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ASSESSMENT OF LEVEL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND STATE SPORT COUNCIL IN STAGING INTRAMURAL SPORT COMPETITION IN NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

This study assessed the level of cooperation between Secondary School and State Sport Council in staging Intramural Sport Competition in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. Ex-post facto research design was used for this study. The population of the study comprise the management and staff of public Secondary Schools and the personnel of the State Sports Council in Nasarawa State totalling seven hundred and twenty-six (726). 300 respondents were selected using stratified and systematic sampling procedures and were issued the questionnaire. Two hundred and seventy- three (273) questionnaire were returned, upon which the data analysis was conducted. The data was analysed using Mean and Standard deviation to answer the research questions while Chi-Square was used to test the formulated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that the level of cooperation between the Secondary Schools and State Sports Council on provision of funds for intramural sports competition in the State was significant. The observed Chi-Square value for the test was 76.724 with a p-value of 0.000 ($p< 0.05$) obtained at df =12. Also the level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sports Council on formulation of policy for staging intramural sports competition in Nasarawa State was statistically significant. This is because observed Chi-Square value of 70.329 obtained at df =12 and a p-value of 0.000 ($P< 0.05$). It is therefore concluded that there is high level of cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sports Council on funding for intramural Sports competitions in Nasarawa State. Also the cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sports Council on policy formulation for staging of intramural Sports competitions in Nasarawa State is cordial. This paper recommends that there is need for improvement in the level of funding for intramural Sports competitions among schools in the State and that Secondary School personnel should be given more opportunity to take part in the formulation of policy for intramural Sports competitions in Nasarawa State since they are at the implementation stage of such policies.

Introduction

Secondary school sport has been identified long ago as very salient and crucial for Nigeria youths. It is most auspicious, according to Morakinyo (2012), to discuss school sport at a time when the National Association for Physical, Health Education Recreation, Sport and Dance (NAPHER-SD) has called on the Federal Ministry of Education to fully implement compulsorily Physical Education and Sport programme at all levels of Nigeria educational system as prescribed on the fact that the sporting status at any nation can only be sustained by the level of sport development at school levels.

The role of Physical Education and Sport in the overall physical, mental, social and emotional development of Nigerian school children has dwindled in recent times (Morakinyo, 2012). Several reasons have been adduced for the dwindling role of Physical Education and Sport in schools. Morakinyo (2012), noted that partial implementation of the National Education Policy of 1986, which made Physical Education an optional subject at the senior secondary school level has reduced students interest in interscholastic sport programme. The regrettable situation was worsened by lack of enthusiasm by professional colleagues who prefer to handle other school subjects instead of Physical Education and sport.

Intramural sport competitions were recreational sport organized within school, college and university settings involving club teams that compete regularly. These organized recreational sport competitions in Nigeria were used to promote wellness among school students, while also allowing those who do not compete at an elite level, an opportunity to be active (Oyo, 2012).

Marsh and Kleiman, (2012), suggested that athletic participation has shown an increase in commitment and identification to the participants' school in Nigeria. Elmer Mitchel is considered to be the father of intramural and extramural sports. He posited that, activities associated with sporting events provide school students with an outlet when dealing with stress and it gives them a chance to socially interact with their peers. School life involves more than just academic achievement; it also provides the students the opportunity to define their independence.

Young people attending schools, participate in some kind of organized intramural sporting activities. Organized sporting activities may include intramural sport opportunities, to dance line or cheer teams. There is substantial interest in how teenagers are spending their leisure time inside and outside the school day, and what types of activities are important to their development (Gardner, Roth & Brooks, 2006).

Eccles (2009) opined that adolescents in the United States spend more than half of their

hours in leisure activities. The same applies to youth in Nigeria and Nasarawa State in particular. Participation in intramural activities has been linked to social and academic success, Leroh (2015) Stated that theory and research on positive youth development emphasizes the transition of human development, and he suggested that cultivating positive, supportive relationships with people and social institutions encourages healthy development. Considering this perspective, organized activities, such as intramural and extra-curricular sport programme, can encourage healthy development because of the support and opportunities it presents.

