



Olympic Medalist 'Vijay Kumar' the Shooting Star of India - A Case Study

Mr. Manish Malik¹ & Dr. Inder Singh Pal²

¹Research Scholar,

²Assistant Professor, (AUUP)

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to understand the contribution and achievement of Vijay Kumar towards the promotion of shooting in the country especially professional preparation in this field which are; to count professional leadership qualities of Vijay Kumar. To explore his work style and To know his views for upliftment of shooting in India. The data for investigation was derived from the interview of Vijay Kumar, his family members, his colleagues and selected contemporaries and also on questionnaire, interviews, magazine and newspapers. First time he represented India at international shooting challenges (2005). He achieved 2 Gold Medals at the 2006 Commonwealth Games Melbourne, 2006 Asian games Bronze Medal (Doha), 2007 Asian championship silver medal (Kuwait city), 2009 Silver medal at ISSF (Beijing), 2010 Commonwealth Games 3 gold and 1 silver (Delhi), 2012 London Olympics Silver medal. He was honored with Arjun Award (2007), Rajev Gandhi Khel Ratan (2010), Padam Shree (2013).

Keywords: Vijay Kumar, Shooting Star, Olympic Medalist.

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Introduction

A shooting sport is a competitive sport involving tests of proficiency (accuracy and Speed) using various types of guns such as firearms and air guns. Shooting is an important Olympic sport in India. Of India's 26 Olympic medals, 4 have come from Shooting including Gold by Abhinav Bindra in the 2008 Olympics. Indian shooters who have excelled at the world stage include Abhinav Bindra, Jitu Rai, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Vijay Kumar, Gagan Narang, Apurvi Chandela, Ronjan Sodhi and Anjali Bhagwat. The purpose of study was Ascertain the contribution and achievement of Mr. Vijay Kumar Towards the permutation of Shooting in India. In order to collect relevant information for the study the following three tools were used:

1. Questionnaire
2. Interview
3. Study of Literature

For collecting important information on some of the delicate questions the tools of interview was also employed. In addition, important information available in newspapers and other similar resources was also gone through.

The following persons served as respondents

1. Mr. Vijay Kumar

2. Mr. Banku Lal Sharma - Father of Mr. Vijay Kumar
3. Mr. Pavel Smirnov – Coach of Mr. Vijay Kumar
4. Shooter who have trained with Mr. Vijay Kumar

Interview was conducted with the following persons as well

1. Mr. Vijay Kumar
2. Mr. Banku Lal Sharma - Father of Mr. Vijay Kumar
3. Mr. Pavel Smirnov – Coach of Mr. Vijay Kumar
4. Shooter who have trained with Mr. Vijay Kumar

Effort was made to go through different categories of literature preserved by Mr. Vijay Kumar in his house, literature available with the coach and also literature available in the Shooting Federation. It was found the following newspaper and different interviews in news channels namely:-

1. Dainik Jagran, New Delhi Dated 04th August 2012.
2. Dainik Jagran, New Delhi Dated 09th August 2012.
3. Dainik Jagran, New Delhi Dated 17th August 2012.
4. N.D.T.V. Sports News channel (03rd August 2012).
5. D.D. News TV Channel.
6. Internet.

Methodology

Selection of Tools

To collect desired information the following tools were employed:

Correspondence

Dr. Inder Singh Pal

E-mail: doctorinder32@gmail.com, Ph. +9199999 72473

1. Questionnaire
2. Interview
3. Study of literature

Preparation of Questionnaire and its Administration

The questionnaire was prepared adopting the following procedure:

1. Initial draft
2. Trial run
3. Final draft

Initial draft

In the beginning few Questions were formed that were imperative to be answered modifications were done after. Consulting or favours of experts & guides, before making the final draft.

Trial run

After adding all the detailed information & items the questionnaire was formulated in an arranged manner & matching the contents of the experts & professionals, the questionnaire was Trial on a small group of 15 Athletes. The motive of the trial run was to unveil the meaning of each statement. Composed in the questionnaire & if was lucid (clear) then was it appropriate to obtain the desired output. Trial run respondents were asked to condemn the questionnaire in the aspects of adequacy & transparency of the question if they were not ambiguous.

