

Without passion you can't succeed: Somdev Devvarman

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Mysuru: To be successful in any profession, the key ingredient is passion, said former international tennis player and Arjuna awardee Somdev Kishore Devvarman.

After launching sports management courses to be conducted by the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD) in association with The Centre for Sports and Management Studies at the SDM IMD premises here on Monday, he said, "Does the sports culture actually exist in our country? Is sports a viable career? Looking at it from the management and athletes' points of view, I think the answer is 'No'. But the trend is changing. In the 1970s, there were just a handful of professional athletes. In the 1990s, a few more got added. Now, with Pro Kabaddi, badminton, wrestling and cricket leagues, sports is truly growing in our country. It's extremely important that it's taken up professionally and it's a very good opportunity for students to learn sports management."

Referring to the movie Dangal, he spoke about the passion and dedication of freestyle wrestler Geeta Phogat, who won India's first ever gold medal in wrestling at the Commonwealth Games in 2010. "I



INSPIRING TALK: Arjuna awardee Somdev Kishore Devvarman addresses the students of SDMIMD in Mysuru on Monday

was touched by the scene in which she loses in Australia and yet to recover from that defeat even while travelling on a flight home. Later, she is successful and even wins a major gold medal only because of her passion, dedication and determination" he said.

He shared instances of the tough time at the academy in 2002 where he was paid just Rs 120 per day and he had manage three meals a day with that amount.

"People in India try to find excuses for not being successful. People talk the lack of infrastructure. My counter-argument is: Why is Africa successful though its infrastructure is even less compared to that of India? So they have something there which doesn't exist over here. It's about the mindset how we look at sports."

Musthafa Ghouse, former Indian tennis player, mentioned that such sports management programme will benefit sportspersons in a long run. "If the right people with the right mindset are in positions of authority, it'll really do a lot of good for sportspersons and one can expect more medals in the near future," he said.

Enrico Priperno, founder member of CS and MS introduced sports management and how its needed to address the fast-changing, growing needs of sports business, sports tourism and sports management. H Gayathri, programme director and deputy director, SDMIMD briefed people about the programme. From this academic year, the institute along with CS and MS will be conducting one-year post-graduate diploma course in sports management (PGDSM) and a three-month certificate course in Sports Management (CCSM) for the sports enthusiasts and professionals.