

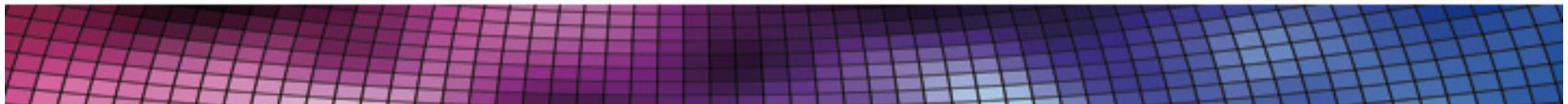
***Go girl! Critiquing the use
of sport for female
empowerment in
international development***

Tess Kay
Professor of Sport and Social Sciences
BC•SHaW
Brunel University
tess.kay@brunel.ac.uk



‘Poverty has a woman’s face’

Where there is poverty, or exclusion, or some other form of disadvantage, girls are far more likely to be adversely affected than boys. In terms of national development, a country cannot flourish if half of the population is left out of the development process. [Oxfam, 2006:1]



EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPORT?

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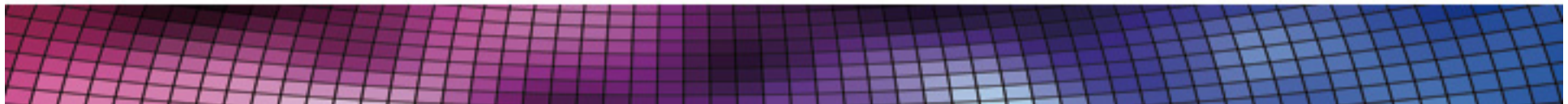


‘Educate a woman and you educate a family’.
(United Nations)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C44BOxKhwsQ>

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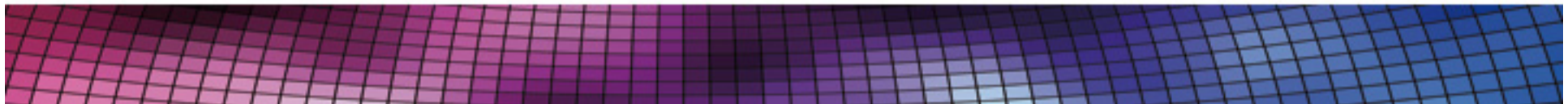


The social significance of sport



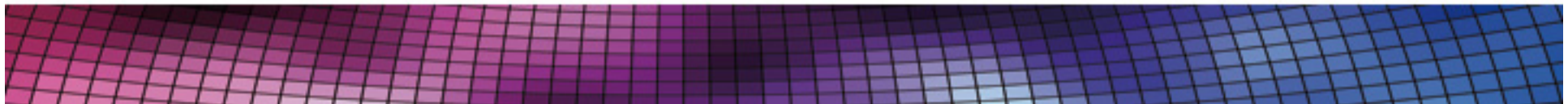
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The social benefits claimed for sport

<i>Individual</i>	Improved skills and understanding Confidence , self-esteem, motivation Communication, decision-making, leadership
<i>Social relations</i>	Family relationships Peer relationships Relationships with elders/ authority figures
<i>Social change</i>	Health and life expectancy Access to education Gender relations



The power of sport

Sport has the power to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Sport can create hope ... It is an instrument for peace.

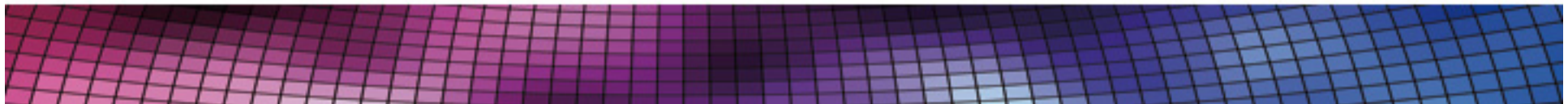
Nelson Mandela, 1995



Sport 'for' development

- Sport for development in UK and Global North
- Sport for development in Global South
- Application to international development contexts:
 - Education
 - Health
 - Gender
 - (Conflict and post-conflict)

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)
Poverty and world hunger
Universal education
Gender equality
Child health
Maternal health
HIV/AIDS
Environmental sustainability
Global partnership

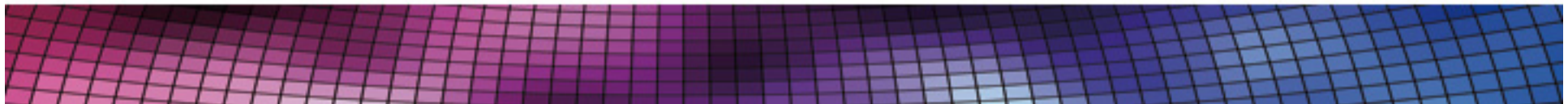


The GOAL project at Aali Gaon



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Personal development through sport

One of the major changes is I have lost a tremendous amount of weight, I used to be fat, and now I have lost it, which has made me feel a lot more comfortable, and now, once I have come here, my personality has developed in the sense, now you can see me talking, I never used to talk like this, so that itself is a development in my personality [Aali Gaon girl A]



Messages carried home



Our mothers encourage us to go and play and once we get back home, they also look forward to us coming back home because we go home with a lot of information, which we share with them [Aali Gaon girl]

Developing social roles



Now we walk down from our villages to the place, we play, walk and go back. And now also because of this independence, our parents let us go out, so even if someone has to buy a vegetable, we walk out and get the vegetable [Aali Gaon girl B]

Collective empowerment through sport

These girls, during their sessions of the sports, they have developed team spirit, which is very very important for their lives. ...these girls have learnt that we need a group relationship, we must be united, we must have a group who has relations with another group, so they can start fighting for any issue, regarding their life, as women.

