

# EXPLORING CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES IN PURSUING SPORTS ACTIVITIES OF CLASS FIVE FEMALE STUDENTS IN BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

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## Abstract

*This research wants to investigate "Exploring challenges and possibilities pursuing sports activities of class five female students in Bangladesh GPS." In this study it also has wanted to see the present practice of female sports activities in the school by the female students, teachers and related stakeholders. It has wanted to see their idea on it and the initiatives which are taken for pursuing sports activities. There is a target to analyze curriculum and text book direction for sports awareness and sports practices for the female students.*

*Female sports activities are a dominant landmark in education in all over the world. So it is important to know about the impact on female student's sports activities on education. For this study it has been collected information from interviews with the Head teachers, Parents, community leader also from FGD with Assistant teachers and from Survey with the female students of class five. In this study it was tried to express the government commencement. Teacher's activities, female students' involvements and stakeholders view on female sports activities of class five students. This study is tried to capture the impress on female sports activities for class five students in GPS. In this study it has tried to see how much initiatives have been taken for the female students of class five sports activities. There is also an effort to see how all the stakeholders work on ensuring sports activities consciousness among the female students of class five in Bangladesh GPS. As female sports of class five issues are one of the comprehensive issues in the education, so all the stakeholders should be combined to this issue. In this study it finds out how initiatives appreciated Influence on female students' sports and how sports perception accelerates students' learning. This study is also recommended which recent initiatives will be needed to work better for the female students' achievements.*

**Key word:** Activities, Awareness, commencement, Pursuing, Government primary school GPS, stakeholders, perception.

## I. Introduction:

According to the article Beauty of Bangladesh (2015)-

Sports are a part of Bangladesh culture and people get entertained by it. The most popular sports of Bangladesh are Cricket, Football, Kabaddi and Hockey. The national sport of Bangladesh is Kabaddi. Some traditional sports observed normally in the rural area. Lathi Khela, bili khela. Presently there are some other games that are played. People get more pleasure to see and play this game.

The life of people is full of games and sports. Sports and games are integral part of Bangladeshis' life. In the villages one might see a passel of kids kicking a football, or in some dusty alley one might see kids playing cricket. Sports and structural education conjugally start mainly from our primary education. It is recognized by our constitution also.

Fundamental Rights of state policy Bangladesh constitution (1972) stated-

"Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of state and of public life."

It means that opportunity of sports is mandatory for all the women as like female students. It is also supported by National Youth Policy-2017. It stated-

"Encourage women participation in sports and give equal importance to male and female participation in local, national and international sports." (p. 13)

Sports refresh our mind and body and help to work more. Many girls have an interest in sports but due to financial problems the girls are not going to world of sports. We can prove this by a newspaper article published by Rahman (2015) revealed that-

We know that, In Bangladesh most of the female persons who take part in sports activities come from middle and lower-middle class family. They have dream to support their family economically by getting a job with the skill of sports activity.

Guardians should inspire their female students to play sports. The female students become able to express their ideas freely due to effective sharing in sports activities. In favor of female sports, we can have proved this by an article published by Rahman (2015) revealed that with the statement of former adviser of care-taker government Rasheda K Chowdhury stated that-

Both two field's higher education and sports are expensive. There is no financial guarantee in the games. So, the family discourages them. One should remember that if the guardians invest much for their girls will be their results good. From childhood like culture, sports should be practiced.

As a result, sports activity has many advantages in student's life. It teaches female students proficiency in cooperation, coordination, organization, guidance and leadership. For this honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (2018) of Bangladesh stated-

We want to build the country. Through sports children will gradually attain mental strength and physical fitness, learn discipline, perseverance, dutifulness, responsibility, sincerity and tolerance. That's why we give immense importance to sports.

Actually it was tried to find out the scenario of female sports from different aspects like- stakeholders view, government initiatives, documents reviews etc.

## **II. Purpose of the study**

The major purpose of this research is to identify the key challenges and possibilities for grade five female students of GPS in pursuing sports activities. I wanted to see the various problems such as poverty, lack of awareness, security tension of the female student's guardians, sports dress for the female athletes, religious and social prejudice and sexual harassment for female sports of class five students in our government primary schools. Female students, guardians and teachers are the main stakeholders of female sports activities. They are facing a lot of problems by the community leader, neighbors and SMC. There are some accelerating possibilities exist in pursuing sports activities of class five female students in government primary school. I liked to see how the initiatives are working effectively on bringing consciousness on female students, guardians, teachers and community leader on this issue. I wanted to see the curriculum's work and text books topics regarding female sports activities.

This study will give a transparent idea about exploring challenges and possibilities in pursuing sports activities of class five female students in Bangladesh GPS. This is turn courage female youngsters to take up sports as a professional and constrain them to concentration on something else. As a result, through this study have a deep faith in that there will be created a field or place to think about policy makers.

## **III. Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study different stakeholders will be benefited. The policy makers, educationist, teachers will be gotten scope to rethink about developing implementing process, improve female student's sports activities of grade five. Finally, the female students of grade five will be more benefited through the results of this study. The schools that are applied the recommended approach derived from the results of this study will be able to practice students better.

