



A Review Study on Paralympic Games

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Abstract: The word “Paralympic” derives from the Greek preposition “para” (beside or alongside) and the word “Olympic”. Its meaning is that Paralympics are the parallel Games to the Olympics and illustrates how the two movements exist side-by-side (<https://www.paralympic.org>). The Paralympic Games is a major international multi sports event involving athletes with a range of disabilities, including impaired muscle power, impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency, leg length difference, short stature, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, vision impairment and intellectual impairment. The first Paralympic Games took place in Rome, Italy in 1960 featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then they have taken place every four years. As of 2016 summer Paralympic games was included 22 sports and 526 medal events. The IPC has established ten disability categories, including physical, visual, and intellectual impairment. Last Paralympic was held in Rio de Janeiro and upcoming Paralympic games will be held in Tokyo. At 2016 Paralympic India got two gold medals one silver and one bronze medal and squared 43rd rank. In the Present study it was attempted to find out several directions of Paralympic games, its origination and history of development, relationship with Olympic games, several events included according to the degree and types of disability, different group division of Paralympic games, geography of Paralympic games hosted, medal statistics of India in Paralympic games from 1960 to 2016 and the list of the players who had participated in Paralympic and Olympic games simultaneously etc. For that purpose it was reviewed from the origination of this game up to the present status where the tremendous popularity of the games reached in every corner of the globe. The information were collected from various resources and reviewed thoroughly and presented in the present paper.

Keywords: Paralympic Games, Olympic Games, Sports, Events

1. INTRODUCTION

The Paralympic Games is a major international multi sports event involving athletes with a range of disabilities, including impaired muscle power (e.g. paraplegia and quadriplegia, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, spina bifida), impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency (e.g. Amputation or dysmelia), leg length difference, short stature, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, vision impairment and intellectual impairment. There are winter and Summer Paralympic Games, which since the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, South Korea, are held almost immediately following the respective Olympic Games. All Paralympic Games are governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The Paralympics has grown from a small gathering of British World War II veterans in 1948 to become one of the largest international sporting events by the early 21st century. Paralympians strive for equal treatment with non-disabled Olympic athletes, but there is a large funding gap between Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

The Paralympic Games are organized in parallel with the Olympic Games, while the IOC-recognized Special Olympics World Games include athletes with intellectual disabilities, and the Deaflympics include deaf athletes.

Given the wide variety of disabilities that Paralympic athletes have, there are several categories in which the athletes compete. The allowable disabilities are broken down into ten eligible impairment types. The categories are impaired muscle power, impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency, leg length difference, short stature, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, vision impairment and intellectual impairment. These categories are further broken down into classifications, which vary

from sport to sport. The classification system has led to cheating controversies revolving around athletes who over-stated their disabilities, in addition to the use of performance-enhancing drug

Athletes with disabilities did compete in the Olympic Games prior to the advent of the Paralympics. The first athlete to do so was German American gymnast George Eyser in 1904, which had one artificial leg. Hungarian Karoly Takacs competed in shooting events in both the 1948 and 1952 Summer Olympics. He was a right-arm amputee and could shoot left-handed. Another disabled athlete to appear in the Olympics prior to the Paralympic Games was Lis Hartel, a Danish equestrian athlete who had contracted polio in 1943 and won a silver medal in the dressage event.

Present study was attempted to find out several directions of Paralympic games its origination and history of development, relationship with Olympic games, several events included according to the degree and types of disability, different group division of Paralympic games, geography of Paralympic games hosted, medal statistics of India in Paralympic games from 1960 to 2016 and the list of the players who had participated in Paralympic and Olympic games simultaneously etc. For that purpose it was reviewed from the origination of this game up to the present status where the tremendous popularity of the games reached in every corner of the globe. The information were collected from various resources and reviewed thoroughly and presented in the present paper.

