
Inclusion of Thang-Ta Sports in Inter-University Tournament - An Analytical Study

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Abstract

Thang-Ta is an indigenous martial art of Manipur, a tiny state in the north-eastern part of India. It is also traditionally known as Huyen Langlon; Huyen means War Langlon means Knowledge of Art. It's mainly used to protect their motherland in times of war and also used to keep bodily fit and strengthen our morals and spirituality. From time to time, Thang-Ta martial arts come into sports competitions and spread in many states across India and the world under the leadership of respected Grandmaster Huidrom Premkumar Singh and, under his leadership, held many state, national, and international championships. Thang-Ta has been recognized by the School Games Federation of India and Khelo India Youth Games.

Since 2014, the inter-college Thang-Ta competition has been held under the Manipur University Sports Committee. Many players participated in inter-college, but they didn't have a chance to participate in inter-university competitions due to being unrecognized by the Association of Indian Universities. So, the researcher wants to study the development of Thang-Ta and learn about the thoughts of inter-college players on the inclusion of Thang-Ta in inter-university competitions. The researcher selected 20 inter-college Thang-Ta players to collect data for this study. The researcher will construct a self-made questionnaire for this study.

Keywords: *Thang- Ta players and Questionnaire.*

Introduction

Thang-Ta is the popular, common name given to 'Huyen Langlon', the Indigenous Martial art system of the Meetei race, major inhabitants of the valley of Kangleipak, the present Manipur state, Northeast India - 'Thang' means sword, & 'Ta' means spear, as these are the main weapons used. Thang-Ta is a complete martial art, complete in the sense that it has both external (physical & health) & internal (meditation, concentration, self-cultivation, & awareness of spirit & mind) components, including spiritual & ritualistic aspects, the practice of which not only keeps us healthy & helps in self-defense, but also makes us aware of our rich cultural heritage & the great heroism of our forefathers.

One group under a Thang Ta master, with modern & revolutionary ideas, much ahead of their time, not only dreamed of Thang Ta as an official Olympic medal event but also constantly worked for its realization. They tried to standardize, systematize & popularize the sports aspect of the ancient art, thereby trying to present, as per the need of the present society, to the international sports arena, & hence, ultimately, up to the level of Olympic status. His name is Ojha Huidrom

Premkumar Singh. Born in a lower-middle-class family to Shrimati H. (obi) Shakmacha Devi, & (late) Huidrom Pashot Singh on 30th Sept.1959, he was the direct, first-generation disciple of the great Thang Ta master, Ojha Rajkumar Sanahal.

Ojha Premkumar and his group popularized & promoted Thang Ta, especially the sports aspect (hence considered the present Grandmaster) in different parts of India, & also to other countries. In 1987, the first State Level Thang Ta sports competition was organized by the Academy for the first time in the history of Thang Ta at Yumnam Huidrom, Imphal. With the increasing popularity of Thang Ta nationally, the Thang-Ta Federation of India (TTFI) was established in 1993, & in the same year, the 1st National Thang Ta Championship was organized in Manipur, with 12 states participating. Since then, the Federation has organized 17 national Championships up to 2010; in the last one, 27 State Associations participated, including one national federation cup championship at Delhi on 7-9 Jan.2011, for selecting a team to represent India in the 1st International Championship. Also, Thang Ta was, for the first time, introduced as a demonstration game in the 5th National Games, held at Imphal, Manipur, on 20th Feb.1999. The latest scientific views, the emphasis on the safety aspect, & the high efficiency as a martial art, coupled with the hard work of the National Federation, make Thang Ta a very popular sport; such was the popularity that the Indian Olympic Association in its Annual General Body Meeting held on 20th Dec. 2006, gave recognition to the Thang-Ta Federation of India. Besides, many Indian state govt. also started granting recognition to Thang Ta sport- 1st Manipur Sate Govt.,2nd Jammu & Kashmir state govt.;3rd – Chhattisgarh state govt. & so on. There has also started initiation regarding the introduction of NIS-level Coaching programs, & research courses at Universities in Thang Ta martial arts. The fame of the Thang-Ta sport also started spreading outside India. Starting with Bangladesh (in 2003), the Thang-Ta sports movement has already spread to many countries- Burma (Myanmar), Nepal, Bhutan, Shri-Lanka, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, China, Canada, Japan, USA, etc., the number increasing day by day. The World Thang-Ta Council (WTTC)/Federation (WTTF) was established under the Chairmanship of Ojha Premkumar as an international apex body, with Meetei Huyen Langlon Thang Ta Academy being the International headquarters.

