



STUDY ON KABADDI IN KARNATAKA: A STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Kabaddi, a traditional Indian contact sport, has enjoyed immense popularity across states, especially in rural India. Karnataka, a state with a rich sporting heritage, has contributed significantly to the growth and professionalization of Kabaddi. This paper presents an analysis of the development of Kabaddi in Karnataka up to 2012 using secondary statistical data and compares Karnataka's performance with the national trends. It also investigates factors such as state funding, player participation, infrastructure, and professional engagement levels. Visual comparisons through graphs are employed to underscore trends and patterns.

Keywords: *Kabaddi, Karnataka, sports development, player participation, rural sports, national trends, infrastructure, state funding.*

1. Introduction

Kabaddi is deeply rooted in Indian cultural and sporting traditions. It gained formal recognition through its inclusion in the Asian Games and other national-level competitions. Karnataka, as one of the torchbearers of indigenous sports, has consistently supported Kabaddi through its rural sports promotion policies. By 2012, several players from Karnataka had represented the state and country in major tournaments, including the Asian Games and National Games.

2. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:



1. To analyse and trace the growth and development of Kabaddi in Karnataka up to the year 2012.
2. To compare the Kabaddi participation and performance statistics of Karnataka with those of India as a whole.
3. To utilize secondary data to identify and assess trends in player participation, recognition of Kabaddi, and the impact of state policies on the sport's development in Karnataka.

3. Methodology

This study employs a secondary data analysis approach to examine the development of Kabaddi in Karnataka. The data has been sourced from reputable institutions, including:

- **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**
- **Karnataka State Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports**
- **Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI)**
- **Census Reports and National Sports Archives**

To effectively interpret the data, the study utilizes various visual tools, including line graphs and tables, which help illustrate trends, patterns, and key findings.

4. Overview of Kabaddi in India

Kabaddi has become a part of the Asian Games in 1990, which led to increased recognition across the country:

- India had won all Asian Games gold medals in men's Kabaddi (1990–2010).
- Over 330 registered professional male players were recorded by the AKFI.
- The Pro-Kabaddi League was in the conceptual phase and gained momentum post-2012.



5. Overview of Kabaddi in Karnataka

5.1 Participation and Recognition

Kabaddi has had a significant presence in Karnataka, especially within the rural areas, where the sport is an integral part of local culture. By 2012, the state had approximately 82 male Kabaddi players registered at the state level, a considerable contribution to India's overall Kabaddi talent pool. Karnataka's male Kabaddi teams demonstrated their competitiveness on a national stage, securing gold medals in the prestigious National Kabaddi Championships in both 2005 and 2009. These victories highlighted the state's stronghold in the sport, especially within the South Indian region. (Source: Sports Authority of India, 2012.)

Furthermore, Karnataka's Kabaddi players have been active at the international level. As of 2012, five players from Karnataka represented India in international Kabaddi events, showcasing the state's ongoing contribution to the national team. These athletes not only participated in tournaments but also contributed significantly to India's dominance in the sport. This participation demonstrates the potential of Kabaddi in Karnataka to produce world-class talent, underlining the importance of local-level sports infrastructure and state backing in nurturing athletes. (Source: Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, 2012)

5.2 Infrastructure and Funding

Karnataka's commitment to the development of Kabaddi at the grassroots level can be seen through its establishment of district-level Kabaddi academies. By 2012, the state boasted 25 such academies, which were integral in providing structured training and nurturing young talent. These academies played a key role in maintaining a pipeline of Kabaddi players who could compete at the district, state, and national levels.

In terms of financial support, the Karnataka government allocated approximately ₹12 crore for the development of rural sports between 2005 and 2012, with ₹2.3 crore specifically directed towards Kabaddi. This funding helped in the development of necessary infrastructure, the organization of local tournaments, and support for players, coaches, and



staff. The allocation of resources was critical in enhancing the accessibility of Kabaddi across the state, particularly in rural regions where the sport is widely played.

Additionally, Karnataka benefited from the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan, a central government initiative aimed at promoting sports across rural areas. This inclusion ensured that Kabaddi, among other sports, received improved training facilities, coaching staff, and equipment, which enhanced the overall sporting infrastructure. These efforts have been instrumental in making Kabaddi a prominent sport within the state, while also contributing to its rise on the national platform. (Source: Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, Karnataka, 2012; Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 2010.)

