



# Academic Sports Scholars

## A STUDY ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF KARNATAKA HOCKEY PLAYER Dr. M. P. GANESH TO INDIAN HOCKEY

Dr. Manjunath Sahadevappa

Guest Faculty,

Department of Physical Education, Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, Karnataka.

### ABSTRACT

Hockey is one of the many sports derived from pre historic man's delight in stick and ball games. It is a game played between two teams on a field with curved sticks and a small hard ball. In India among various sports, hockey occupies a significant place. It is the national game of India. It is a game of skill, deception, anticipation, concentration and character. Like all other games, hockey too has its fundamental skills. To be on the top in any game, it is necessary to have mastery over its fundamental skills. The fundamental skills of a game are based on the motor moments of human being.

**KEYWORDS:** *game of skill, deception, anticipation, concentration and character.*

### INTRODUCTION :

The contribution of any hockey player in terms of high performance and achievements at National and International level plays a vital role in the promotion of hockey game. The contribution of Karnataka State Hockey player in terms of high performance and achievements at National/International level plays a very important role in the promotion of hockey game in Karnataka and India in general.

To find out what kind of



contribution and achievements by Dr. M.P.Ganesh Karnataka State Hockey players to Indian hockey, the present study is taken into consideration.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The problem formulated for the present study is "A study on the Contributions and

Achievements of Karnataka Hockey player Dr. M.P.Ganesh to Indian Hockey”.

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:**

The purpose of the study is to assess the contributions and achievements of Karnataka State Hockey player Dr. M.P.Ganesh who represented India at International level by making his complete profile.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To find out the contribution of Karnataka State Hockey players to Indian Hockey in the form of performance and achievements at International level.
- To make a profile of Dr. M.P.Ganesh who represented India at International level.

### **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:**

- Dr. M.P.Ganesh, Karnataka State Hockey player would have contributed to Indian Hockey in the form of performance and achievements at National and International level.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

- This study assumes great significance given to its comprehensive study to delineate the contribution of Dr. M.P.Ganesh, Karnataka State Hockey player to Indian Hockey.
- It reveals his contributions to Indian Hockey at International Hockey matches in the form of performance.
- The study further contributes and explores the role of Karnataka state hockey player to Indian hockey and also making the profile of hockey player is the record of information for further research studies as well as very helpful to coaches, trainers and state hockey federations of India.
- The profile of hockey player contributes as motivational factor for the upcoming young hockey players of Karnataka and India in general.

### **METHODOLOGY**

A present study was designed to investigate the contributions and achievements of Karnataka State hockey player towards the promotion of Hockey game in the Karnataka State and India in general and also to study their philosophy with regard to sports as a profession in India, their quality as a player and their contribution to the game of hockey at national and international level. Data/Information for this investigation was derived from the Primary sources i.e. Direct observation, Questionnaires, Personal records, Archival records, Documents, Pictorial records and Secondary sources. Based on the objectives laid down in the present the following methods were used to obtain the data,

### **DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

#### **Sources of Data and Information:**

The different sources and methods used by the researcher to gather data and information about the contribution of Karnataka State hockey player to Indian Hockey. There are four major sources and methods that have been identified by researcher to obtain the information and data are Direct observation, Documents, Archival records and Participation. It is further divided as the collection of data and information for this investigation as both primary and secondary resources.

### **Primary Resources:**

The original data, material and information is collected from the following primary resources,

#### **(a) Direct Observation:**

The researcher himself is a university level hockey player and he knows some of the history and profile of hockey players. His direct involvement in the hockey enables him to observe the official records of player in hockey federation being a direct observer and that will lead the researcher to get first hand information.

#### **(b) Documents:**

Researcher visited various sports institutions such as Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), New Delhi and Karnataka Hockey Association, Bangalore to get the related data information of the study in the form of Photo's, News Papers, Articles, Books and Administrative records etc. Pictorial records from a large repertoire of photographs available with different sources such as personal albums, official photographs that were found relevant to different occasions have been chosen as documents for the study. The published materials in the News Papers, Sports Magazines and Books etc. These are studied and information retained as documents for the investigation.