Aim of the Study

The researcher wants to study the development of Thang-Ta sports and learn about the thoughts of inter-college Thang-Ta players on the inclusion of Thang-Ta in inter-university tournaments. So the statement of the problem is **Inclusion of Thang-Ta Sports in Inter-University Tournament. An Analytical Study.**

Delimitation

1. The study was delimited to inter-college Thang-Ta players only.
2. The study was delimited to 18-24 years of Thang-Ta players.
3. The study was delimited to the Thang-Ta discipline only.

Limitation

1. The player's physical structure and different activities were considered as limitations for the study.
2. The responses of the subjects will not be under the control of the researcher.
3. No Thang-Ta class or technique will employ during the study is considered as limitation of the study.

Significance of the Study

1. The results of the study may help to check whether there is proper infrastructure to contact Thang-Ta practice.
2. This study will show how much they want to play Thang-Ta sports.
3. The results of this study will be very helpful in knowing how much inter-college players want to play in inter-university tournaments.
4. Thang-Ta players want more interest in Thang-Ta sports from the state government and sports authority.
5. The results of the study help to know that Thang-Ta players want more development in Thang-Ta sports.

Methods

The main purpose of this study was to survey on "Inclusion of Thang-Ta Sports in Inter-university Tournament." The method adopted by the researcher for the study was enumerated as a source of data, as well as the selection of subjects and data collection. So, every research work is done with proper methods and procedures.

Sources of Data

This survey research is an attempt to find out the Thang-Ta players who participated in inter-college Thang-Ta tournaments in the year between 2020 and 2023. For this study, the researcher randomly selected 25 Thang-Ta academies from valley districts of Manipur as source data.

Selection of Subjects

To achieve the purpose of this study, the researcher randomly selected 25 players as a subject of this study.

Selection of Test

For this study, the self-made Questionnaire was used to learn about the thoughts of players on the Inclusion of Thang-Ta sports in the Inter-university tournament.

Administration and Collection of Data

The researcher personally talked to the Thang-Ta players who participated in the inter-college Thang-Ta tournament and got their voluntary acceptance to participate as subjects for the present study. All necessary instructions pertaining to filling out the Questionnaire. The self-made Questionnaire was used to collect the data by the researcher.

Statistical Technique

The descriptive statistical technique was used to determine the nature of data and the percentage of each questionnaire (statement) was calculated.

Finding

Responses pertaining to each of the questions were analyzed and presented in terms of the total response percentage. The researcher received fully filled in 25 responses of fully 20 statements. The analysis of the obtaining data of each statement and its interpretation of percent values are shown in table 1.

Table.1. Statistical Interpretation of each Statement.

Sl. No.	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	I am more interested in practicing Thang-Ta sports than watching them.	0	0	4%	20%	76%
2	I think I practice Thang-Ta sports to stay fit.	0	0	4%	28%	68%
3	Parents want their children to participate in Thang-Ta sports to have good behavior.	0	4%	0	24%	72%
4	Parents want their children to participate in Thang-Ta sports to have good behavior.	0	0	4%	40%	56%
5	People love Thang-Ta as it is a sports activity.	0	0	4%	24%	72%
6	I will become more interested in Thang-Ta sports if it is included at the inter-university level.	0	0	0	12%	88%
7	I like to practice Thang-Ta sports events more than cultural events.	0	4%	4%	27%	65%
8	Playing Thang-Ta sports is the key to a sportsperson being free from drugs and narcotics.	0	0	12%	12%	76%
9	People of Manipur wished that many states from India would participate in the inter-university tournament if Thang-Ta was included.	0	0	0	24%	76%
10	I am really satisfied with the Thang-Ta sports infrastructure offered by my own association while training.	0	4%	4%	48%	44%