There may be recommendation for change in the view and regular practice different types of indoor and outdoor games for their physical strength. It can say for new efforts to make both male and female sports supported environment and different type's sports activities will be more effective and engaging the female learners. It can also say for new things in sports activities, challenges and possibilities to make the carrier more effective.

Administrators will be guided on what should be emphasized by the teachers in the school curriculum to improve grade five female student's performance in sports activities. For the researcher, the study will help me uncover areas in the sports activities in primary level because; the importance of female in sports has changed dramatically. All around the world, female is confronted with inequality in many activities they take part in, one of them being sports where many researchers were not able to explore.

#### IV. Objective

- (1) To find out the possibilities of sports activities for the female students of class five in GPS?
- (2) How can overcome the challenges for class five female students of GPS in pursuing sports activities?

#### V. Research Questions

- (1) What possibilities exist for pursuing sports activities for the female students of class five in GPS?
- (2) What are the key challenges for class five female students of GPS in pursuing sports activities?

#### VI. Methodology

In this research it was used qualitative approach with support of quantitative tools (Survey) in order to illustrate of holistic view of the situation. It thought that qualitative research would help more than any other methods to finds out my research outcomes.

So this study was conducted qualitative methods.

#### VII. Data collection methods and tools.

It had done three types of tools. They are: (1) Survey-1 (2) Interviews- 5 (3) FGD-1.

I used survey on 165 Grade-Five female students of seven GPS. I take five interviews, two interviews for head teacher from grade A and C categories schools. Another two interviews for mothers from grade A and C categories schools and finally one interview of a community leader who was involved in category A types schools SMC.

It was conducted one survey, one FGD and five interviews because survey helped me to get their personal and individual information. Through the FGD it got multiples identical and diverse information of different tastes. On the other hand, interviews are very much interactive.

It helped the study to collect detail perceptions of the individuals. This face to face informative method connected the study with the direct views and attitudes of participants. As-

Interview is a two-way method which permits an exchange of ideas and information. It is unique in that it involves the collection of data through direct verbal interaction between the interviewee and the interviewer. It requires that all the normal channels of communication carried out with a definite purpose of obtaining certain information by means for the spoken word. (SHIDHU, 2001, p.145)

It was very much helpful for to know about individuals' thoughts, feelings, behavior and habits. So, it used interviews, survey and FGD these three types of tools.

#### VIII. Observation

Marshall and Rossman (1989) define observation as "the systematic description of events, behaviors, and artifacts in the social setting chosen for study" (p 79). Observations enable the researcher to describe existing situations using the five senses. This looks carefully, listen carefully, pay attention, experience the context and write down what actually happened without intervening.

In this study female sports in Grade 5 students were observed twice in one school to know what participants do actually in the natural setting. Observation was done with the help of observation checklist.

#### IX. Data collection procedure

In this study chose seven govt. primary schools of different area because they gave me a lot of different real scenario and helped me conducting the meaningful survey of Grade-Five female students, conducting interview and FGD.

It was chosen survey for Grade-Five students because Five is the final year of primary education and if they are getting a chance for practicing sports activities from the pre-primary class that will be more efficient for them to participate in different types of school based sports activities. They will be able to take part inter primary school sports and cultural program, Bangomata football tournament, Jatio shisu purosker protijogita and want to be a professional sportsman in future. It was choosing the Grade-Five female students for survey so that I could get the complete scenario about the topic.

Until now from Upazila Resource Centre (URC), Santhia Upazila, Pabna 7th batch (25x7) = 175 teachers are trained successfully for six days long in "physical exercise" training. So, it was chosen seven teachers who had finished their physical exercise training and engaged regularly their level best to spread different types of sports activity. Also chosen two head teachers from different categories A and C type of school, because they had visual experience in this regard. On the other hand, it chosen one community leader from grade A type school because his practical experience for some progress in the field of female sports would enrich my research work.

Moreover, it chosen two parents both were mothers from categories A and C type of school because most of the fathers were out of the house for earning money. Girls stay most of the time with their mother at home after school and exchange more views with their mother. As a result, they gave me a lot of information with the help of their experiences about my study.

## **X. Data Analysis**

The process of data analysis involves in arranging the data reasonably and picturing them sequentially. During collection data was recorded whole of the interviews and discussions. It also took notes for whole of the process with interviews. After collecting data, it rearranged them into the different theme and marked them into different colors with a marker pen. It cleaned all of this data for the necessity of the research. Then it read all of them again and again and tried to understand the inner meaning of those. It tried to relate the collected information with the interviews, focus group discussions, survey and content analysis.

Then it was translated them into English for research as it had to do in English version after that it matched the rearranged data with this research topic, research questions and conceptual frame work.

## **XI. Ethical concern**

According to Johnson & Christensen (2004, p.01) "Ethics as the principles and guidelines that help us to uphold the things we value". Ethical issue mean that steps were taken in this research in an unbiased manner and drew each conclusion to the best of researcher ability and without introducing researcher own vested interest (Kumar, 2005). Researcher played his role as a researcher in the field rather as a super visor. In this study researcher behaved well with his respondents. Researcher also assured respondents that all sorts of confidentiality will be maintained. The information provided by the participants will be used by using their pseudo name. Throughout the data collection process researcher strongly considered his respondent's availability and their time.

