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INFLUENCE OF PERSONNEL FOR INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAMME ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study assessed the influence of personnel for intramural sports programme on the development of sport in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria. One research question and one hypothesis were formulated to guide the study. The population of the study comprise all primary school teachers in Sokoto State amounting to ten thousand, four hundred and eighty-one (10,481). Ex-post facto research design was employed by the researchers, while a multi-stage sampling procedure involving stratified, and simple random samplings was used to draw the respondents. Out of the total three hundred and eighty-one (381) copies of the questionnaire distributed, three hundred and seventy-eight (378) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved upon which the data analysis was conducted. Frequency and percentage tables were used to analyse the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research question and chi-square analysis was used to test the null hypothesis. The finding of this study revealed that the availability of personnel for intramural sports competitions significantly influenced the development of sports programmes in primary schools in Sokoto State ($p = 0.01$). The researchers concluded that recruiting adequate and qualified personnel plays an important role roles in the development of intramural sports and hence sport development in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria. To this end, the researchers recommended that qualified sports personnel should be adequately recruited for the conduct of intramural sports to man the programme and to maximize the potential for sustainable sports development in primary schools in Sokoto State Nigeria.

Keywords: Personnel, Sports, Intramural sports, Development, Primary Schools

Introduction

Primary schools require a good number of professionally prepared physical educators or sports coaches to run the school's sports programmes. These programmes may include; an intramural sports programme – a sport gathering taking place in and involving participants from within the wall of the school. However, at this State of national development, a minimum of one professional physical educator, sports coach or other para-professional in the field could be tolerated in one institution Sokoto State is not an exception. In addition to the number of personnel in these institutions, their professional preparation is of paramount importance considering the nature of the job and the category of people the sports administrators are handling. Staff personnel, therefore, desire the highest priority in the organization and administration of intramural programmes in school. Many persons are needed if an intramural programme is to be a success in the schools.

On personnel, Bucher (1979) proposed the involvement of the following key persons in the organization and administration of intramural sports programmes: the director, pupils' participants, managers, captains, Officials and an advisory sports council. The organisation and administration of intramural sports require the availability of well-trained and qualified personnel. These personnel are to organize and supervise pupils' programmes. Intramural sports programs commonly enforce standards of moral conduct such as good sportsmanship and positive reinforcement. Pupils must agree to abide by rules or face the consequences or penalties.

Debatable sportsmanship situations may involve penalties against the offending team (Rothwell & Theodore, 2016). Disagreements with moral conduct standards force individuals to analyze their values and beliefs when participating in intramural sports. Rothwell and Theodore (2016) also suggested that actual participation in intramurals provides opportunities for such attitudes to be publicly affirmed, whether negative or positive.

For many years, school recreational sports administrators have recognized that participation in recreational sports and fitness activities significantly enhances the learning and development of college students (Belch, Gebel, & Mass, 2018). Another benefit to pupils who participate in recreational sports is the social belonging to the university or college. Henderson (2017) suggested that for years recreational sports professionals have claimed that pupils' participation in recreational sports positively contributes to their social development. Belch et al. (2018) declared that intramurals open up an essential path for pupils' or pupils' interaction which can turn into the stronger development of social skills, integration into the university and an even higher retention rate among pupils who participate often in these activities. Artinger, Clapham, Forrester, Hunt, Meigs, Milord and Sampson (2016) provided information to help claim that intramural sports might contribute to the integration within the overall learning institutions.

The effective control and management of any school sports programme tend to fail or succeed at the personnel level. The problem is that, will personnel to man the intramural sports programme influence the development of sport in primary schools

in Sokoto State? Therefore, this research study will focus on the assessment influence of personnel of intramural sports programme on the development of Sports in Sokoto State, Nigeria and hypothesise that the availability of personnel for primary schools intramural sports programme has no significant influence on the development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

Methodology

Ex-post facto research design was used because the data required for this study was already available to the respondents. The population for this study consisted of all teachers in primary schools in Sokoto State. According to Sokoto State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) (2020), there were ten thousand, four hundred and eighty-one (10,481) teachers in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria. A total of three hundred and eighty-one (381) primary school teachers were used for this study. According to Research Advisor (2006), 381 respondents are adequate to represent a population of 10,487 people based on a confidence level of 95% with a margin error of 0.05. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used in the study. Thus: in Stage 1**,** stratified sampled technique was used to stratify Sokoto State into three (3) existing senatorial zones, which were Sokoto North, Sokoto East and Sokoto South. In Stage 2, simple random sampling was used to select two local government areas per senatorial zone by writing all the names of local government areas on a piece of paper, folded and dropped in a container, shuffling it, and the selection was made by picking one at a time without replacement. In stage 3**,** Simple random sampling was used to select teachers per school. In this technique, 'Yes' and 'No' were written on pieces of paper, folded and dropped into a container and shuffled properly. Each teacher available was asked to pick one piece of paper. Those who picked 'Yes' were given the questionnaire to fill out, while the respondents who picked "No" were exempted from the study.