6. Statistical Comparison: Karnataka vs India

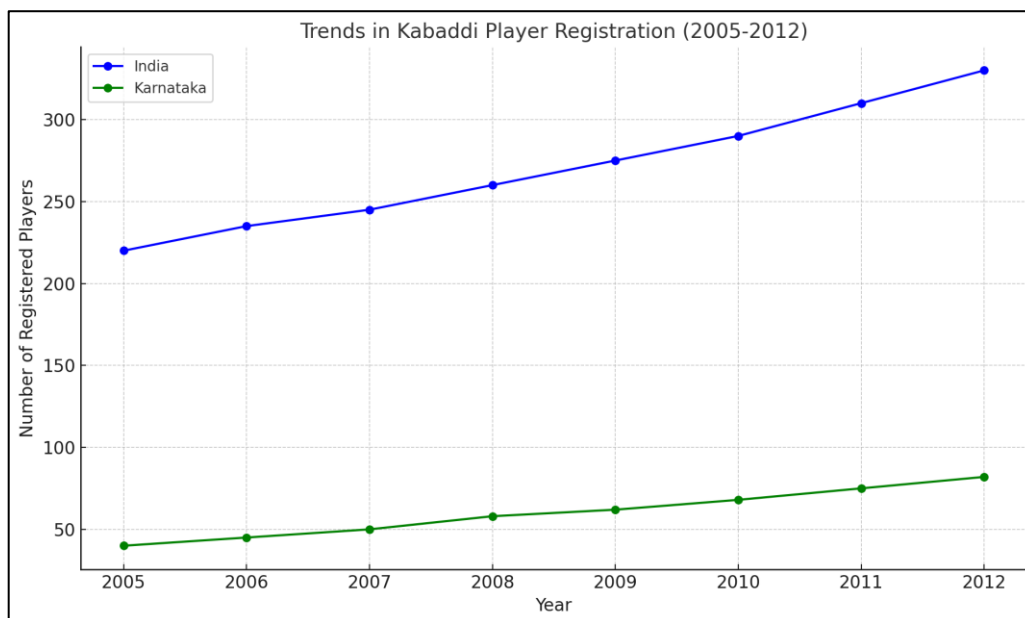
6.1 Player Participation Trends

Below is a line graph showing the number of registered Kabaddi players in Karnataka compared to India between 2005 and 2012:

Table 1: Registered Kabaddi Players in India and Karnataka (2005–2012)

Year	Registered Players (India)	Registered Players (Karnataka)
2005	220	40
2006	235	45
2007	245	50
2008	260	58
2009	275	62
2010	290	68
2011	310	75
2012	330	82

Source: Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India, 2012; Sports Authority of India, 2012.



6.2 Observations

- Karnataka maintained a 15–20% contribution to the total number of registered Kabaddi players in India.
- Steady growth in player participation, indicating effectiveness of rural sports schemes.

6.3 Performance Metrics

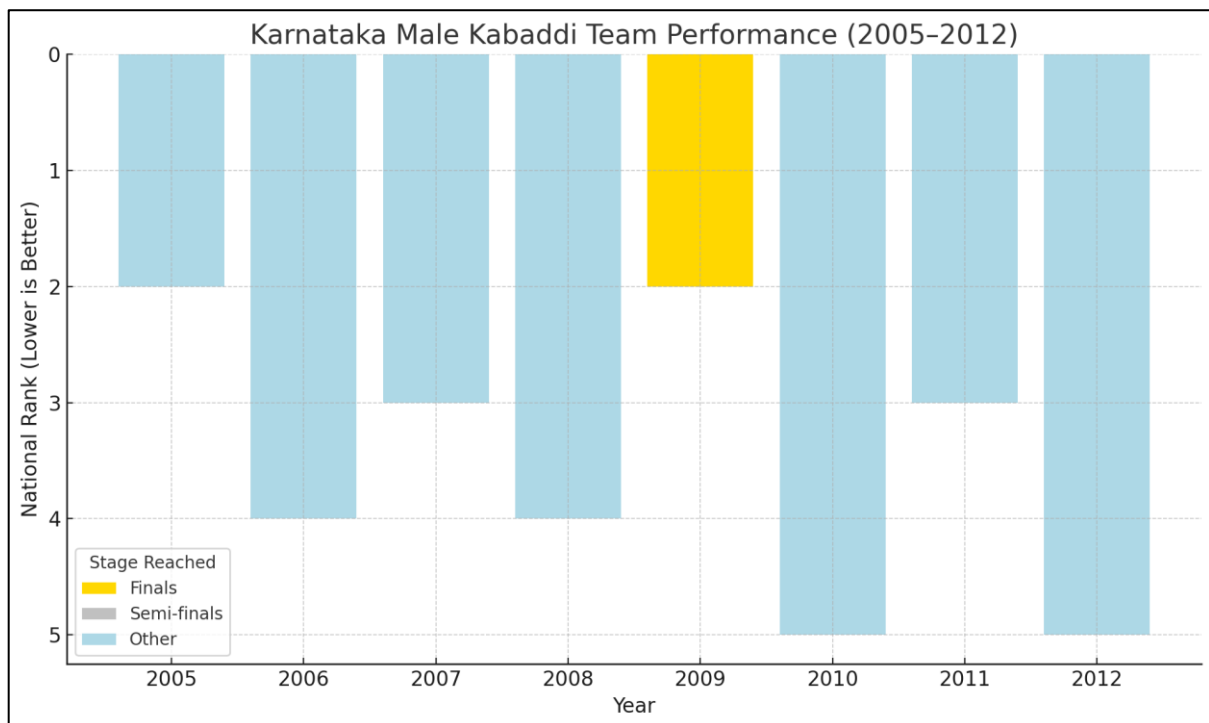
Between 2005 and 2012, Karnataka's male Kabaddi team demonstrated consistent excellence, maintaining a position within the top five at the national level. The team notably reached the semi-finals in 2006 and 2008, while making it to the finals in both 2005 and 2009. Individual talents also emerged strongly during this period, with standout players such as Naveen Kumar and Rajesh Gowda ranking among the top scorers in national tournaments. While female participation in the sport remained relatively limited during these years, it exhibited a steady upward trend, surpassing 30 registered players by 2012. Efforts to promote women's Kabaddi gained momentum across various districts, particularly in Mandya, Chikkaballapur, and Tumakuru, which hosted active training camps and facilitated participation in inter-state championships.

