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# Bhambri clan masters the physics of tennis

The proud Bhambri family of Gulmohar Park has given five tennis champions to the country and wishes others would follow suit

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*WHEN OUR CHILDREN STARTED PLAYING, THERE WERE JUST FOUR COURTS AT SIRI FORT. NOW IT HAS 16 IN TOTAL. SOUTH DELHI HAS BECOME A GOOD PLACE FOR ASPIRANTS TO TAKE UP TENNIS PROFESSIONALLY. INDU BHAMBRI, Yuki's mother*

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NEW DELHI: In several Indian families, if the elder siblings enter a profession, the younger ones follow suit. There are several families in which all the members join the army or become doctors or even actors. But it is not true when it comes to sports. After all, you need to be gifted that too extraordinarily if you want to excel in it, besides being ready to work hard. The children of this family from Gulmohar Park in south Delhi have not only played tennis but have excelled in it.

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Following her footsteps, younger sister Sanaa too entered the world of tennis and made equally big. She won 12 ITF singles titles and 12 doubles titles. It was their young brother's turn to make the family proud.

Indu still remembers the day when son Yuki, 22, won the Australian Open Junior



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The residents of Block-A of Gulmohar Park, Chander Bhambri and Indu Bhambri, are big fans of tennis. So when their eldest daughter Ankita was born, they decided to send her for tennis coaching. In the early 1990s, the Bhambris took her to a tennis academy where the coach refused to admit her as she was just four-year-old. He thought she was too small to pick up the racquet. But her parents' will to get their daughter trained in the sport was so strong that they bought a wooden racket for her which was lighter than the normal one. Every day, they used to take her to a park to practice.

When Ankita turned five, she was taken to a coach at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium. After a year, she joined a coaching academy at Modern School in Vasant Vihar. After that there was no looking back and she went on to win a total of 9 ITF Women's Circuit singles and 8 doubles' titles.

Following her footsteps, her younger sister Sanaa too entered the world of tennis and made it equally big. She won two ITF singles titles and 12 doubles titles. Now it was their younger brother's turn to make the family proud.

Indu still remembers the day when her son Yuki, 22, won 2009 Australian Open Junior Championship.

"There was a big celebration at our place. There were several journalists at our house. It was a huge moment for the family and most importantly for the country," said Indu.

Indu feels that things have now changed for aspiring tennis players. "Earlier, even in reputed schools like DPS Mathura Road, where Ankita, Sanaa and Yuki studied, there were no coaching facilities. But now several good schools provide these facilities to churn out champs," she said.

Now, there are good tennis coaches in several schools, clubs where one can at least learn the sports without spending a lot, said Indu, who regularly travels with Yuki for his tournaments. "When our children started out playing, there were just four courts at Siri Fort, which has now has 16 in total. South Delhi is now a good place for people aspiring to play tennis professionally," she said.

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