#### **(c) Archival Records:**

The official records in the sports websites of Sports federation's survey records, Life time achievements and name lists, etc. were searched and studied and information and data are retained for the study.

### **Secondary Resources:**

To get deeper insight into the study the survey method in used for the further study.

#### **(a) Survey:**

The survey of state and national hockey federations or associations is done to get the data and information about the contributions of Dr. M.P.Ganesh, Karnataka State hockey player who represented India at international level.

### **ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

A present study was designed to investigate the contributions and achievements of Dr. M.P.Ganesh Karnataka State Hockey players to Indian Hockey towards the promotion and development of hockey game in Karnataka and country in general and also to study sports motivation with regard to sports as a profession in India, their quality as a players, their professional leadership qualities, and their contribution to the game of hockey at National and International level. The present study is conducted on Dr. M.P.Ganesh, Karnataka State hockey player who represented Indian hockey team at International level. Based on the findings the analysis of data and interpretation of results are presented in the following way.

## Dr. M. P. GANESH



Hockey Legend Dr. M P Ganesh hails from kodagu, also known by its anglicized former name Coorg which is the smallest district of Karnataka state. The district is often called as the “Nursery of Indian Hockey” for its contribution of hockey players to the different state teams, institutional teams and also for the country.

### Early Life:

Mollera P Ganesh belongs to a small but beautiful village called Andagove in Sunikoppa, about 20 Kilometers away from Madikeri, in Kodagu. He was born on 8th July 1964 as the fourth child of Shri Mollera B Poovaiah and Smt Kamavva. He has two Elder Brothers, one Elder sister and two Younger brothers. His wife is Mrs. Prema Ganesh and his only son M G Aiyappa.

Hockey legend M P Ganesh was initiated to schooling at Government Middle school, Sunikoppa, at the age of four. He started playing hockey at the age of twelve at Government Middle school grounds, Suntikoppa. During his entire middle school days he played just a few matches. When he joined the central High School, Mercera (madikeri) Kodagu, for his 8th standard to I PUC in Government College Mercera, he did not play hockey at all.

He only watched the senior players playing hockey in the man’s compound and central high school grounds. Though he was not playing hockey, he always loved hockey and followed the game seriously. He never missed the matches played by the leading teams of mercer then viz,, wanderers, Blues, Youngsters, Sporting and the Coorg Police.

He has great admiration for senior players like Mandepands Monnappa (Monni), Devanira Prabu, Halappa (father of International hockey player Arjun Halappa) kattera Appachu and a few others. According to his own admission, he discontinued playing hockey while in high school, as he found himself players of Mercera to be a better football player amidst of several swift Kodava hockey Players.

### Educational Career:

As it is often said that there is no age restriction and no end to one’s education, Ganesh pursued his education after returning to India, he enrolled for B A degree course under distance education programme of the Osmania Univeristy and secured his B A Degree 1981.

After that he secured his M.A (English) degree from Bangalore University again by the distance education programme of the university in 1994. He was awarded Ph.D degree by the Annamaalai

University for the thesis on Champions Trophy Hockey in the year 2001.

### **Sports Career:**

As he was very much interested in sports, instead as well as in the college. This game was also popular in and around Suntikoppa where he stayed. He played plenty of matches locally against teams from Mysore and Kerala and groomed himself as a good footballer. He was good enough to play for the school and college teams.

He went on to represent Kodage district football team in the state level Dasara sports meet held at Mysore. He represented Kodagu district thrice in the inter district football tournament during Dasara sports meet, during the year 1961 to 1964 apart from playing football, he was also an athlete during his school and college days.

As it is said, no one is sure about one's destiny, playing football in Suntikoppa was where his interest life. His parents forced him to continue his studies, but he was not interested in pursuing his studies.