Table 2: Performance of Karnataka's Male Kabaddi Team (2005–2012)



Year	National Rank	Reached Semi- finals/Finals
2005	2	Finals
2006	4	Semi-finals
2007	3	No
2008	4	Semi-finals
2009	2	Finals
2010	5	No
2011	3	No
2012	5	No

Source: Karnataka State Kabaddi Association, 2012; National Commission for Women, 2011.



The above the **graphical representation** depicts the Karnataka Male Kabaddi Team's performance from **2005 to 2012**, the **Gold bars** represent **Finals** appearances. The **Silver**

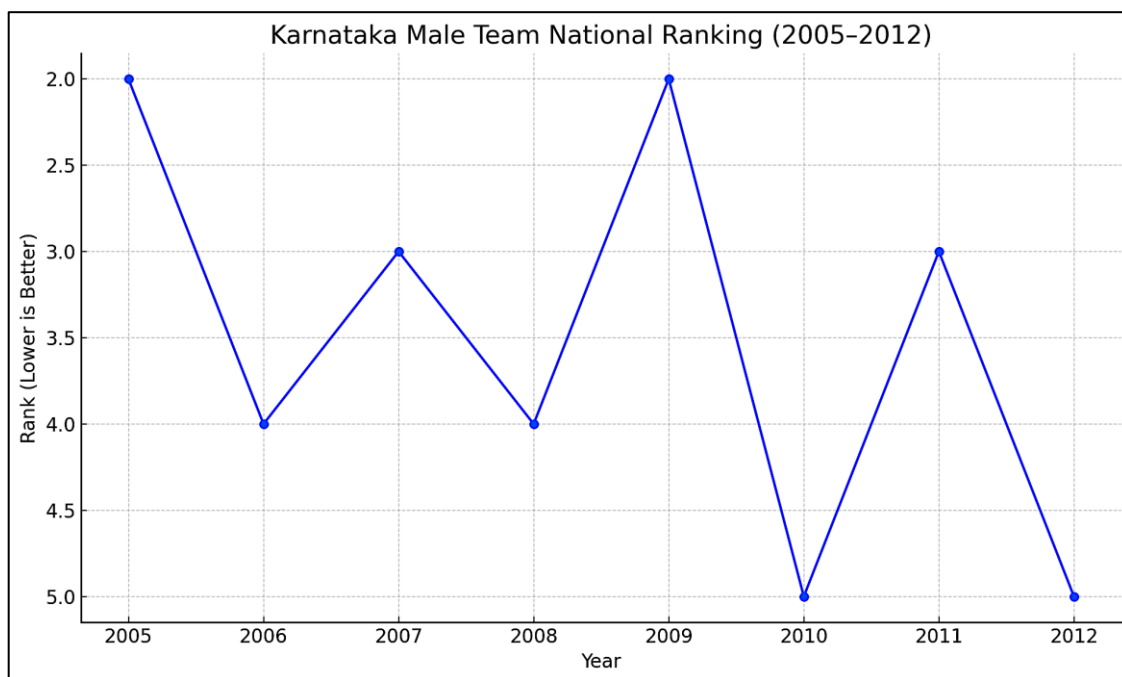


bars represent **Semi-finals**. And the **Light blue bars** indicate years where the team did **not reach the semi-finals**.

Table 3: Karnataka Male Kabaddi Team Performance (2005–2012)

Year	National Rank	Reached Semi-finals/Finals
2005	2	Finals
2006	4	Semi-finals
2007	3	No
2008	4	Semi-finals
2009	2	Finals
2010	5	No
2011	3	No
2012	5	No

Source: Karnataka State Kabaddi Association, 2012; National Commission for Women, 2011.





7. Conclusion

Kabaddi in Karnataka has shown consistent development, driven by grassroots participation, state support, and institutional backing. Despite being underfunded compared to mainstream sports, Kabaddi has held its ground, particularly in rural Karnataka. Continued investment in infrastructure and talent development is essential to maintain and elevate Karnataka's contribution to Indian Kabaddi.

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