Final draft

On the basis for receiving suggestions ideas and information from the respondents vital changes were made in the composition of the questionnaire & eventually it was formulated after the approval from the professionals' guides, shooters and experts. The questionnaire was fully finalized in consultation with other respected faculty members of the prestigious Amity School of Physical Education and Sports Sciences (ASPESS) and Shooting Experts available in NCR.

The questionnaire was administered to the following individuals

1. Mr. Vijay Kumar
2. Mr.Banku Lal Sharma - Father of Mr. Vijay Kumar
3. Mr.Povel Swicnov – Coach of Mr. Vijay Kumar
4. Shooter who have trained with Mr. Vijay Kumar

There was a personally interaction to all the above referred individuals in person and got the questionnaire completed. The scholar was present just for the objective of explaining different questions in a coherent language that could be easily understood by the respondents. Other reasons behind was duly presence of the scholar with the receivers was that some of them who were to fill up the questionnaire were illiterate, who therefore requires immediate attention. The main motto of conducting the interview with some of the respondents was to specify & verify the mentioned details in the

questionnaire and also get information on some critical issues, like qualification, financial status etc. for the giving purpose a questionnaire was prepared by the scholar, so that it could involve them fully. Discussion only on relevant topics and also that interview was completed in an already given time. The following person was interviewed.

1. Mr. Vijay Kumar
2. Mr.Banku Lal Sharma - Father of Mr. Vijay Kumar
3. Mr.PovelSwicnov – Coach of Mr. Vijay Kumar
4. Shooter who have trained with Mr. Vijay Kumar

Interview

The main purpose of conducting the interview with some of the respondents was to verify the details mentioned in the questionnaire and also to collect information on some sensitive issues namely qualification, financial status and the like. For the above purpose a questionnaire was prepared by the research scholar so that interview involved discussion only on relevant points and also that interview could be completed within a reasonable period. The following persons were interviewed:

1. Mr. Vijay Kumar
2. Mr.Banku Lal Sharma - Father of Mr. Vijay Kumar
3. Mr.PovelSwicnov– Coach of Mr. Vijay Kumar
4. Five Shooter who have trained with Mr.Vijay Kumar.

The information collected using different tools i.e. questionnaire, interview and study of literature was systematically and logically presented in tabular as well as descriptive manner.

Study of Literature

Various sources (News-papers and Souvenirs) were gone through by the research scholars to gain additional information regarding the achievements of Mr. Vijay Kumar.

Discussion of Findings

From the result which the tools have provided Digital information about Mr. Vijay Kumar and revealed how he started taking up shooting as his career since 2003. This family supported him morally a lot; they encouraged him to go deep into the training & Participating in all the Competitions, for this he become a favorite student of Russian Coach Pavel Smirnov. Where for the first times he represented in India in International Shooting Challenges (2005). The findings also reveal that Mr. Vijay Kumar's achievements were made us proud besides being the best of the Indian in his Rapid Fire Pistol Shooting; his sincerity commitments, hardworking and dedication has put him to this level as an exemplary for the whole shooting field in any stage for the country.

Table I. Presentation of Information Collected Through Questionnaire for Mr. Vijay Kumar

1- For how many years you know Mr.Vijay Kumar?	The coach and the shooter colleagues of Mr. Vijay Kumar stated that they know him for the past ten to twelve years.
2- At what age Mr. Vijay Kumar started sports?	Father of Mr. Vijay Kumar mentioned that he started sports at the age of 17 whereas his coach opined that his sports participation started at the age of 18 to 19years.
3- Did he start his sports career with shooting or any other sports?	Shooting
4- Was he a good sports person at school age?	Yes
5- Who encouraged Mr. Vijay Kumarto take interest in sports?	Self
6- How supportive has been the Indian government in your success?	Indian government always supported me as and when desired by me.
7- Who was your coach in the starting of your career?	Mr.Pavel .S.
8- Did Mr. Vijay Kumar receive 100% support from his parents and other family members?	Yes
9- Was there any other member in the family who was also a good sports person?	Yes
10- Who is Mr.Vijay Kumar's main motivator?	None (Self- motivated)
11- Did Mr.Vijay Kumar keep any high performance sports person as his ideal/model?	None (Self -motivated)
12- What are Mr.Vijay Kumar's achievements in sports?	Rapid pistol fire.
13- YourEcademic Qualification?	10+2 and pursuing B.A
14- Where was your schooling done?	In Army school.
15- When did you start your career in army?	Year 2001
16- Name some other International Level Shooter who used to train with him and were also friendly?	Mr. PambaTamang and omkar Singh.
17- What do you consider your biggest achievement?	. Olympic silver medal in London 2012.
18- When did you represent India for the first time	Year 2005. And won the bronze medal.
19- Whom you will give credit of your success?	I give credit to my family and Indian army, my coach and SAI.
20- What your future plans?	My future plan is get gold medal in 2016 at rio de janeiro.
21-What are your favorite events of participation in shooting?	Rapid fire pistol.
22-What are your other hobbies.	Shooting and driving.