He has a few friends, who were in the same plight as he was in one of the his friends, Chendrimada Karumbaiah, informed all the friends, that a recruitment drive is going on in Madikeri, to recruit young boys for the Sena (Indian Army)

He requested Ganesh and some of his friend's to accompany him to the recruitment rally in Madikeri, so that he could get some moral support do well in the physical efficiency test and get selected to the Indian Army. M P Ganesh and couple of friends accompanied Karumbaiah to the recruitment rally.

To his bad luck, Karumbaiah failed in the selection test. After that M P Ganesh thought of appearing for the Army selection as he thought he could shape his career well in the army. The very next day he went to Madikeri and appeared for the army selection to his good luck he got selected to the Indian army, which was in the year 1965.

His sports background helped him a lot to fare well in the army selection, without informing anybody about his selection. He quietly left his home and joined the India army. Ganesh regards this as the biggest turning point of his life.

As a recruit he was assigned to the corps of singles. He and other recruits were put into the basic training at Jabalpur. As the emergency was in proclamation, due to Indo-Pak war in the year 1965, no sports activities happened in the training centre. Once the ceasefire was declared and the emergency is lifted, sporting activities resumed in the training centre.

### **Hockey Career:**

As the Indian army encourages sports and games, the new recruits were called for selection trials to various sports and games. Ganesh appeared for football team selection, but was not successful. Then he tried his luck to get into the athletics team of the training centre, but couldn't succeed there too. Finally a call came to all the "recruits from Coorg" to appear for hockey team selection. There were few recruits from Coorg, including M P Ganesh. During the selection trails M P Ganesh got selected to the team. The title hockey basics which he has learnt during his middle school days in Suntikoppa Coorg helped him to perform well during the selection trails. For the first time in his life, he played hockey with a professional spring hockey stick at the Corps of Signal's ground, at Jabalpur.

A senior player cum coach, Subebar Bhagh Singh, taught him the basics of hockey and groomed him to become a good hockey player. The commanding officer (CO) of the unit, Col J.S Nanda, gave him a lot of moral and material support during his stay in corps of signal's unit, at Jabalpur. The commanding

officer exempted M P Ganesh from the regular military duties and instead encouraged him to concentrate on hockey. Due to his recommendation, he got his promotion a little early.

The officer even gave a special instruction to the officers, to provide M P Ganesh with two liters of milk and four eggs daily. This took care of his diet after hard practice sessions.

The Speed and foot work which he had acquired during his football playing days in Coorg, helped M P Ganesh to become a good forward line hockey player. He was selected to play for a military team called I-MTR Jabalpur. After seeing his performance, the selectors selected him to play for the central command hockey team in the Inter-Services Hockey Championships, at Madras (now Chennai) in the year 1966.

The central command hockey team was a formidable team then, M P Ganesh played the right extreme position in the inter-services Championship, along with Haripal Kushik (the great Haripal) in the Right Half position. The kind of passes both of them gave M P Ganesh in the matches enables him to score five goals out of eight goals scored.

The Central command team emerged as the winners in the 1966 inter services hockey Championship after that he was transferred to Corps of Signal's Jullundur. There he got an opportunity to play with the top players and top teams of the country, the hard practice sessions and the matches played there locally made him a better player. In year 1968 he was selected to represent the services hockey team in the senior nationals at Udthagamandalum (Ooty) Quite interestingly the services team did not qualify for the finals of that national instead it was Mysore state and Indian Railways which made into the finals. The Railways emerged as the winners and the Mysore state team was runners up.

From the year 1968 to 1973 he was a regular member of the services hockey team which took part in the senior national hockey championships. During his playing days the services team won the senior national championships in the year 1973 at Bombay. He was also the member of one of the fancied teams of India then, the Corps of Signal's (Jullundur)

Both the teams he played for performed well and even won many tournaments. This did a lot of good to M P Ganesh. Firstly it gave him a chance to play well and improve his performance and secondly, he got noticed by IHF selection during the matches. Impressed by his performance, the IHF selectors selected him to play for the india Light Blues team in the Bombay International Hockey tournament, in the year 1969-70. This was his internal debut. After this there was no looking back for him from then on up to the year 1974 he was a regular member of the Indian Hockey team which played in all international tournaments.