Before data collection from the respected school's researcher took permission from the gatekeeper as well as from the respondents.

## **XII. Credibility and Rigor**

Credibility is one of the significant parts of the thesis. It was concerned about maintaining this very much. Before started my thesis part and had to go through the course: Research Methods 1: Reading Research and Writing Reports and: Research Methods 2: Planning and preparing research. In these courses it have learnt how to conduct a research. In this courses it had got accurate understanding from the faculty. In this time, they support too.

In order to conduct field, visit it was prepared this interview guide, focus group discussion guide and survey questioner under their intimate supervision. Before final data collection has been piloted to this data collection tool. On the basis of the piloting experience it revised the tool. After starting this research, it had received ample support from my supervisor. It was totally equitable on data collection time. It always maintained neutrality on rearranging data, as a mixed researcher and was honest enough to myself and never tried to settle this thought upon the interviewees. It also never uttered any information got from the researches at any cost. In these ways it tried to maintain the credibility and rigor of this research.

## **XIII. Demographic profile of the participants**

For conducting this research study, it was selected seven govt. primary schools Grade five female students, assistant teachers, Head Teachers, parents and community leader in, Pabna Districts of Bangladesh. Purposively it has selected two different categories schools one is grade A and another is grade C type school. Both schools are set up at different area. By this way got real scenario of those two schools and their community people's vision about this study.

Research participants		
Types of research participants	Number of Research Participants	Data collection tools
Grade five female students	168	Survey
Assistant teachers	7	FGD
Head teacher	1	Interview
Parents (mothers)	2	Interview
Community leader (SMC member)	1	Interview

Grade A type of school participates in all kinds of sports activities all the year round. Their female students of grade five play in the school. They have different Sports team for their female students of grade five. The community people are conscious about the benefit of sports activities and give them necessary support for this purpose. But on the other hand, though grade C type school has a playground, they are not so interested about the sports activities. When female students excel in sports, their family and community often discourage them.

#### XIV. Result

This study is concerning the female sports activities of class five in GPS. In this study I wanted to investigate the sports activities among the female students of class five in Pabna districts GPS of Bangladesh. In this study I also wanted to find out the existent practices and initiatives which are taken for the female student's participation. I tried to extract all information through five interviews, one survey and focus group discussion. There are some conceptions of this topic can be seen by analyzing different literature and they are presented according to some theme and sub-theme which are closely related with my topic, problem of the statement, research questions, survey and core findings. Such as-

- (1) Perception of different stake holders on female sports.
- (2) Current practices on female sports activities in primary schools.

##### 4.1 Perception of Different Stake Holders on Female Sports

In this regards my related stakeholders are head teachers, assistant teachers, community leader involved with SMC, parents and female students of class five in GPS and they gave me real information about the sports and education which are closely related with each other. It cannot be ignored that sports activities ensure better education. Government as well as ministry of primary and mass education has some noticeable strategies and initiatives for ensuring sports activities in education.

##### 4.1.1 Perception of Head Teachers on Female Sports:

Grade -A type of school authority has given much importance on motivating for taking part in sports activities. The head teacher of "A" grade type school has stated-

"I can motivate the female students of class five by watching the glorious success of previous batch female students of the school and inspired them by watching the famous female football or cricket stars on TV." (Interview#1: Date: 9.10.18)

In Grade-C type of school many students have to keep themselves fasting during Tiffin time. Pre-primary, students of class one and two are less competent to follow the sports activities. We can see different perception on female sports issue in the schools. Similar things are told by the head teacher of Grade-C type school. He has stated on this issue-

"They don't take part in Bangomata football tournament, cricket or badminton because most of the guardians of class five female students are not interested about the matter." (Interview#4: Date: 10.10.18)

##### 4.1.2 Perception of Assistant Teachers on Female Sports:

In grade-A type of school it has seen assistant teachers and students are very much interested in female sports activities. In an interview with FGD one of the most important stakeholders as like an assistant teacher has told the similar things on female sports activities. Such as he said-

Both education and sports activities are helpful to build up one's carrier. Beside male, female athlete can ensure an important role for the society and the country. By this motivation, they will be inspired. As a result, some of them will be recognized as famous sports stars. (FGD# Participant-2, Date: 11.10.18)

Trying to avoid the unacceptable pressure that is created by different stake holder of the society some head teachers are not interested in arranging the annual sports competition. Teachers thought that female sports activities in government primary schools are very crucial and tough because different family's background and ages of student's study here who are gradually changing continuously, physically and mentally. One of the assistant teachers has said- Most of the head teachers are not willing to arrange sports activities all the year round. Only when they get instruction from the higher office, they try to take necessary initiatives. Most of the female students want to take part

in sports on Thursday in half-day school and engage in themselves in sports with their classmates in their classroom. (FGD# Participant-3, Date: 11.10.18)

#### **4.1.3 Perception of Community Leaders on Female Sports:**

Teachers usually do motivational work both for the students and guardians for female sports activities. Most of the time they give importance on female sports issue in school based activities. Similar things told by the community leader involved with SMC of grade-A type of school he said-

Education and sports are not opponent to each other. Recently our female football team has won the championship of SAF under-18 football tournament and our honorable prime minister has given each of female players ten lakhs money and by giving this type of example we can motivate them. (Interview#2, Date: 9.10.18)

Sometime communal leaders created pressure on head teacher because they think that female students should be quiet, tender and base full. They don't go outside for taking part in the outdoor games. If they do that, their dignity and social honor will be destroyed.