Table II. Questionnaire for coach Name of the coach – Pavelswiznov Moscow (Russia)

1-Tell us something about yourself?	Pavelswiznov from Russia. Coaching from 1957 Coaching ussr, turkwanistar, suria, thailand, india
2-When did you start giving coaching to vijay kumar?	From 2007.
3-How was Vijay Kumar different from other?	It was discipline of practice made him different.
4-What where the strong points in the personality of Vijay Kumar?	Motivation of wining.
5-What are your comments on his success in London Olympics?	We awing. We wining
6- What is the preparation for next Olympic?	We have target, we will certainly do.
7-How do you see future of shooting in India?	Prefect future in shooting sports.
8-What is your future plan to promote shooting?	Would like to be in Olympic team of India as a coach.

Table III. Questionnaire for father Name - Banku Lal Sharma

1-How was Vijay Kumar during his child hood?	Very committed towards his assignments.
2-Did you have any feeling of this great success of your son in his school day?	I am proud that today I am known by his achievements.
3-How was vijay kumar in his study?	Average
4-Your son has done a great proud to India how would you describe it?	I wish if every Indian could contribute something for their country.
5-Do you have any plan to develop game of shooting in your area?	I will certainly ask government to help for such talented shooters.
6- What do you consider your biggest achievement?	My son is doing something for the country.
7-How was vijay kumar different from other?	Very quick learner
8-At what age mr.vijay kumar started his game?	When he was seventeen years of age.

Conclusions

- Mr. Vijay Kumar was identified as one of the very talented Shooter in the country in his age group category.
- He initiated his training for shooting while he was of 18 years of age and after continued it systematically and religiously during his Army service, thereafter even at state, National and International levels.
- Few of the very important motivational factors for the enhancement for the shooting performance were his determination, commitments and hard work.
- Mr. Vijay Kumar's better performances in shooting were systematically shaped by his experienced coach Mr. Pavel Smirnov.
- Even though there was no other member of his family who was a sports person yet his parents provided him required moral assistance mainly because he showed lots of promises as a shooter.
- Mr. Vijay Kumar has participated in shooting competitions at the age of 17 years and his performance in these competitions served as a great source of motivation which compelled him to continue systematic training initially under the supervision of his Army training stage and thereafter under the care of reputed Russian coach Mr. Pavel Smirnov.
- Even though Mr. Vijay Kumar did not have any outstanding person as ideal / model yet he trained systematically to bring himself to level of an International sports person.
- Mr. Vijay Kumar did not get sports science support and whatever level of performance he achieved was all due to his hard work and the guidance of this coach.
- Mr. Vijay Kumar attended training camps organized by Sports Authority of India and also attended systematic training in the following academies.
 - Dr.Karni Singh Shooting Range Delhi
 - Army Shooting Range MAHOU(MP)
 - Hyderabad International shooting range.
 - Indian Shooting camp Pune
- The important contribution of Mr. Vijay Kumar for popularizing the sport of shooting in Army cantonment and rest of India are as follows:
He as a sports person been a great source of motivation for the youngsters of Indian Army as well as rest of Indian-willing shooters; He used to participate in regular training sessions in Indian Army Training camps He also used to visit the sports shooting range and use to gather tips and wits from the experience shooters as and when required.

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