1.1. Relationship with Olympic

In 2001 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) signed an agreement which guaranteed that host cities would be contracted to manage both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This agreement was to remain in effect until the 2012 Summer Olympics but was extended, encompassing all summer and winter games up until the 2020 Summer Olympics.

2. HISTORY OF PARALYMPIC

Sport for athletes with impairment has existed for more than 100 years, and the first sport clubs for the deaf were already in existence in 1888 in Berlin. It was not until after World War II however, that it was widely introduced. The purpose of it at that time was to assist the large number of war veterans and civilians who had been injured during wartime.

In 1944, at the request of the British Government, Dr. Ludwig Guttmann opened a spinal injuries center at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Great Britain, and in time, rehabilitation sport evolved to recreational sport and then to competitive sport. On 29 July 1948, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games, Dr. Guttmann organized the first competition for wheelchair athletes which he named the Stoke Mandeville Games, a milestone in Paralympics history. They involved 16 injured servicemen and women who took part in archery. In 1952, Dutch ex-servicemen joined the Movement and the International Stoke Mandeville Games were founded.

These Games later became the Paralympic Games which first took place in Rome, Italy in 1960 featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then they have taken place every four years. In 1976 the first Winter Games in Paralympics history were held in Sweden, and as with the Summer Games, have taken place every four years. Since the Summer Games of Seoul, Korea in 1988 and the Winter Games in Albertville, France in 1992 the Games have also taken part in the same cities and venues as the Olympics due to an agreement between the IPC and IOC.

Also in 1960, under the aegis of the World Federation of ex-servicemen, an International Working Group on Sport for the Disabled was set up to study the problems of sport for persons with an impairment. It resulted in the creation, in 1964, of the International Sport Organization for the Disabled (IOSD) who offered opportunities for those athletes who could not affiliate to the International Stoke Mandeville Games: visually impaired, amputees, persons with cerebral palsy and paraplegics.

At the start, 16 countries were affiliated to ISOD and the organization pushed very hard to include blind and amputee athletes into the Toronto 1976 Paralympics and athletes with cerebral palsy in 1980 in Arnhem. Its aim was to embrace all impairments in the future and to act as a Co-Coordinating Committee. Nevertheless, other disability-orientated international organizations such as the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) and International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) were founded in 1978 and 1980.

The four international organizations experienced the need of coordinating the Games so they created the "International Co-Coordinating Committee Sports for the Disabled in the World" (ICC) in

1982. The ICC was originally composed of the four presidents of CPISRA, IBSA, ISMGF and ISOD, the general secretaries and one additional member (in the beginning it was the Vice-President, and later on the Technical Officer). The International Committee of Sport for the Deaf (CISS) and International Sports Federations for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) joined in 1986, but the deaf still maintained their own organization. However, the member nations demanded more national and regional representation in the organization.

Finally, on 22 September 1989, the International Paralympic Committee was founded as an international non-profit organization in Dusseldorf, Germany to act as the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. The word “Paralympic” derives from the Greek preposition “para” (beside or alongside) and the word “Olympic”. Its meaning is that Paralympics are the parallel Games to the Olympics and illustrates how the two movements exists side-by-side.

3. SPORTS EVENTS AND GAMES OF PARALYMPIC

The Paralympic sports comprise the sports contested in the summer and winter Paralympic game. As of 2016 summer Paralympic games was included 22 sports and 526 medal events, and the winter Paralympic include 5 sports and disciplines and about 72 events. The number and kind of events may change from one Paralympic games to another.

The Paralympic games are a major international multi-sport event for athletes with physical disability. This includes athletes with mobility, disabilities, amputation, blindness and cerebral palsy. Paralympic sport refers to organized competitive sports activities as part of the global Paralympic movement. These sports are organized and run under the supervision of the international Paralympic committee and other international sports federations.