Dr. M P Ganesh has made the country proud by winning medal in all the international Tournaments he has played, from the years 1970-1974 he was the member of the National hockey team which secured.

### Achievements:

S. N	Competitions	Place/Venue	Year	Position
1.	Asian Games	Bangkok (Thailand)	1970	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2.	World Cup	Barcelona (Spain)	1971	3 <sup>rd</sup>
3.	Olympics	Munich	1972	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4.	World Cup	Amstelveen (Netherlands), Captain	1973	2 <sup>nd</sup>
5.	Asian Games	Tehran (Iran)	1974	2 <sup>nd</sup>

During his short stint in international hockey, he has represented India in about 104



international matches and scored about 23 goals. During his playing days he was rated as one of the best forward line (right Extreme) player in the world. He also has the great honor of being the member of the Asian XI team twice 1970 to 1974 and also the member of world XI hockey team of 1972 though the team did not play any match due to some international tension.

He was bestowed with the Arjuna Award in the year 1973 by the Government of India. Dr MP Ganesh belongs to an elite group of forty five hockey players of the country, who have the great distinction of winning medals in all three big events viz. Olympics, world cup and the Asian games.

He chose to cut short his International hockey career due to certain personal reasons and also due to an international playing cum coaching assignment at Italy, which came in his way. He decided to quit the Indian army in the year 1973 he played for Bombay in the 1974 Senior Nationals held at Pune, which was also his last national appearance.

He shifted to Italy in the year 1974 as he signed an agreement, to play and coach the Levanthe Insurance company hockey team of Italy. When he was in Italy, he received a message from the IHF which stated that he has been selected for the Indian hockey team for the Asian Games 1974 at Teheran.

The levanthe Company was kind enough to send him to India to enable him to take part in the Asian Games, at Teheran and India won Silver medal. In fact the Italian company sponsored his whole travel expenses. Again in the year 1975 he was called for the Indian camp for the world cup at Kuala Lumpur, but the Italian company did not permit him as the Italian club team was preparing for European hockey cup tournament.

#### **Awards:**

M P Ganesh is the recipient of Arjuna Award in the year 1973 and also he was awarded with the Karnataka Silver Jubilee Award in 1981.

#### **Coaching Career:**

After getting his contract annulled with the Levanthe Insurance company of Italy, he returned to Indian in the year 1976. He started his second innings in hockey by taking up the coaching assignments at NIS Patiala and Bangalore in the very same year.

The IHF appointed him as the Assistant Coach along with Rajgopal and Desahmuthu for the 1980, Moscow Olympics bound Indian team. The chief coach was Mr Balkishen Singh. That was the last Olympics where the Indian hockey team won a Gold Medal. After the Moscow Olympics, he was entrusted with an array of coaching assignments to prepare National teams for various International hockey events. A Few big coaching assignments which needs a mention here are,

#### **Assistant Coach**

1. Moscow Olympics, 1980

#### **Team Coach**

- 1) Junior India Team 1981-82 (World Cup Qualifying )
- 2) Champions Trophy, Perth, Australia, 1985.
- 3) Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, Kuala Lumpur, 1985.
- 4) Indo-Pak Test Series, 1985-1986.
- 5) Seoul Olympics, 1988.
- 6) Asia Cup, New Delhi, India, 1989.

## 7) World Cup, Lahore, Pakistan, 1990.

He was also member of the Indian hockey team selection committee for men and women for a decade and also the chairman coaching committee in 1998 which won the gold medal after the long gap of thirty two years.

### **Administrative Career:**

Dr. M.P. Ganesh is a versatile personality and he is a great achiever. He has succeeded in all the spheres of activity he has associated with during the last forty years as a hockey player, a highly rated national hockey team coach, a doctoral degree holder and a renowned sports administrator.

