

ISO 9001 - 2015

ISSN 2349 - 4891

Monthly

IF  
4.665



*Volume 4, Issue 8, August 2017*

International Journal of  
**Recent Research and Applied Studies**

**SURRAGH PUBLICATIONS**  
SURRAGH PUBLICATIONS





## Facilities and Programmes to Promote Hockey Culture in Kodagu (Coorg) District of Karnataka State

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Received 15th June 2017, Accepted 1st August 2017

### Abstract

*Purpose of the study is to find out the facilities and programmes to promote the hockey culture in Kodagu (coorg) District of Karnataka State. For the research purpose the collected information pertaining to the study are as follows, geographical features of Kodagu (Coorg) District, Hockey game as their cultural festival, the Olympians of the Kodagu (Coorg) District, the family hockey tournament, the relationship of game with army people, various sports organizations associate the nature of the tournaments, number of schools and hockey play grounds, and facilities and programmes of the region.*

**Keywords:** Hockey, Kodagu, Coorg, Kodavas, Family, Facility, Programme.

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### Introduction

Karnataka is a state consisting of thirty administrative districts in which Kodagu (Coorg) is one of the smallest administrative districts in Karnataka, India. Before 1956, it was an administratively separate state called Coorg and it was merged into an enlarged Mysore state. In November 01 1973, the Mysore state was named as Karnataka State. Madikeri (In English: Mercara) is the headquarters of Kodagu (Coorg). Kodagu (Coorg) is a mountainous district, bordered by six districts, three districts are (Dakshina kannada, Hassan, and Mysore) in Karnataka state and two districts (Kasaragod and Kannur) are in Kerala State. As it is situated on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats range the whole district is covered by beautiful mountain ranges, the green trap of forest, waterfalls, the misty climate in monsoon and winter season. It has a total area of 4,102 sq km with the population density of 140 per sq km. As per the 2011 population census of India Kodagu (Coorg) has a total population of 554,519 of which male and female were 274,608 and 279,911 respectively. In 1834, the East India Company annexed Kodagu into British India, after deposing Chikka virarajendra of the Kodagu kingdom, as 'Coorg'. The people accepted the British rule peacefully. British rule led to the establishment of educational institutions, introduction of scientific coffee cultivation, better administration and improvement in the economy.

### Hockey Game as their Cultural Festival

The clan of kodavas in the Indian state of Karnataka has a long history of association with the game of field hockey. The district of kodagu land of the kodavas is considered as the cradle of Indian hockey, they conduct hockey tournaments every year as their cultural festival. The kodavas in the Indian state of Karnataka have an extensive account of association and fondness with the game of hockey. Hockey is also a unique aspect of the Kodava culture, reflecting their martial spirit. Interestingly, the much awaited Kodava Hockey Festival takes place in Kodagu each year. Over 200 families take part in this festival, exhibiting the Kodava zeal for this sport. The inaugural and the final ceremonies are held with magnificence and grandeur, various forms of dance and martial arts are showcased. The tournament is inaugurated by a dignitary, doing a pass-back of the hockey ball using a silver hockey stick. The documentary film 'HOCKEY IN MY BLOOD', features the most awaited event on the local calendar in Coorg.

### The Family Hockey Tournament

The family hockey tournament was started in the year 1997 and was the brainchild of 69-year-old Pandanda Kuttappa who was a first division hockey referee and an ex-employee of State Bank of India. He conceived the idea of creating a platform in which the different Kodava families can get together. Realizing the passion of hockey in Kodagu, He decided that a hockey tournament would be a good event to bring Kodavas together. He also chose the hockey tournament because he was disturbed about the growth of junior hockey players from Kodagu. The finances required for the

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inaugural tournament were provided by Pandanda Kuttappa and by his brother Pandanda Kashi Ponnappa. Pandanda Kashi Ponnappa was a renowned hockey player represented Mysore University at a very young age and a well-known teacher. The response was very good and this tournament held at Karada called as Pandanda Cup. This tournament attracted around 60 families from the beginning and some rules were framed which included that all the team members must belong to the same family (surname) and participate in a full hockey attire. Even women can be a part of the team. After the tournament inauguration, an academy called the Kodava Hockey Academy was started to oversee and have the final say in all matters related to the future tournaments and Each subsequent tournament would be organised annually by a different Kodava family and the name of the family was given as the name of the tournament. The organising family was mainly responsible for arranging the finances and infrastructure is needed for the festival. The response to the tournament grew year by year and reached a maximum in the year 2003 in which 280zteams participated for Kaliyanda cup at Napoklu. It was such a big tournament and it entered in Guinness book of records and in the yearz2016 in which 299 teams were participated in this tournament. For the past two decades, Kodavas from all over the world have come back to the tiny district to take part in the annual tournament.

### The Olympians of the Kodagu District

Kodagu District is famous for hockey because more than fifty hockey players have represented India, and in this particular region out of which seven hockey players have participated in Olympics namely. M.P. Ganesh , former Indian hockey team captain, Olympian and coach, 1973 Arjuna award, B.P. Govinda, Indian hockey player, 1975 Arjuna award, M M Somaiya , former Indian hockey team player, captain, Olympian, 1985 Arjuna award, hockey gold medalist 1980. Arjun Halappa Indian hockey player, V. R. Raghunath Indian hockey team player, S.K. Uthappa , Indian hockey team player, S. V. Sunil, Indian hockey team player.

### The Relationship of the Game Hockey to Army People

The main reason to develop the hockey game among the army people like Field Marshal K M Cariappa first Indian commissioned officer, later became first Indian general and then first commander-in-chief of India. High commissioner (Ambassador in the commonwealth) of India in Australia and New Zealand who was interested in more fitness programme in army, further most of the families encouraged to take up the army life hence the hockey was in inception in the region where the army determines fitness, Like that the relationship of the hockey game to army bonds.

### Various Sports Organizations Associate with the Nature of the Tournaments

The various sports organizations like Kodava hockey academy, district hockey association, school game federation of India, sports authority of India, zilla panchayath sports hostel, sports residential school district and taluk level unrecognised clubs and associations. For example: Blue boy's hockey association of Somwarpet, Wonders sports club of Medikeri, General Thimmaia hockey academy of Napoklu and Veerajpet hockey academy Etc,

### Number of Schools and Hockey Play Grounds

There are in total 167 high schools and composite pre-university colleges are there in the Kodagu District, among these totally 50 high schools and composite pre-university colleges are having hockey play field Facilities (47 mud facilities, 3 Astroturf in that one is under laying condition)

### Facilities and Programmes of the Region

The uniqueness of this district is that they have enormous facilities to promote the game HOCKEY and they conduct different types of programmes to popularise the game of hockey for example most of the state hockey championship, league tournaments, block tournaments, family hockey tournaments, and in most of the tournaments the sponsors are involved in sponsoring the players and team, this tournaments also helps to scout the talent identification for the army sports recruitments, railway sports board recruitments and other leading companies etc.

### Conclusion

The above relevant information's give the idea that the Kodagu District which is a smallest district in Karnataka state as excelled in the game of hockey which is a highest contribution among the varies districts in Karnataka in the field of hockey.

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