Table 1: Sample Proportion

S/N	Senatorial District	Local Government Area	Schools	Sample
1.	Sokoto Central	Tangaza L.G.A.	Kwannawa Primary School	25
			Sabiyo Primary School	31
		Gudu L.G.A.	Darusa Gawo Primary School	22
			Bangi Primary School	26
2.	Sokoto East	Isa L.G.A.	Kalage Primary School	36
			Kaida Primary School	26
		Illela L.G.A.	Dango Primary School	52
			Darna Tsolawo Primary School	45
3.	Sokoto West	Tureta L.G.A.	Mahuta Primary School	24
			Kaura Primary School	30
		Kebbe L.G.A.	Nasarawa Primary School	36
			Sabon Gari Primary School	28
	TOTAL			**381**

The researchers used a 5-level Likert's Scale closed-ended questionnaire for collecting data for this study. The questionnaire comprised two (2) sections with (10) items in total. Section A contained the demographic characteristics of the respondents while section 'B' consisted of 5 items on the influence of personnel for intramural sports programmes. To test its reliability, a pilot study was made where 20 the copies of questionnaire were distributed to teachers outside the study area and were analysed using Cronbach's alpha where a reliability index of 0.87 was obtained rendering the instrument reliable for the study. Having pilot tested, the questionnaire was proportionately distributed to the selected respondents directly by the researchers. Two weeks were earmarked for the issuance and retrieval of the questionnaire. Out of the three hundred and eighty-one copies of the questionnaire (381) sent, 378 (99%) copies of the questionnaire were retrieved upon which the data analysis was conducted. The data obtained from the study were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages for the demographic variables. A decision mean of 3.50 was used to answer the research questions and the hypotheses were tested using Chi-square analysis at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

Results

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

S/N		Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1	Sex	Male	223	59.2
		Female	155	40.8
		Total	**378**	**100.0**
2	Age Range	18-25 years	18	3.0
		26-35 years	109	29.4
		36-45 years	137	36.9
		46 years and above	114	30.7
		Total	**378**	**100.0**
3	Designation	Sports Coordinator	56	15.9
		Headmaster/Headmistress	90	24.3
		Games Master	121	32.6
		Class Teacher	101	27.2
		Total	**378**	**100.0**
4	Educational Qualification	Primary School leaving certificate	3	0.3
		Secondary School Certificate	24	13.4
		Graduate Certificate	302	59.6
		Post Graduate Certificate	49	21.7
		Total	**378**	**100.0**
5	Years of Experience	1 – 10 years	311	67.3
		11 – 20 years	24	11.4
		21 years and above	43	22.3
		Total	**378**	**100.0**

Table 2 shows the demographic characteristics of the respondents. An observation of the table shows that the majority of respondents 223 (59.2%) were males and the remaining 155 (40.8%) were female respondents. With regards to age range, the table further reveals that 18 (3.0%) of the respondents were of the age range 18-25 years, 109 (29.4%) of the respondents fell between the age range of 26 – 35 years, 137 (36.9%) of the respondents fell between the age range of 36 – 45 years while a number of the respondents 114 (30.7%) were between the age range of 45 years and above.

However, the table shows the designation of the respondents, as 56 (15.9%) of the respondents were game masters, 90 (24.3%) of the respondents were headmaster/headmistresses, 121 (32.4%) of the respondents were games masters, 101 (27.2%) of the respondents were class teachers. The table also revealed that 3 (0.3%) of the respondents were primary school certificate holders, 24 (13.4%) of the respondents were secondary school certificate holders, 302 (59.6%) of the respondents were graduates while 49 (21.7%) of the respondents holds a post-graduate certificate. The table also, shows that 311 (67.3%) of the respondents have 1 – 10 years of working experience, 24 (11.4%) of the respondents have 11 – 20 years of working experience and 43 (22.3%) of the respondents have 21years and above experience respectively.