The name of the sports and games of Paralympic are as follow

• Para-archery	• Para-equestrian	• Power lifting	• Table tennis
• Athletics	• Football 5-a-side	• Rowing	• Para triathlon
• Bocce	• Football 7-a-side	• Sailing	• Wheelchair fencing
• Para-canoe	• Goal ball	• Shooting	• Wheelchair rugby
• Cycling	• Judo	• Sitting volleyball	
• Swimming	• Wheelchair basketball	• Wheelchair tennis	

4. DIFFERENT GROUP DIVISION OF PARALYMPIC GAMES

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has established ten disability categories. Athletes are divided within each category according to their level of impairment, in a functional classification system which differs from sport to sport. The IPC has established ten disability categories, including physical, visual, and intellectual impairment

4.1. Physical Impairment

There are eight different types of physical impairment:

• Impaired muscle	• Short stature
• Impaired passive range of	• Hypertonic
• Loss of limb or limb deficiency	• Ataxia
• Leg-length difference	• Athetosis

4.2. Visual Impairment

Athletes with visual impairment ranging from partial vision, sufficient to be judged legally blind, to total blindness. This includes impairment of one or more component of the visual system (eye structure, receptors, optic nerve pathway, and visual cortex).[63] The sighted guides for athletes with a visual impairment are such a close and essential part of the competition that the athlete with visual impairment and the guide are considered a team. Beginning in 2012, these guides (along with sighted goalkeepers in 5-a-side football became eligible to receive medals of their own.

4.3. Intellectual Disability

Athletes with a significant impairment in intellectual functioning and associated limitations in adaptive behaviour. The IPC primarily serves athletes with physical disabilities, but the disability group Intellectual Disability has been added to some Paralympic Games. This includes only elite athletes with intellectual disabilities diagnosed before the age of 18. However, the IOC-recognized Special Olympics World Games are open to all people with intellectual disabilities.

5. GEOGRAPHY OF PARALYMPIC

List of Paralympics host cities			
Summer Paralympic		Winter Paralympic	
Year	Edition	Year	Edition
1960, Rome	I	1976, Örnsköldsvik	I
1964, Tokyo	II	1980, Geilo	II
1968, Tel Aviv	III	1984, Innsbruck	III
1972, Heidelberg	IV	1988, Innsbruck	IV
1976, Toronto	V	1992, Tignes & Albertville	V
1980, Arnhem, Netherlands	VI	1994, Lillehammer	VI
1984, Stoke Mandeville New York	VII	1998, Nagano	VII
1988, Seoul	VIII	2002, Salt Lake City	VIII
1992, Barcelona & Madrid	IX	2006, Turin	IX
1996, Atlanta	X	2010, Vancouver	X
2000, Sydney	XI	2014, Sochi	XI
2004, Athens	XII	2018, PyeongChang	XII
2008, Beijing	XIII	2022, Beijing	XIII
2012, London	X		
2016, Rio de Janeiro	XI		
2020, Tokyo	XII		
2024, Beijing	XIII		

5.1. India in Paralympic

An all-time medal table for all Olympic Games from 1896 to 2016, including Summer Olympic Games is as follows

Game	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Rank
1960, Rome	Did not participate				
1964, Tokyo	Did not participate				
1968, Tel Aviv	0	0	0	0	
1972, Heidelberg	1	0	0	1	25
1976, Toronto	Did not participate				
1980, Arnhem	Did not participate				
1984, New York	0	2	2	4	37
1988, Seoul	0	0	0	0	
1992, Barcelona	0	0	0	0	
1996, Atlanta	0	0	0	0	
2000, Sydney	0	0	0	0	
2004, Athens	1	0	1	2	53
2008, Beijing	0	0	0	0	
2012, London	0	1	0	1	67
2016, Rio de Janeiro	2	1	1	4	43
Total	4	4	4	12	