11	All the equipment of Thang-Ta sports is very safe from injury.	0	4%	4%	48%	44%
12	I am really satisfied with my skills and performance at Thang-Ta Sports.	0	4%	12%	20%	64%
13	I think it is good that Thang-Ta has been included in the inter-university tournament.	0	0	0	24%	26%
14	All India Thang-Ta Federation is more interested in the inclusion of Thang-Ta in the inter-university tournaments.	0	0	4%	12%	84%
15	If the state government and sports authority have more interest in Thang-Ta, it will achieve inter-university tournaments.	0	0	0	24%	76%
16	I am really unhappy to finish my intercollegiate stage without playing an inter-university tournament.	0	4%	4%	24%	68%
17	I think Thang-Ta will be more developed if it is included in the inter-university Tournament.	0	0	0	20%	80%
18	I think the players will be more interested in playing Thang-Ta due to the development of Thang-Ta sports.	0	0	0	22%	78%
19	Players have a bright future for their further study if they play the Thang-Ta inter-university tournament.	0	0	4%	44%	52%
20	Playing Thang-Ta will develop physical fitness, improve teamwork, and enhance motor skills.	0	0	4%	11%	85%
	Grand total	0%	24%	68%	508%	1400%
	Mean score	0%	1.20%	3.40%	25.40%	70.00%

This table shows that 70% of the subjects selected strongly agree, 25.40% selected agree, 3.40% responded undecided and 1.20% responded disagree, and strongly disagree zero percentage.

Pie chart of the percent value distributions of each scale are shown and interpreted in figure 1.

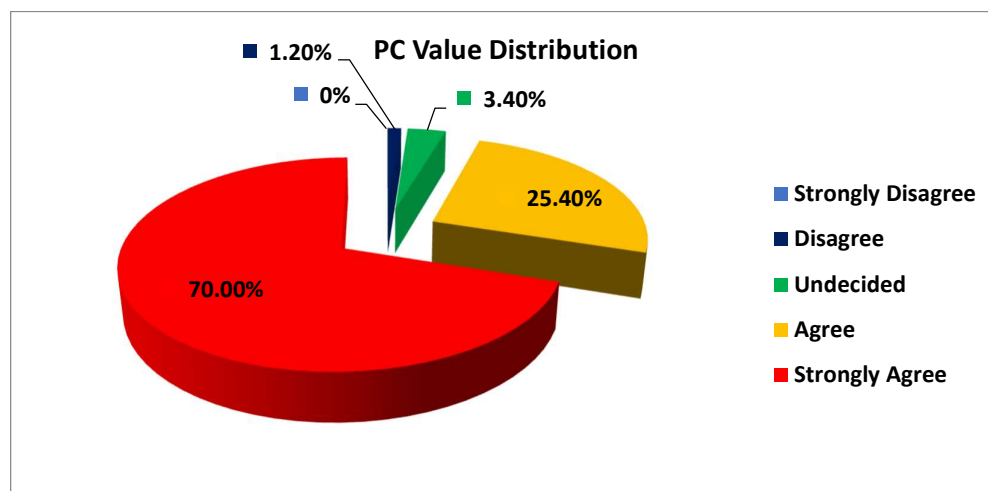


Fig.1. Pie-chart- Percent Values Distribution.

Discussion

Thang-Ta, being an inter-college competition game, needs to be promoted at the inter-university competition game. This Inclusion of Thang-Ta Sports in the Inter-University Tournament plays a vital role in the promotion of Thang-Ta. From such steps, Thang-Ta would be promoted from the grassroots level and hence will be practiced widely by the youths not only for ritual purposes but also for their self-defence.

Conclusion

On the basis of the findings, all the Thang-Ta players want to play in the inter-university Thang-Ta tournament during their intercollegiate stage, and this is the dream of all players. So, the concerned authority needs to take the necessary action to achieve the dream of inter-college Thang-Ta players.

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