Alongside his coaching assignments, he was also entrusted with administrative responsibilities in the sports departments by the state and central governments. Taking note of his hockey accomplishments and international exposure, the Government of Karnataka offered him the post of special Officer, in the department of youth services and sports, in the year 1981.

Shri. R Gundu Rao, the then Chief Minister of Karnataka who hailed from Kodagu District and Shri. A J Anadan (Commissioner of sports) was very keen on availing the services and expertise of M P Ganesh for the promotion of sports in Karnataka. MP Ganesh lived up to his expectations. The concept of clinics for the coaches and maintaining the coaches dairy etc, were introduced in Karnataka during the tenure of M P Ganesh, as the special officer.

He served the Government of Karnataka from the year 1981 to 1986. Thereafter his services were availed by the Government of India. In the year 1986 he got a posting as the director of NIS North Eastern Region, Imphal.

After the merger of Nataji Subhash Chandra National Institute of Sports NIS with sports Authority of India (SAI), he was appointed as the Director Personnel and coaching SAI, New Delhi 1988 to 1990.

Thereafter he was promoted as the Regional Director Southern Region and posted to Bangalore 1990 to 1996. He was again elevated to the post of Executive Director of SAI Southern Region and continued in Bangalore 1996 to 2001 with additional charge of LNCPE Trivendrum.

### **Executive Director Sports Authority of India (SAI):**

He was shifted to Sports Authority of India, New Delhi in the year 2001 and he held the post of 'Executive Director'.

20 years of service in SAI role of coordination and implementation of all sports schemes of Government of India throughout the country. This includes establishments of various centers by bringing up the infrastructures, selection of budding talent and monitoring of the training including the participation at higher level.

Conducting of various academic courses for sports as well as physical education and monitoring the progress of the coaches including their appointments. Till he retired from the above administrative responsibilities, he has also discharges the duties as a member of International Rule Board, Federation of International Hockey FIH during the year 2000 to 2004.

He has rare distinction of being the policy adviser on youth affairs and sports to the planning commission of India, when the eleventh five year plan was drafted. Presently he is serving as a consultant for the Government of India programme, Panchyat Raj Yuva Khel Koodh Abeyan PYKKA. It is a rare opportunity for a hockey player/sports administrator who was later selected by Karnataka State Cricket Association and was given the honors of becoming the CEO for three years.



### **Promoter of Hockey Game:**

Dr. M P Ganesh is promoting hockey in memory of his son late Aiyappa. Every year a hockey tournament is being conducted by Coorg Hockey Association CHA in Kodagu district, in memory of Aiyappa.

The expenses of this tournament are borne by Dr. M P Ganesh and his wife they have deposited a substantial amount of money in the bank in the name of CHA for the upkeep of this tournament. A hockey academy self financed is also there in the name Aiyappa in Bangalore being looked after by Dr. M P Ganesh and his like minded team of volunteers.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Dr. M.P. Ganesh was represented Indian hockey in the Olympic Games, World cup, Asian Games, tours and won many medals for India. It is clearly advocated that Dr. M.P. Ganesh, Karnataka State hockey player who is immensely contributed to the cause of upliftment of national game hockey and thus played a pivotal role in reviving the glorious past of hockey in the country once again. Being the role model, Karnataka State hockey player was being religiously emulated by the younger generation for sports.

Recognizing the everlasting efforts and valuable contributions and achievements rendered to sports by him, the Government of India has awarded him Arjuna Award in the year 1973 and also he was awarded with the Karnataka Silver Jubilee Award in 1981.

He served as coach in the field of Hockey at various levels and contributed as Karnataka state Hockey player to India Hockey in the form of performance and achievements at National and international Level.

Finally it is concluded that Dr. M.P. Ganesh, Karnataka state Hockey player made a very significant and tremendous contribution to India Hockey in the form of achievements in the field of Hockey game at national and international level.

\*\*last up to date information is Dec 2014.



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**Dr. Manjunath Sahadevappa**

**Guest Faculty, Department of Physical Education, Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, Karnataka.**