(Community Coordinator, New Delhi, India)



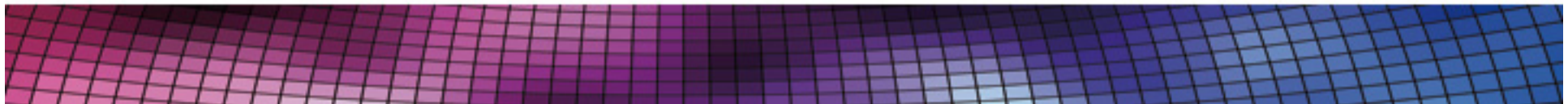
Building unity through sport



These girls, during their sessions of the sports, they have developed team spirit, which is very very important for their lives. They can fight for their locality, as a team they can fight for any personal issues ... regarding the women issue, girl empowerment, these girls have learnt that we need a group relationship, we must be united, we must have a group who has relations with another group, so they can start fighting for any issue, regarding their life, regarding their goal, as women, [Community Coordinator, Aali Gaon]

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ADDRESSING ISSUES IN KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SPORT RESEARCH



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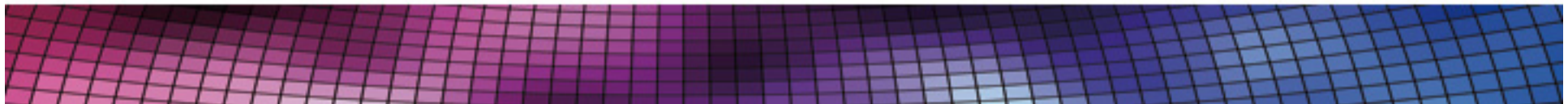
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Cultural imperialism in research

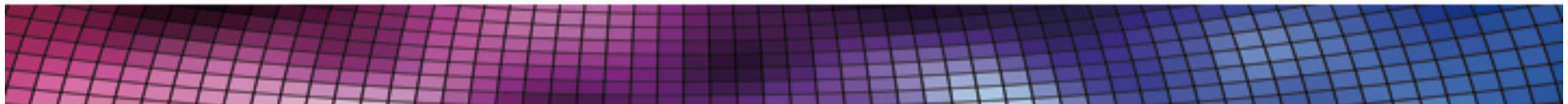
“From the vantage point of the colonized ... the term ‘research’ is inextricably linked to European imperialism and colonialism. **The word itself, ‘research’, is probably one of the dirtiest words in the indigenous world’s vocabulary.....”**

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, *Decolonizing Methodology*, 1999



The role of knowledge production in sport in international development

- Knowledge central to power in international development
- M+E and research activities reinforce or subvert traditional dependency relationships
- Core issues:
 - **What is knowledge for?**
 - **Who defines relevant knowledge?**
 - **What research practices are appropriate?**
 - **Who produces knowledge?**

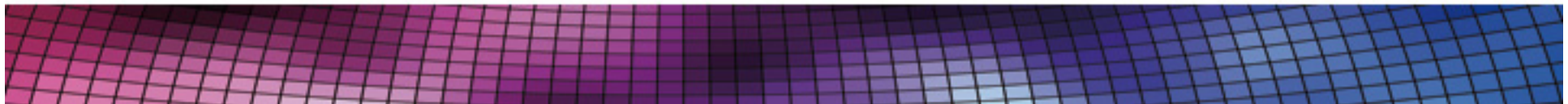


Accounting for legacy: reporting systems in development relationships

We have to fit our visions, our way of thinking, into your template. Gone are our free expression, our long paragraphs and our way of seeing and interpreting our reality. In our language we express ourselves in paragraphs, not in short phrases or sentences. We are an oral people. We don't think in boxes either.

We are now forced to express ourselves in a way that you understand and want.... ***Your reporting 'format' is all about you and what you want to know. It is not about us and what we want to learn.***

(Everjoice Win, 2004)



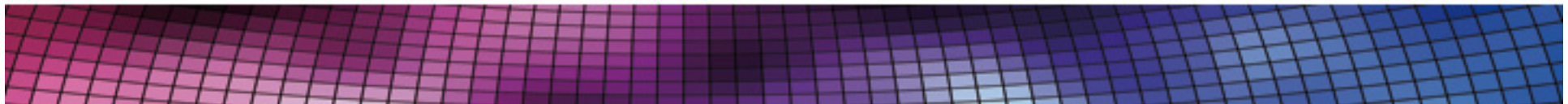
Sport in development research: developing local capacity in knowledge production, Zambia, 2009-13



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EduSport, Lusaka, 20-24 February 2012

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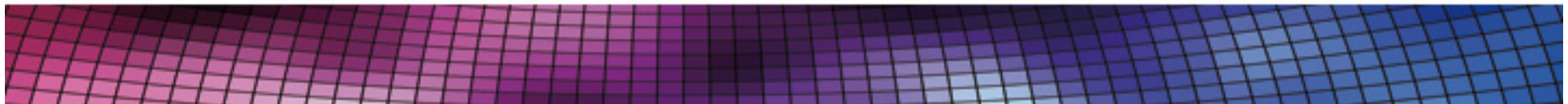
Sport in development as a collaborative project

- driven by **in-country requirements**
- **jointly developed**
- **informed** on local context, community and culture
- **aligned** with local policies, organisations and structures
- monitored according to **local information needs** and capacities
- transferred to in-country **ownership and control**

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Sport in the service of
development

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*'Sport has the power to
change the world':*
**Olympic legacy through
international development**



Tess Kay
Professor of Sport and Social Sciences
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