According to Leroh (2015), developing cooperation among secondary schools management and State school management board in staging intramural sport competitions in order to achieve the aforementioned opportunities; was by developing practice of organizing joint usage of sports facilities owned by public institutions and organizations such as secondary schools and local government administrations. These cooperation and synergies cultivated by the school management and State Sport Council encourages the practice. It is in the light of the aforementioned, that the researcher intends to assess the cooperation between secondary schools management and State sports council in staging intramural sport competitions in Nasarawa State.

Statement of the Problem

Intramural sport activities in secondary schools are of great benefit to students in terms of promoting their overall wellbeing. Yet, it receives very little attention from government with regard to maximum cooperation required in funding school participation. The researcher is of opinion that, the intramural sports and recreational activities are a way of life in most schools such as primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Traditionally, Physical Education in schools consists of class or basic curricular instructional programmes and extracurricular activities such as intramural sport competitions. The conduct of such key events (curricular and extracurricular) require the maximum cooperation in terms of policy derived by the ministry, officials and schools management on the policy implementation between the schools and State Sport Council which in his opinion is lacking. This lapses lead to the relegation of the smooth conduct of intramural sport competitions which would have been of benefit to the students but instead have been discouraged.

Secondary schools serve as avenue for early identification and selection of young potentials, and talented athletes that may represent their schools, State and eventually their country at both national and international competitions in future. To this, Dauthery (2006), reported that sport requires good and functional personnel for it to succeed, and that there must be enthusiasm, knowledge and skills to achieve the desire goals. Today these personnel who would provide the human resource and engage in favourable decision making on sport are largely lacking in schools which hinders the smooth running

of intramural sports programme in secondary schools in Nasarawa State. Thus, records with the Nasarawa State Sport Council, (2008) on the secondary school sports, tagged 'Nasarawa, 2007' revealed that the six zone, otherwise called the education zones, are no longer putting up impressive performances for over ten years. This may be attributed to inadequate provision of facilities and equipment, inadequate funding, lack of quality personnel for the conduct of intramural sport completions.

Various researches were conducted on the roles of intramural sport competitions on the health and well-being of students and as a means of talent hunt ignoring the essentials that sustains the smooth running of intramural sport. The researcher hopes to fill the gap answering the question of cooperation between secondary schools and State sports council in staging intramural sport competition in Nasarawa State.

Purpose of the Study

The specific purpose is:

1. To assess the level of cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council in funding intramural sports competition in Nasarawa State.
2. To assess the level of cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council on policy formation in staging intramural sport competition in Nasarawa State.

Research Questions

This study answered the following research questions:

1. What is the level of cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council in funding of intramural sports competition in Nasarawa State?
2. What is the level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council on policy formulation on intramural sport competition in Nasarawa State?

Research Hypotheses

On the basis of these research questions, two research hypotheses were formulated for the purpose of this study:

1. There is no significant level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in the provision of funds in staging intramural sports competitions in Nasarawa State.
2. There is no significant level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in policy formulation in staging intramural sport competitions in Nasarawa State.

Methodology

Ex-post facto research design was used for this study. For the purpose of this study, the population comprise the management and staff of public Secondary Schools and

personnel of the State Sports Council in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The sample size used for this study was 300 management staff, staff of public Secondary Schools and personnel of the State Sports Council in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The instrument used for data collection was a well structured self developed Questionnaire by the researcher. The research instrument was structured based on the 5- point modified likert scale. Hence, the mean score of responses to be positive or accepted must be 3.00 and or above, and any mean score of response which is less than 3.00 is considered negative or not accepted. To ascertain the face and content validity of the instrument, copies of the prepared questionnaire was first made available to the supervisors for them to make their input. It was then taken to other experts in the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Their corrections and observations were incorporated and a final copy of the instrument was finally produced. The data collected were analyzed using the Mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while chi-Square was used to test the formulated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Research Question one: What is the level of cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council in funding of intramural sports competitions in Nasarawa State?