#### **4.1.4 Perception of Parents on Female Sports:**

Sports activities are the term that is related to physical education and health. About education and sports activities one of the parents as like a mother of grade-A type of school said,

"Sports activities create a lot of interest and joy along with study. Who are engaged in sports they don't spend their time in idle and their physical fitness is better than others." (Interview#3: Date: 9.10.18)

But most of the guardians of Grade C type school like a father of female students in GPS are poor and unconscious. They think that sports activities are important only for male students. Female students should not play because of religious values.

On the other hand, some mothers think that if the female students help them for their house hold works that would be very helpful for their family. Some of the guardians also think that, if the female students are being victim of physical injury for taking part in sports that will be a great danger and burden for them. On the other hand, some mothers think that only sports activities are not being helpful for them to build up their carrier. One of the parents like a mother of Grade-C type of school said-

Female students should take part in sports as their hobby but not as their profession. Because without marriage life is meaningless for the female students and they should always engage themselves in house hold work. (Interview#5: Date: 10.10.18)

#### **4.1.5 Perception of Students on Female Sports:**

With the help of my survey report, it is an exploration that out of 165 female participants of class five all like the sports activities. This data shows about the likeness of sports. This statement expresses on giving importance on female sports activities

In my own observation according to my survey, interviews and FGD I have seen that all schools are trying to work well on female sports activities. According to my survey 110 female students of class five out of 165 from seven government primary schools are interested to participate football in future that means the ratio is near about 67%, not only that 78 participants or 47.27% are interested to play sports as a profession and 65 participants or 39.39% prefer football as their carrier. (Survey#1: Date: 7&8 October, 2018)

This data discloses that sports activities are ensuring for the female students by demonstration or practices sports related activities. Female students and teachers are currently working together for ensuring sports activities for the female students

#### **4.2 Current Practices on Female Sports Activities in Primary School:**

There are some practices exist for pursuing sports activities for female students of class five in GPS.

##### **4.2.1 Daily Practices on Female Sports Activities in Primary School:**

After completing the annual examination or before running the academic session in full swing from January to February female students of class five get a good chance to practices their daily sports activities as Race, Dariyabandha, Gollachut, Kanamachi, Baa Chi etc. In daily assembly when female students take part in it the head teacher speaks about the matter. Most of the students as well as female students also run to and fro when they get a chance. Before or after the class hour when they get a chance engaged themselves different types of local familiar sports in front of the classroom or in the school field.

Some curious female students like to play chess or badminton together in the classroom or in front of the classroom at Tiffin time or leisure time. Others female students like to take part in sports activities before or after the school hour. Some of the female students of class five know how to swim because Bangladesh is a riverine country and they practice a lot of time for swimming when they take a bath.

##### **4.2.2 Annual Female Sports Activities in Primary School:**

Every year most of the government primary school arranges annual sports competition with the help of SMC, PTA, community leader, parents, former students, political leader, local people and higher officials. There the female students of class five get an opportunity to participate in different types of sports activities such as Race, High jump, Long jump, Skipping, where is the pillow when the music stop? Treasure recovered, Memory test, go as you like, Ball throw in the bucket etc. Actually it is a great stage for the female students for motivating both of their parents

and also themselves. On the other hand, when observed the different national day at school, they can get chance to perform themselves different types of sports activities and if they can win, their confidence level will be high for that purpose.

Every year directorate of primary education arranges inter primary school sports and cultural competition. This competition is held step by step. If any female student can do well in sports, she can get chance to participate in national level.

In this regard the head teacher of Grade-A type school has said-

Inter primary school sports and cultural competition, Bongo Mata foot ball tournament and annual sports competition are the possibilities to pursuing sports activities of class five female students. (Interview#1: Date: 9.10.18)

#### **4.2.3 Female Sports Activities in Our Curriculum:**

According to our National Education Policy (2010) stated that-

"To encourage the students to take part in sports and to provide facilities so that boys and girls throughout the country can get equal opportunities to contribute in the field of sports and to inspire the students to take sports as a profession" (p.46)

In my own observation according to my survey, interviews and FGD I have seen that ,in the text book of pre-primary class at page 16, Bangla text book of class one at page 2, 50 & 65, The EFT text book of same class at page 14 , Bangla text book of class two at page 51, Bangla text book of class three at page 62, 67 & 77, English For Today( EFT) text book of same class at page 70, The EFT text book of class 4 at page 20, 67, In Bangla text book of class five at page 22, The EFT text book of same class at page 66 there are more pictures, rhymes, passage, text or poem about different familiar sports activities both for male and female. This data gives emphasis on the initiatives which are included in the text books and teacher's guides.

