SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT - NETBALL: CREATING A BETTER SOCIETY.

A seminar on the positive role of netball in community-oriented programmes.

SAMPARC Medical Centre, Malvali, District Pune, Maharashtra
Saturday, November 30th, 2013

PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR:

- To bring together stakeholders (schools, corporates, netball governing bodies, institutions, government agencies, players and coaches) in netball from all over India and other countries by providing them a common platform thereby encouraging them to share their valuable experience and data.
- Explore and share methods to utilise netball as a delivery mechanism for development programmes
- To formulate a common plan for likeminded organisations to work together and utilise the positive attributes of netball as a non-contact sport and in sport for development.
- To get young children from all communities together to play and improve the communication, collaboration and co-operation between both genders while creating sports excellence through development of the game across India.
- To emphasise on both Sport Development and Sport FOR Development initiatives

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

- The role of netball in development programmes
- Utilisation of netball as a delivery vehicle for health, sanitation and gender sensitisation and reproductive health including HIV awareness
- Development of the game across the country and it's introduction at block, district and state levels at all schools
- Creating excellence to promote netball and achieve improved international and regional status for the Indian team in the next five years
- The role of stakeholders – players, coaches, schools, clubs, federation and associations at state and national level
- Providing participants with an opportunity to forge new partnerships and compare notes and improve their ongoing and future programmes through best practices.
- Renewed emphasis on the benefits of sport and in particular netball on the health of young people and the positive impact and effect on their academic performances
- The emphasis of sport and netball on improving society and the role of sport in behaviour and attitude shift in young people toward competitive and engaging activities that are beneficial to them
- The role of sport and netball programmes at the grassroots and in building better communities in rural and urban areas
- The impact of sports in reducing stress and promoting healthier lifestyles for urban and rural youth

PARTICIPANTS:

- Organisations already active in delivering sport for development programmes in India.
- Educational institutions: lower, middle and high schools, colleges and universities.
- NGOs active in healthcare, disease prevention and social programmes that would like to introduce netball in their programme.
- Members of the government planning agencies, ministries of sport and youth affairs and development.
- International agencies who are interested or active in communities at the grassroots in India.
- Corporates who are interested in introducing sport, in particular netball as part of their CSR.
- Panchayat and block/district level council members
THE ORGANISERS:

**SAMPARC** was founded by Mr. Amitkumar Banerjee and Mrs. Lata Pande in 1990 and has gone from strength to strength in its 23-year-long history. From the first school setup at the base of the famous Bhaje caves near Lonavala with just 7 orphan girls, today SAMPARC runs 7 schools and centres with over 600 orphan and needy children located in four states across India. In 1998, SAMPARC’s exemplary work was recognised in the form of the National Child Welfare Award presented by the President of India to the organisation.

SAMPARC recognised the positive aspects and potential of netball with their organising a 4 day training camp at their medical centre in Malvali in February 2013; they have now launched an initiative to popularise and spread the game across Maharashtra and get girls and boys from all sections of society to play together and collaborate to bring excellence in this game to their state.

The quick actions and decisions of SAMPARC resulted in their joining hands with the Netball & Education Trust and thereafter participated in the first ever mixed teams netball tournament for schools, The One Nation Netball Cup held in New Delhi in May 2013.

**Netball & Education Trust (NET)** Has been active in India since 2011 in delivering netball coaching across India. A group of dedicated netball players and coaches from across the country. The programme visits schools to introduce the game and works with local partners to identify talent and develop netball at all levels. The project works the year around to train girls and boys as well as community coaches to improve skills and utilise the potential of community and sports as well as education to improve the quality of life and access to sports for everyone. NET partners with local schools, organisations and netball associations. The team includes international players who dedicate their time as volunteers as well as individuals from non-netball backgrounds who add different aspects and inputs to the programme.

THE VENUE:

The SAMPARC Medical Centre at Malvali, Maharashtra is located 101 kms. from Mumbai and 59 kms. From Pune on the Mumbai-Pune expressway (NH 4), it is also well connected by rail links to both Pune and Mumbai. The Malvali train station is literally in front of the centre. Malvali is only 8 kms. from Lonavala and has famous tourist sites including the Lohagad Fort built by Shivaji Maharaj, as well as the Visapur fort. The Bhaja, Bedsa and Karla caves housed buddhist monasteries over 2000 years ago and are all very close to the venue of the seminar.

SAMPARC operates a medical centre, youth hostel and an upcoming girl's hostel and netball stadium are in the process of being completed at the site. The medical centre sends out a medical van every day to all the nearby villages providing healthcare and preventive check-ups as well as referral to the Medical Centre which operates an OPD on site.

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