**Women in SAFF Football Championship: Perspective of people towards women**

Women has always been an integral part of human history. Unfortunately, they had been a sufferer group, who lacked various opportunities and facilities just because of their gender and the prejudices the then men and society had. In the present time, they are getting much more access to different facilities. They are also getting themselves involved into sports now.

South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) organizes football championships frequently. Nowadays, women also participate in the tournament and perform really well. However, women athlete was literally unimaginable a few years ago in the South Indian Region like Bangladesh, India, Nepal and some other countries. It was mainly because of having some prejudices about women sports. Previously, women were not allowed to go out of their home and engage in the work of outside world. The notion is now almost obsolete and women work in different areas of economical life now. But, when it comes to sports, people tend to demotivate women to participate. In an Indian movie Dangal (Tiwary, 2016), it showed that a mother refused to let her daughter play sport, because by this, her daughter will grow an athletic figure and they would have difficulty when it will be the time of her wedding. Several other things come to people’s mind about female sports. Some of them are – the female member of a family would not be safe if the family let her go and play sport, women can not build a career as a sportsperson, etc. These ideas are also vanishing day by day as women involve more in sports than the past.

Overcoming so many barriers, some women build a very successful sporting career. For example, there are some champions of SAFF women football championship in our country as well (The Daily Star, 2022). But the perspective of people and the way media shows them is a bit toxic. They show their identity as ‘women’ first before saying they are ‘athletes’. Every time they refer to them, they use some terms to distinguish their gender at the first place before saying anything relevant to them. This view towards women still needs to be amended.

In the end, after a frustrating past, women are finally getting chance to participate in sports and get some sort of recognition. However, they are also facing new generation challenges to overcome their identity as a woman and establish themselves as an athlete. Games like football by the SAFF would come so much handy in their process of overcoming the torpidity in them.

**References**

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