#### **4.2.4 Engagement of Female Students in Sports:**

According to my survey- 100% participants like sports. The students are interested to play 145 female students out of 165 female participants that is near about 88%. Only 20 female students are not interested to play that means the ratio of uninterested to play is only 12%. (Survey#1: Date: 7&8 October, 2018)

Bongo Mata football tournament is one of the great opportunities for the female students of class five. If they can able to show their performance they can get a chance to admit themselves at BKSP in class seven. Thus they can make their carrier as a sportsman as like as a footballer, cricketer, runner, chess or badminton player. According to our National Education Policy (2010) stated that-

"In order to extend sports education at primary and secondary levels, one school for sports will be established in each administrative division of the country and sports education will be updated in tune with the demands of the modern world. So BKSP must be developed into a full-fledged sports university so that it can produce sportspersons of international standard. Sports education programs will be conducted under the supervision of BKSP with the establishment of school and colleges of sports at districts levels." (p.46-47)

After completing the primary education completion examination many female students of grade five can get chance in Bangladesh national under 15/16/17 football or cricket team. Akhi, Salma, Sanjida, Aungnu pru marma are the best examples for its.

Finally, female can take part as junior athlete in different event in SAF games, AFC under 15/16/18 football tournament, T-20 cricket tournament, common wealth games, Olympic games etc. In this theme I have tried to explore the initiatives which are taken and their current practices on taking part the female students about female sports.

So, these are some practices for pursuing sports activities for the female students of class five in GPS. All schools are trying to work well on female sports activities. Teachers always motivate female students on sports issue as regular basis activity.

#### **4.3 Challenges of Female Sports Activities in Primary School:**

In this regards I have tried to unveil the challenges for female sports activities. In my own observation according to my survey, interviews and FGD I have seen that there are some challenges for pursuing female sports activity of class five students.

##### **4.3.1 Challenges from School and Community:**

Grade A type of school always thinks how they can achieve the better result for primary education completion examination (PEC). This PEC exam is one of the largest public examinations in our country and they cannot spend any time without its preparation because they have liabilities for its result. So, it is a great challenge for female students to take part in sports regularly.

On the other hand, most of the teachers both male and female are not well known about the female sports in primary school and they do not seriously care about it. Another notable challenge is that some teachers express displeasure about female sports because if a girl is injured in sports they can be insulted by the guardians. They may have to

bear the responsibility, for this reason they want to avoid it. In an interview by FGD one of an assistant teacher has told the similar things. Such as he said-

Lack of campaign and lack of consciousness are the challenges of class five female students for sports activities. (FGD# Participant-3, Date: 11.10.18)

In the same way I have seen that there are some challenges for pursuing female sports activity of class five students of grade C type school. Community creates barrier to the female sports only for ignorance and orthodoxy of the community leader. Really it is limitless challenges.

#### 4.3.2 Challenges from Parents:

This data shows that lack of consciousness is still a great challenge for bringing the awareness of female sports activities. On this issue mother of Grade-C type school stated-

If female students engage in sports more, it will create negative situation for their family. Neighbors can spread rumors, society creates barrier and moreover it is us believe that religious views don't support the female sports. (Interview#4: Date: 10.10.18)

This data indicates that local authorities also have some abilities to overcome these types of challenges for female sports activities if they desired. Otherwise some parents create opposed to female sports but they don't know how frightening the consequences of not participating in sports. This internal barrier is another familiar challenge for female students.

#### 4.4 Possibilities of Female Sports Activities in Primary School:

##### 4.4.1 Possibilities of Daily Sports Activities:

After completing the annual examination or before running the academic session in full swing from January to February female students of class five get a good chance to practise their daily sports activities as Race, Dariyabandha, Gollachut, Kanamachi, Baa Chi etc. In daily assembly when female students take part in it the head teacher speaks about the matter. Most of the students as well as female students also run to and fro when they get a chance. Before or after the class hour when they get a chance engaging in different types of local familiar sports in front of the classroom or in the school field.

Some curious female students can play chess or badminton together in the classroom or in front of the classroom at Tiffin time or leisure time. Other female students can take participate in sports activities before or after the school hour. Some of the female students of class five know how to swim because Bangladesh is a reverine country and they practise a lot of time for swimming when they take a bath.

In my own observation according to my survey, interviews and FGD I have seen that there are some possibilities for pursuing female sports activity of class five students of grade A type school. There is a big play ground in front of the grade A type school and positive environment for taking part in sports. At excluded time during the class time most of the female students of class five involve in indoor games such as, Chess, Carom, Badminton, Skipping and Ludu. On the other hand, some involves in outdoor games such as Football, Cricket, Race, High jump and Long jump. Some others like to involve in Dariyabandha, Gollachut, Kanamachi and Bouchi. Their guardians, SMC members and community leaders are aware and they cannot create several barriers on this issue.

In the same way I have seen that there are some possibilities for pursuing female sports activity of class five students of grade C type school. There is a big play ground in front of this school. At excluded time during the class time most of the female students of class five involves in indoor games such as, Chess, Skipping and Ludu inside the classroom or in front the classroom. Most of them involve in pleasure in outdoor games such as, Race, High jump and Long jump. Some others like to involve in Dariyabandha, Gollachut, Kanamachi and Bouchi.

