Swim Stroke!

“I suggest each one should learn swimming at early age of 4-5 years, no matter it does not satisfy your financial ambition but will keep you fit and help you to survive in water-logging situation of Mumbai during monsoon” he adds sarcastically.

Mohan never ever thought in his rarest dream that his naughty stunts in irrigation canal of his village, will earn him international fame. Mohan made India proud in Perth in his first ever international tournament in his 51st age in 12 km fins world aquatic championship held in Australia. He secured 6th place for spring board diving and was awarded bronze medal. Other than this, Mohan has altogether achieved 72 medals in zonal, district, state, and international level between 2000 and 2008. “My family, club and board has greatly supported me in pursuing this sport, I get 4 hours time off from board to practice the sport” says Mohan in gratitude. He has been representing BSNL, where he works as junior telecom officer in many tournaments and made them proud.

He started as an athlete in his early age, he did sports like 20km walking and cycling but switched to swimming. He has no professional training and has joined ODEON municipal swimming club in 1982 and now he is associated with navi Mumbai sports association in vashi. He did his first state level representation in Open Maharashtra state veteran competition in his 40s, only in 2003 he got an opportunity to perform in national level where he earned one gold and two silver medals. Today he is accomplished in free style swimming, butterfly strokes and spring board diving.

He is passionate about swimming and in turn, the sport has given him toned physique. As of now, he is recuperating his collarbone injury that he incurred in an accident and will soon begin with his practice. He did not expect the success story of Australia and this tournament have boosted confidence in him. He is looking forward to Sweden tournament in 2010. Strange!

International bronze medal achiever failed to begin his swimming career in young age. Reason that he was not aware that he is eligible to participate in state level and international tournaments. Until age of 40 he has been only represented board in swimming competitions. Swimming is largely learnt in India but most of them quit in the middle and take up other professions. Primarily, people are ignorant about tournaments held in national and international level i.e. future prospects.

“This Sport has given me name and fame. But I suggest, One can pursue swimming as passion and for self-satisfaction. One can’t dedicate ones life to swimming entirely in India unlike abroad. As it is not lucrative sport like cricket” says Mohan out of disappointment towards system. “I suggest each one should learn swimming at early age of 4-5 years, no matter it does not satisfy your financial ambition but will keep you fit and help you to survive in water-logging situation of Mumbai during monsoon” he adds sarcastically.

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