Table 1: Mean scores on cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council on funding of intramural sports competitions

S/N	Funding	Mean	Std. dev.
1	The State Sport Council fund secondary schools intramural sport	2.96	1.094
2	The secondary schools cooperate with State Sport Council in terms of fund raised for intramural sports.	2.92	0.988
3	There are always disagreements between Secondary schools and State Sport Council on the expenditure of funds raised for intramural sports.	3.03	0.925
4	The level of cooperation between State Sport Council and the Secondary schools in terms of honorarium for officials is positive.	3.11	0.879
5	There is accountability between State Sport Council on the fund raised for purchases and supplies of intramural sports equipment	2.58	0.952
	Aggregate mean	**2.92**	**0.624**

(Decision mean = 3.00)

Table 1 indicate the aggregate mean score 2.92 for the table is lower than the decision mean of 3.00 with a standard deviation of 0.624. This observation implies that the respondents disagreed that the level of cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council in funding of intramural sports competitions in the State was adequate. Among others, they were disagreed with the opinion that the State Sport Council fund secondary schools intramural sport competitions and that the secondary schools

cooperated with State Sport Council in terms of fund raising for intramural sports competitions. also that there is a process of accountability between State Sport Council on fund raised for purchases and supplies of intramural sports equipment. But the respondents agreed that there were always disagreements between Secondary schools and State Sport Council on the expenditure of funds raised for intramural sports competition. In spite of the experienced disagreements, they were of the view that the level of cooperation between State Sport Council and the Secondary schools was relatively adequate and with an aggregate mean score of 2.93.

Research Question two: What is the level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in policy formulation on intramural sport competitions in Nasarawa State?

Table 2: Mean scores on cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council on policy formation for staging intramural sports competitions

S/N	Policy Formulation	Mean	Std dev.
1	There are policies implemented with regard legal liability for intramural sports competitions in secondary schools in Nasarawa State.	3.22	0.845
2	The level of cooperation between Secondary school and State Sport Council in terms of policy implementation for intramural sport competitions is cordial.	2.98	0.861
3	The level of cooperation between Secondary school and State Sport Council in reviewing policies for intramural sports competitions in secondary school is cordial.	2.83	0.814
4	The level of cooperation between Secondary school and State Sport Council in formulating policies that enables the staging of intramural sport competitions in Nasarawa State is good	2.86	0.879
5	The cooperation between Secondary school and Nasarawa State Sport Council in terms of policy implementation is high	2.77	1.002
	Aggregate mean	**2.93**	**0.613**

(Decision mean = 3.00)

Table 2 indicate aggregate mean score of 2.93 is lower than the decision mean of 3.00 with a standard deviation of 0.613. The respondents were of the view that there was inadequate cooperation between the secondary schools and the State Sport Council on policy formulation for intramural sport competitions in the State. In line with this perception, they agreed that there were policies with regards to legal liability for intramural sports competitions for secondary schools in the State. The respondents disagreed that the level of cooperation between the schools and State Sport Council in terms of policy

implementation for intramural sport competitions was cordial also, the level of cooperation between the schools and State Sport Council in relation to reviewing of policies for intramural sports competitions among the secondary school was cordial and that the level of cooperation between the schools and State Sport Council for the formulation of policies that enables the staging of intramural sport competitions was good. They disagreed that cooperation between the schools and the State Sport Council in terms of policy implementation was high. From these observations and the aggregate mean score of 2.93, it could be concluded that the respondents disagreed that the level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in relation to policy formulation for intramural sport competitions in the State was in adequate.

Sub Hypothesis I: There is no significant cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in the provision of fund for intramural sports competitions in Nasarawa State.