##### 4.4.2 Possibilities of Annual Sports Activities:

Every year most of the school arranges annual sports competition with the help of SMC, PTA, community leader, parents, former students, political leader, local people and higher officials. There the female students of class five get an opportunity to participate in different types of sports activities such as Race, High jump, Long jump, Skipping, Where the pillow when the music stop? Treasure recovered, Memory test, go as you like, Ball throw in the bucket etc. Actually it is a great stage for the female students for motivating both of their parents and also themselves.

Very recently most of the school authorities have taken part in Bangomata football tournament and inter primary school sports and cultural program because it is compulsory by the Directorate of Primary Education. In the celebration of national day such as Victory day (16 December), Independent day (26 March) girls regularly take part in sports. They can get chance to perform themselves different types of sports activities and if they can win, their confidence level will be high for that purpose.

Their head teacher and assistant teacher (sports teacher) take care of this and consider it to be an important part of education. This data and activities motivate others like an influence upon the female students. The school authority arranges annual sports competition for all the girls in the school and manages to take part in inter primary school sports and cultural program because it is compulsory by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE).

This data and activities motivate others to like an influence upon the female students. In an interview by FGD one of an assistant teacher has told the similar things. Such as he said-



The future of sports activities is very bright now days. If the female students get chance for admission at BKSP and can make record her favorite discipline as an athlete, then female students will choose sports activities as their carrier. (FGD# Participant-6, Date: 11.10.18)

If the stake holder, students and teachers are willing to accomplish this unique chance that will be very positive sign for female sports activities.

## **XVI. Discussion**

In this section it was explain the experience and learning from the research study. This study is conducted to know different stakeholder's perception about female sports activities in GPS and to investigate how female sports is being practiced, its possibilities and facing challenges. It was tried to collect data in this context. It has discussed here all of the findings with interpretation in terms of what my data suggested why the results were important and how the result might be used to improve female sports activities. The findings are discussed in relation to my research questions and conceptual framework and relating to the literature reviewed in this study.

On my research I have tried to find out the sports consciousness among the female students about the curriculum and syllabus that are incorporated for the female sports practices. They are presented according to some theme which is closely related to my topic, problem of the statement, research questions, and survey and core findings. Such as-

### **5.1 Lack of Awareness about Female Sports in Primary School:**

Bangladesh primary education starts at the age of 5+ which normally goes to 11+. This time is the crucial time for human life, as a major alteration of life starting at this time which is childhood to adolescence. Actually there is no strong awareness of female sports in our primary school. As a result, lacking of awareness creates barriers for awareness about female sports. Different sources said about female sports consciousness in different style and different language but main theme is the same that is to ensure sports awareness for the female students. An article published by in, J., (2017) with the statement of 7th UN Secretary General Kofi Annan stated that- There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of woman.

According to the article published by United Nations Development Fund for Women (2008) has stated that- "Girls and women face a disproportionate number of life challenges, which reduce their full potential. Recent studies show that despite formal guarantees of equality, the overall rate of progress for women particularly those from the poorest and most marginalized regions of the world has been slow."

All of the literature it was studied and has given importance and special cares of sports activities for up aging students of class four and five but in the real field it has observed that there is a great lack of awareness about female sports in primary school.

Most of the teachers including with head teacher are not aware of female sports. After the government funded primary school tournaments spread all over the country. The Bangomata Begum Fajilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament, organized by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, started its journey in 2011. The tournament involves more than a million young female students at best class five from around 64,000 schools every year.

Due to the lack of proper subject based knowledge and training most of the primary school teachers think that sports have not any output which is direct related to study. To overcome the situation sports teachers will be recruited under the PEDP-4. Additional secretary of primary and mass education ministry Gias Uddin Ahmed told Ekushey TV Online (2018) which is stated that-

Two thousand and 553 teachers will be appointed for sports and 2,553 teachers will be appointed for music. These teachers will take classes in 10 educational institutions in six days a week. We decided to appoint one teacher for 10 schools. They will go to the nearby schools for routine and take classes in the week. If necessary, a teacher train of that school and get experience. In his absence, the teacher can do the job.

The statement of Additional secretary of primary and mass education (2018) has proved that in our government primary school still now there is no specialist sports teacher and not only that the physical exercise training for teachers are not notable. As a result, lack of awareness about female sports is visible everywhere in government primary school. It has been decided to appoint teachers for sports with importance and try to remove the lack of awareness about female sports in primary school.

For that WHO (2018) recommends-

Children and adolescents aged 5-17 years should do at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily and insufficient physical activity is one of the leading risk factors for death worldwide.

Actually the nature of sports in creating an ideal man is very significant. Sport is very favorable to enhancement physical strength and might.

### **5.2 Barriers from Community:**

A usual definition of community founded as a mass of people with several prominences that are connected by neighborly bindings, divides operable aspects, and assign in combined operation in geographical position or arrangement. It is universally learned that, man cannot live alone. He needs accompany. Co-operate with each other

is the main tune of the community. Bangladesh is an agricultural country. In this purpose the WORLD BANK (2016) stated-

More than 70% of Bangladesh's population and 77% of its work force lives in rural areas. Nearly half of all of Bangladesh's workers and two-thirds in rural areas are directly employed by agriculture, and about 87% of rural households rely on agriculture for at least part of their income.

