup Manipur" in-depth in this piece.

Objectives

The objectives of the Startup Manipur are listed below:

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to encourage the establishment of incubators for startup companies in collaboration with the private sector.

to provide a supportive environment for new businesses through networking, access to resources and services, skill development training, capacity building, etc.

to put in place a system that makes it easier for all start-ups to get regulatory clearances.

to produce the necessary infrastructure support for startups to start up and expand quickly.

to make it possible for start-ups in Manipur to access various channels that offer financial support in the form of grants, bank loans, tax benefits, etc.

to create a supportive climate and eco-system that will enable 1000 start-ups over the next five years.

Components of the Scheme

Every business is reliant on the state's social, political, and economic factors. In light of this, an atmosphere that supports entrepreneurs in expanding their company operations must be developed. Additionally, this helps to open up new collaborations with public professional and vocational schools so that new entrepreneurs may reach out with greater accessibility.

Network of Entrepreneurship Development Centres (NEDC) Pre-idea Stage

The state government will cover the following actions during this pre-idea stage:

to establish NEDCs (Network of Entrepreneurship Development Centres) at Manipur's educational institutions.

to aid the NEDC partner organization's entrepreneurial incentive programme.

to support NEDC partner institution capacity growth through partnership with state's top business incubators.

in order to deliver a performance report to the state government for extending support of the Government.

Idea Stage- Business Idea Incubation

The below following are the steps carried out by the state government for the incubation of the entrepreneurs.

should acknowledge the significance of company incubation for the creation of jobs for the younger generation and economic development. To support the establishment of business incubators in the state and to equip them to house a variety of companies.

To assist the formation of new incubators in the public and commercial sectors, as well as the construction of incubator centres in institutions of higher education and other top government organisations.

Product Development Stage

A product or prototype is developed at this phase. The items that will be completed during this phase are as follows:

Access to resources and labs for research and development will be made easier by the state government.

The partner institution will help the startup during this stage by facilitating access to technology.

to make it easier to establish a mentor and expert network for businesses across the whole state.

Throughout every stage of the startup process, the businesses will have access to a network of mentors and experts from around the state.

Startups will be helped by the Innovation Enabler Mechanism (IEM), which will fast-track regulatory support from the government in the form of enabling legislation..

Commercialisation Stage

A network of licenced venture capital funds is accessible.

Allowing investors to choose the project they would like to support from a database.

To allow easy access, the digital platform will integrate all ecosystem players, the network of support, finance, and service providers.

Policy Period

The Manipur start-up plan has a five-year operational duration. The programme starts on January 1st, 2018, and ends on December 31, 2021.

Assistance and Resources for the Startup

The following is a list of the support services offered by Startup Manipur:

Student Startup Assistance Eligibility Requirements

Any student enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral studies is qualified to receive financial aid under this startup programme.

Benefits Information: A weekend mentoring programme will be created for the students, along with seed money assistance and other services. Budgetary Range

Up to a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs, the State Government would subsidise up to 25% of the entire cost.

Criteria for Women Startup Eligibility: The startup programme is open to all female business owners.

Benefits Information: Funding for the business as well as mentoring and incubation services will be provided.

Funding Range: The State Government will provide subsidy up to 25% of the total cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs.

Idea Stage Startup

Any anyone who has a business concept but needs assistance turning it into a successful enterprise qualifies.

Benefits Information: Funding for the business as well as mentoring and incubation services will be provided.

Range of funding: Up to a maximum of Rs. 20 lakhs, the State Government would subsidise the project for up to 25% of the total cost.

Initial Stage of Revenue

Any entrepreneur who has a ground-breaking product that produces income but needs money to grow it up is eligible to apply for the programme.

Benefits Information: Funding for the business as well as mentoring and incubation services will be provided.

Funding Level: The amount of the subsidy, which might range from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 30 crores, will be set by the lending bank, investor network, etc.

Choice Process

The applicant must complete and submit the application form on the official website. The initial screening will be carried out by the committee. In the Manipur startup event, which will be broadcast on local TV networks, the chosen startup will be required to showcase their ideas in front of a panel. The qualified company will be chosen by a jury of panels made up of State representatives, MEN, and EDC based on their pitch, business model, scalability, feasibility, and budget.

The CEO of Salai Holding, a private firm, Ng. Samarjit, has now effectively started growing his business internationally.

Conclusion

The Government of Manipur as well as the Central government have recognised the potential growth in these field and have addressed it in various occasion to improve the facilities on various fields. The people are encouraged to contribute in anyway possible. Tourism is also one of Manipur's big contributors in the economy. The people of Manipur hopes for more help from the government where they can enhance their skills and interest more. Manipur, a state where nature have blessed enough to experience all kinds of weather in different district. Hills and valley is filled with one of a kind species. Every part of the state is connected to historical events and tradition making every place tourist worthy. The promotion of soft power of Manipur should be done in more effective ways.

Youth and sports share an inseparable bond, as active involvement in physical activities promotes a healthy lifestyle. Regular exercise improves cardiovascular fitness, enhances motor skills, and strengthens bones and muscles. Through sports, young people develop agility, coordination, and endurance, which contribute to their overall physical well-being. Engaging in sports also helps combat sedentary behavior and reduces the risk of obesity, thereby promoting a lifelong commitment to fitness and wellness.

Participation in sports is not merely confined to physical benefits; it also nurtures mental and emotional growth. The challenges and pressures inherent in sports teach youth valuable life skills such as goal setting, perseverance, and the ability to handle success and failure. Sports instill a sense of self-confidence, boosting self-esteem and promoting positive body image. Furthermore, being part of a team fosters camaraderie, social connections, and a sense of belonging, which contribute to overall emotional well-being and mental resilience. Sports provide a platform for youth to develop and showcase their character traits. The competitive nature of sports teaches them the value of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship. They learn to respect rules, opponents, and officials while also developing a strong work ethic and discipline. Sports can reveal one's true character,

exposing strengths and areas for improvement, allowing young athletes to build on their personal values and principles. Contrary to the notion of sports hindering academic success, research suggests that youth engaged in sports tend to perform better in their studies. Sports teach time management skills, as participants must balance training, competitions, and schoolwork. Additionally, sports instill the ability to set priorities, enhance concentration, and improve cognitive functions. The discipline and focus acquired through sports spill over into academic pursuits, leading to improved academic performance and overall success. Youth involvement in sports extends beyond individual benefits, positively impacting society as a whole. Sports foster social integration, breaking down barriers of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, as young people from diverse backgrounds come together with a common goal. Moreover, sports provide a platform for mentorship and role modeling, where experienced athletes and coaches guide and inspire the younger generation. This creates a positive ripple effect, encouraging youth to become active members of their communities and contributing to societal development. The youth and sports alliance forms a potent combination that offers tremendous benefits to individuals and society. Through physical well-being, mental and emotional development, character building, academic success, and social impact, sports provide a holistic avenue for youth to grow and thrive. Encouraging and supporting youth participation in sports not only cultivates healthy and well-rounded individuals but also builds a brighter future for our communities.

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