Table 3: Chi-square on cooperation between Secondary Schools and State Sport Council in the provision of fund for intramural sports competitions

Funding	SA	A	D	SD	Total
Item1	117(92.4)	70(96.8)	45(53.6)	41(30.2)	273
Item2	90(92.4)	105(96.8)	45(53.6)	33(30.2)	273
Item3	102(92.4)	97(96.8)	55(53.6)	19(30.2)	273
Item4	105(92.4)	108(96.8)	44(53.6)	16(30.2)	273
Item5	48(92.4)	104(96.8)	79(53.6)	42(30.2)	273
Total	462(462.0)	484(484.0)	268(268.0)	151(151.0)	1365
		Chi-Square=76.724, DF = 12, P= 0.000			

(X^2 critical at 12 df = 21.0, $p < 0.05$)

The result in the table revealed that the respondents were of the opinion that the extent of cooperation between the Secondary Schools and State Sport Council on provision of funds for intramural sports competitions in the State was significant. The observed chi-square value for the test was 76.724 with a p-value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$) obtained at df = 12. These observations provided sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in the provision of fund for intramural sports competitions in Nasarawa State. The result revealed that the extent of cooperation between the two organizations was adequate for the provision of funds for intramural sports in the State.

Hypothesis II: There is no significant cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council in formulation of policy for staging intramural sport competitions in Nasarawa State.

Table 4: Chi-square on cooperation between the secondary schools and State Sport Council in formulation of policy for staging intramural sport competitions

Policy Formulation	SA	A	D	SD	Total
Item1	120(78.8)	105(118.4)	35(54.0)	13(21.8)	273
Item2	82(78.8)	119(118.4)	56(54.0)	16(21.8)	273
Item3	52(78.8)	142(118.4)	60(54.0)	19(21.8)	273
Item4	68(78.8)	121(118.4)	63(54.0)	21(21.8)	273
Item5	72(78.8)	105(118.4)	56(54.0)	40(21.8)	273
Total	394(394.0)	592(592.0)	270(270.0)	109(109.0)	1365
		Chi-Square=70.329, DF = 12, P= 0.000			
		(X^2 critical at 12 df = 21.0, $p < 0.05$)			

The result of the test revealed that, the respondents were of the opinion that the level of cooperation between secondary schools and State Sport Council on formulation of policy for staging intramural sport competitions in the State was adequate and statistically significant. This conclusion is drawn from an observed chi-square value of 70.329obtained at df =12 and a p-value of 0.000 ($P < 0.05$). These observations provided enough evidence for rejecting the null hypothesis. The result showed clearly that the respondents were of the view that the level of cooperation between the secondary schools and State Sport Council was adequate.

Discussion

From the result of data analysis relating to cooperation on funding, it was found that the State Sport Council was responsible for funding the secondary schools intramural sport competitions in cooperation with the respective secondary schools. It was found that there were areas of disagreement but these were not up to what could be considered as significant enough to disrupt the level of existing cooperation. The findings is consistent with Fallan (2011) who stated that there were areas of disagreement but these disagreement were not up to the extent that could be considered as significant to disrupt the level of existing cooperation.

The study found that level of cooperation between the secondary schools and the State Sport Council on policy formulation for intramural sport competitions in the State was adequate. It was found that areas of cooperation included issues of legal liability, policy implementation for intramural sport competitions among others. In the test of the related

hypothesis, the expressed opinion was found to be significant. The finding agreed with Bally, (2008) who reported that Intramural Sports Program does not tolerate discrimination against persons on the basis of race, gender, religious affiliation, age, marital or civil union status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, intellectual development, or physical ability.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusion were drawn:

1. There is level of cooperation/relationship between Secondary Schools and State Sports Council on funding of Intramural Sports Competitions in Nasarawa State.
2. The level of cooperation/relationship between Secondary Schools and State Sports Council on policy formulation for staging of Intramural Sports Competitions in Nasarawa State is good.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Funding Intramural Sports Competitions among schools in Nasarawa State should be maintained for the fact that it improves the cooperation between secondary schools and the Sport Council in staging intramural sport competitions.
2. Formulation of policy for Intramural Sports Competitions in Nasarawa State should be maintained since the implementation of these policies improves the cooperation between secondary schools and the Sport Council in staging intramural sport competitions.

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