5.2. Medalist of Paralympic from 1960 to 2016

Medal	Year	Name/Team	Sport	Event
1 Gold	1972	MurlikantPetkar	Swimming	Men's 50m Freestyle 3
2 Silver	1984	BhimraoKesarkar	Athletics	Men's Javelin L6
2 Silver		Joginder Singh Bedi	Athletics	Men's Shot Put L6
3 Bronze		Joginder Singh Bedi	Athletics	Men's Javelin L6
3 Bronze		Joginder Singh Bedi	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw L6
1 Gold	2004	DevendraJhajharia	Athletics	Men's Javelin F44/46
3 Bronze		Rajinder Singh Rahelu	Powerlifting	Men's 56 kg
2 Silver	2012	GirishaNagarajegowda	Athletics	Men's High Jump F42
1 Gold	2016	MariyappanThangavelu	Athletics	Men's High Jump F42
1 Gold		DevendraJhajharia	Athletics	Men's Javelin F46
2 Silver		Deepa Malik	Athletics	Women's Shot Put F53
3 Bronze		Ajai Mishra	Athletics	Men's high jump F42

5.3. The Name Players who are Participated in Paralympic and Olympic Both

There have also been other amputee medalists at the Olympic Games prior to the creation of the Paralympics. Oliver Halassy of Hungary, whose left leg was amputated below the knee, won three medals. The names are as follows

Athlete (Nation)	Impairment	Paralympic Games		Olympic Games	
		Edition	Sport	Edition	Sport
NeroliFairhall (NZL)	Wheelchair user	1980,2000	Sport	Edition	Sport
PálSzekeres (HUN)	Wheelchair user	1992,1996 2000,2004 2008,2012	Archery	1984	Archery
Sonia Vettenburg (BEL)	Wheelchair user	1984,1988	Wheelchair fencing	1988	Fencing
Paola Fantato (ITA)	Wheelchair user due to poliomyelitis	1988,1992 1996,2000 2004	Shooting sport	1992	Shooting sport
Marla Runyan (USA)	visually impaired	1992,1996	Archery	1996	Archery
OrazioFagone (ITA)	leg amputation	2006Turin 2010 Vancouver	Athletics	2000, 2004	Athletics
Natalia Partyka (POL)	congenital amputation of right hand	2000,2004 200, 2012	Sledge hockey	1988,1992 1994	Short track
Natalie du Toit (RSA)	leg amputation	2004,2008 2012	Para table tennis	008,2012 2016	Table tennis
Oscar Pistorius (RSA)	bilateral below-knee amputation	2004,2008 2012	Paralympic swimming	2008	Swimming
AssuntaLegnante (ITA)	visually impaired	2012,2016	Athletics	2012	Athletics
PepoPuch (AUT)	paraplegia	2012,2016	Athletics	2008	Athletics
IlkeWyludda (GER)	leg amputation	2012	Equestrian	2004 Athens	Equestrian
Zahra Nemati (IRI)	Wheelchair user	2012,2016	Athletics	1992,1996 2000	Athletics
Melissa Tapper (AUS)	Nerve damage in right arm	2012,2016			
Sandra Paović (CRO)	Paralysis due to accident	2016			

6. CONCLUSIONS

- The Paralympic Games is a major international multi sports event parallel to Olympic Games.
- First Paralympic games took place in Rome, Italy in 1960 featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries.
- India participated in Paralympic Games for the first time in 1968.
- India first owns a medal (Gold) in Paralympic in 1972.
- From 1960 to 2016 India won a total number of 12 medals.
- As of 2016 summer Paralympic games was included 22 sports and 526 medal events.
- The IPC has established ten disability categories, including physical, visual, and intellectual impairment.
- Last Paralympic was held in Rio de Janeiro and upcoming Paralympic games will be held in Tokyo.
- At 2016 Paralympic India got two gold medals one silver and one bronze medal and squared 43rd rank. It was the best rank of India in Paralympic ever.
- First Paralympic medal holder was MurlikantPetkar. And last Paralympic medal holders were MariyappanThangavelu, DevendraJhajharia, Deepa Malik, Ajai Mishra.

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