Answering the Research Question: Does the provision of personnel for primary schools' intramural sports programme influence the promotion and development of sport in Sokoto State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean Scores of the Respondents on whether the availability of personnel for primary schools intramural sports programme influence the promotion and development of sport in Sokoto State, Nigeria

S/N		Mean	Std. Dev.
1	The Games Masters is professionally qualified to organize and administer the intramural sports programme in your school	4.0919	1.06128
2	Sufficient time is devoted per week for staff administer intramural sports activities in the school	3.9189	1.01203
3	Due enough personnel primary school organize intramural sports competition annually	3.6318	.67115
4	There is an advisory or sports committee in the school for intramural sports programme	3.9201	3.23914
5	Ad-hoc staff are involved in the management of intramural sports programmes in your primary school	3.7410	1.01759
	Cumulative Mean	**19.30**	
	Aggregate Mean = 3.86	**Decision Mean = 3.50**	

Table 3 above shows that available personnel for primary school intramural sports programmes influence the promotion and development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State. This is because the aggregate mean of responses 3.86 was found to be higher than the decision mean of 3.50. To answer the research question, since the aggregate mean is higher than the decision mean, it can be concluded that the availability of personnel for primary school intramural sports programmes influences the development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State.

Test of Hypothesis

The availability of personnel for primary school intramural sports programme has no significant influence on the development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Summary of Chi-square (χ^2) on the influence of availability of personnel for Intramural sports programme on the development of sport in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria

	χ^2 cal.	χ^2 crit.	α	Df	P-value	Decision
Influence of availability of personnel for Intramural sports programme on the development of sports in Sokoto State, Nigeria.	49.91	26.29	0.05	16	0.000	Rejected

Table 4 revealed that the availability of personnel to manage the Intramural sports programme has no significant influence on the development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State. The table showed that the p-value of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 alpha level of significance and the χ^2 calculated value of 49.91 was greater than the χ^2 critical value of 26.29 at df 16. This result indicated that the availability of personnel for the intramural sports programme has a significant influence on the development of sport in Sokoto State. Hence, the implication of this result was to reject the null hypothesis that says the availability of personnel for primary school's intramural sports programme has no significant influence on the promotion and development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

Discussion

This study assessed the influence of the availability of personnel for intramural sports programmes on sports development in primary schools in Sokoto State. The finding of this study shows that the availability of personnel to manage intramural sports programme influence sports development. This finding is in line with Bucher (1979) who affirmed that the involvement of key personnel, directors, sports managers, pupil participants, officiating officials and advisory bodies of sports councils in the organisation and administration of intramural sports programmes leads to the success of the conduct of the event and turn lead to grass root sport development. Furthermore, the finding of this study agreed with Festinger (1999) who found that the major problem confronting interscholastic and intramural sports was that one-third of coaches have no professional qualification. This implied that qualified personnel are a prerequisite for sustainable sports development.

Research indicates that skilled personnel, including coaches and administrators, significantly enhance the quality and reach of sports initiatives. For instance, Olatunji, Abiola and Adeyemo (2022) highlight that the presence of trained coaches directly correlates with improved athlete performance and increased participation rates in sports programs. This is echoed by Adedoyin and Adeola (2023), who argue that the lack of qualified personnel can lead to subpar training environments, ultimately discouraging youth participation. Furthermore, the availability of personnel facilitates the organization of events and competitions, which are vital for fostering a competitive spirit and community engagement. According to Ibrahim and Mohammed (2023), effective management by knowledgeable personnel can enhance the sustainability of sports programs, ensuring they meet community needs and foster talent development.

Conversely, some studies suggest that while personnel availability is important, it is not the sole determinant of sports development. Nwankwo, Eze and Okeke (2023) argue that factors like funding, infrastructure, and community support also play significant roles. Thus, while personnel availability is an essential component, a holistic approach considering multiple factors is necessary for the effective development of sports in Sokoto State.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researchers concluded that the availability of qualified personnel to manage intramural sports programmes influenced the development of sports in primary schools in Sokoto State which by extension gives room for the development of sports in general.

Recommendation

The researchers therefore recommended that personnel to be used in manning the conduct of intramural sports should be qualified to manage all the material resources in officiating to enable all bureaucratic issues to be discharged smoothly for sustainable sports development in primary schools in Sokoto State, Nigeria**.**

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