According to this data obtained from the survey it is true that most of the female students of class five are like sports and want to take part in sports. But the community leader thinks that sports are not just permissible but girls' games are forbidden. They believe that women will be screened in the house but day after day girls are excited going to school and colleges. Female sports activity is contrary to social and religious customs which is difficult to accept. They have no idea about participating in sports activity is an important part of being healthy. It helps with physical, mental, social and emotional health.

It is further socially admissible for girls to participate in sports like swimming, dance, cheer leading than it is for boys. We are only now creating a Kabaddi team for men but not for women though the Kabaddi is national sports for our country. Not only that if the female students want to take part in the games Bangomata football tournament, high jump, long jump and race wearing dresses like boys they will be victim of eve teasing and ridicule. This leads to female facing bullying when they do try to participate in these sports because if they punch jersey and half pants for the game the religion will turn out to the society and there will be a demand to keep them uncluttered. Thus they strictly prohibited for female students participating in sports. According to this Dagkas, Syemeon & Tansin (2010) stated-

Participation Muslim women in sports depends upon many factors such as country of origin, religious orientation, gender norms, culture, parent's family relatives and society member support.

WHO recommends (2018)-

Insufficient physical activity is a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes.

Despite this many people in society think that sports are just for boys. Because boys can play football, cricket on the open ground as well women should not play it. Like boy's dress if the girls play in the open field that will be dishonored for their family and community. Therefore, these dresses of sports are objectionable for girls and that is to deny traditional customs and religious beliefs. These barriers to participation for Muslim female sportsmen are not hugely different from those faced by many female sportsmen. All these unwanted and unwelcome causes they make barriers for female sport.

### **5.3 Barriers from School:**

There are some class based achievable competences of physical education of grade five students. Physical education training manual (2013) stated that –

Through exercises indoor games such as carom, chess, table tennis etc. will be able to achieve skills and mental enjoyment competences and through exercises outdoor games such as cricket, football, badminton, handball etc. will be able to achieve skills psychological pleasure competences.

School does not only help learners learn essential notions and skills, but it also accommodates students to interact with other students socially, academically and emotionally. But recently in our country most of teachers even the head teacher of government primary school thinks that guardian will be glad to them if the result of PEC exam is better. They think that the result of PEC exam is one of the most valuable indicators for recognition as a good school. So they try to pay their more attention for achieve the academic result ignoring everything and competition is only conducted in different schools with results. They turn the students into robot. Instead of real education getting A+ becomes their main idea.

But most of the student's especially female students want to play with both boys and girls in school. Before the starting of school and at Tiffin time they want to start to play in front of the classroom but most of the schools do not have access to sports. Even in most schools there are no Ludu, carom and chess. Female student prefers to play classical games like Ludu, chess and matching games at their leisure time in the classroom. Female students want to play with joy instead of going home after finishing the terminal examination constantly. During the winter female's like to play games such as Dariyabandha, Gollachut, Kanamachi, Baa Chi etc.

As a result, they are not enthusiastic about the female sports activities and this less interest or reluctant about sports creates a great barrier for female sports. In these case WHO (2018) recommends-

More than 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physical active. On the other hand, in most of the schools the number of the female teachers is more.

Though the female sportspersons are good at the union level, many teachers think that it is very difficult and costly to take them to the Upazila level. That's why they don't show too much interest and create barrier for participating in sports activities. In this regard, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (2017) stated-

You will have to take initiatives so that schools could get all kinds of support for the promotion of sports. We have increased financial grants for expansion of games and sports.

In spite of that, they are not interested in risking this because of local pressure on the teachers. At present, teachers have to do various official works outside the class. Such as filling up and sending different columns of the relevant departments and preparing the information of the stipends. Moreover, there are crises of teachers in many school. Even there is no place and environment to play for female students in most of the school. So the teachers do not want to get in trouble in this matter. As a result, it ultimately creates great barriers.

The goal of our primary education, as defined by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) is- Physical, emotional, social, moral, human, aesthetic, spiritual and educational development of the child and encourages them of patriotism, science mentality, creativity and dream of a better life.

At present the number of girls in primary education is not less than the number of boys in the country even the number of girls is somehow more than boys. We can prove this by a newspaper article published by Chaity (2018) revealed that-

Participation of girls in primary schools is increasing as their overall enrollment rose from 57% in 2008 to 95.4% in 2017.

It is very difficult to ensure standardized primary education if the females are tied to learn well in schools. Actually playing sports at any level or inter school can be a key part of the school experience and it can be an immense and lasting impact on a student's life. Among its many benefits participation in extracurricular athletic activities promotes socialization, the development of leadership skills, focus and of course, physical fitness.

#### **5.4 Barriers from Family:**

Repeatedly crowd will say that a family comprises of a mother, father, and children all living simultaneously less than one roof. Some might say a family can be anything that involves in love. Webster's dictionary (2017) defines- "Family is a group consisting of parents and children living together in a house hold." Family is the individual most significant impression in a child's life. Since their first instant of life, children depend on parents and family to maintain them and provide for their needs. Every parent knows that it's occasionally hard to do this urgent work without help, support, and excessive possessing. According to the World Bank (2018)- Bangladesh poverty rate fell from 82% in 1972, to 18.5% in 2010, to 13.8% in 2016, and below 9% in 2018, as measured by the percentage of people living below the international extreme poverty.

This poverty is one of the great barriers for female students to take part in sports. Sometimes when the females are going to play, the eve teaser teases them. Eve teasing has reached such an alarming proportion that many girls committed to suicide in the past few years. We can have proved this by a newspaper article published by The Daily Sun (2018) revealed that-

Many female students are forced to stay at home giving up their studies due to eve teasing. Parents are marrying off their school and college going daughters in order to avoid the horrible situation

As a result, some parents show less interest about sending their daughters for taking part in sports. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (2011) – "The number of people of religion in Bangladesh is Islam (90%) but a significant percentage of the population adheres to Hinduism (9%)." In general Islam promotes good health and fitness and encourages both men and women to engage in physical activity to maintain healthy lifestyle. Muslim Women in Sport (2010) stated that- Due to religious misinterpretations or simply a lack of awareness, many Muslim women have been prevented or not able to participate in sports.

This is important that half of the population of Bangladesh is women and their economic participation has increased significantly. For this context Chaity (2018) revealed that- The number of working women increased to 18.6 million in 2016-17 from 16.2 million in 2010.

In the long run, sports can help the young female students changing their behavior and attitude. In this regard honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (2017) stated that-

We want Bangladesh to progress further in games and sports where the boys and girls are equal to perform...we would take measures to create more scopes in the field.

Finally, it can be say it is very painful to convince parents from rural areas to sanction their children to get in to sports. This is especially important for young woman whose parents need to understand the benefits of sports to allow them to encourage out of social activities and fell comfortable that the environment will be safe. We can prove this by a newspaper article published by Karim (2018) revealed that-

Mofiz Uddin is the coach and assistant teacher of Kalsindhur Government Primary school. This school won the Bangomata Gold Cup national champion trophy thrice and produced a number of female players who play for the national team today. He was called a lunatic master and marriage-killer just because he initiated a program to trained girls.

## **XVII. Conclusion:**

Through this research it has mainly tried to find out the challenges, possibilities and current practices of the issue of the thesis. It has also tried to find out the information on how to establish female sports promoting school by considering DPE's conception. To bring the fantastic outcomes of the study it selected seven government primary schools at Santhia Upazila, Pabna in Bangladesh. In these schools it was conducted interviews with head teachers, parents, community leader, FGD with assistant teachers and survey on female students. To fulfill this study, it observed female sports awareness activities in the schools and analyzed the documents providing by government. Pursuing sports activities of class five female students is an issue of growing concern. It is inevitably related to education. In this study it is seen that most of the female students and teachers are informed about on female sports issue. They tried to give value it in their everyday life. In this study it had seen through literature review, conducting interviews, FGD and survey that the challenges, possibilities and current practices of female sports awareness have brought positive outcomes in primary education of Bangladesh.

Sports activities of class five female students is not a separate program. It is an integrated process. It is related not only by the awareness of different stakeholders and female students at school campus but also by the house hold practices of everyday life. There is no scope to ignore physical exercise and sports in education at any cost. In short it can be stated that it is needed to engage all the sectors like Government Organization and Non-Government Organization to ensure female sports awareness practice for all the students in primary education of Bangladesh to make female sports promoting schools.

## **XVIII. Recommendations**

There is no end of success. Female sports awareness is introduced successfully in the government primary schools in Bangladesh, but it is needed to be more awareness on female sports issue practiced in everyday life of a student. Several numbers of suggestion came from the research participants about this issue. So it would like to present a few recommendations based on findings of this study as well as learning which is as follows:

- ❖ It is very important to know about the female sports activities policy and implementation strategies for all stakeholders who related to implementation process. Besides this, meaning full implementation needs a good co-ordination among stakeholders.
- ❖ A strong co-ordination process needs to establish between government primary schools, guardians and community leaders. In order to proper co-ordination will be formed an athletic club for successful implementation of female sports activities in the school.
- ❖ Providing sports related to training to all the teachers, female students, representatives, SMC members, and important stakeholders of primary education.
- ❖ Supervision and monitoring on female sports activities should be increased. It would be incorporated as a mandatory work for higher authority's supervision.
- ❖ Making a task-force along with students, teachers, SMC, PTA and guardians who will work regularly for ensuring female sports awareness for the female for inside and outside of school premises.
- ❖ Ensuring secured play ground in every school for generating mental, environmental and practice sports awareness.
- ❖ Government should allocate special funds to buy sporting goods and others necessary equipment regularly.
- ❖ Female sports consciousness related to posters, messages, magazines, sentences should be hanged on the wall or school premises as mandatory work.
- ❖ Member of Upazila sports association will visit every primary school at least once in a month. They should arrange a special informative meeting with the female students, teachers and SMC and should supply emergency sports kits regularly.
- ❖ Selecting a teacher for the female students. They should get training on sports activities at least for six months with a certificate from the National Sports Council (NSC).
- ❖ Creating a system of giving recognition for the ' best female sports conscious school' by the government maintaining selected criteria as a regular inspiration.
- ❖ Selecting a special day for monthly ' female sports conscious day' for both the school which should be observed by the participation of all level of stakeholders and selecting weekly sports conscious icon from the female students in the rural school as regular basis activities who would be award by the school authority.

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