

INFLUENCE OF FUNDING FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF INTRAMURAL SPORT AMONG PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KOGI-CENTRAL, KOGI STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the influence of funding for the effective management of intramural sport among public secondary schools in Kogi- Central, Kogi State. A self-structured and validated questionnaire item was used to seek the opinion of the respondents. The population of the study consists of 51 public secondary schools comprising the principals, the games masters and the entire students in the five Local Government Areas. To achieve the objective of the study, ten of the schools were randomly selected from three Local Government Areas while 280 respondents representing 12% of the population were selected using stratified and random sampling technique for the Local Government Area schools and students respectively. But purposive was applied to select the principals and games masters. The questionnaire was all administered and retrieved through trained assistants. Frequency count, percentages and chi-square statistical method were used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that funds have positive influence on the effective administration of the intramural school sports in the Kogi-Central Senatorial District of Kogi State, hence the null hypothesis was rejected. The paper therefore recommends that Secondary schools in Kogi State Central Senatorial District should not always depend on the Government for funding; rather they should also reach out to Philanthropist, corporate bodies and non-Governmental Organizations. Also, the Government should try to make it as priority by releasing enough funds for the regular sporting activities in the public secondary schools.

Keywords: *Influence, funding, management, intramural-sport, public school.*

Introduction

Historically, Intramural sports in secondary schools in Nigeria can be traced to the colonial era establishment of secondary schools in Nigeria. Intramural sports are organized recreational activities that take place within a specific educational institution, such as public secondary schools. Wilfred (2015), viewed intramural sports as a preparatory physical activity within a college to meet other institutions or to gain excellence in extramural sports. He further highlighted that intramural sports involves participants including the athletes and trainers from the same organization guided by the ethics of that institution to achieve a desired goals and excellence within the college and during competition in other colleges.

Intramural programmes are extracurricular activities organized within School College or tertiary institutions involving registered students or staff in such institutions or establishments (Oyeniyi, 2014). Organized sports programme is an integral part of total educational process that is used to promote wellness among school community. Adebayo and Ajibuya (2015) acknowledged that intramural sports were primarily termed extracurricular activities; by implication they are something

voluntarily engaged in during leisure or free time. Intramural sports programmes in school includes organized sports activities such as: sports clubs, inter house athletics competitions, inter class, drama or theater arts etc.

Intramural sports programmes have a lot of benefits to offer the students. According to Babatunde and Ogundipe (2006), intramural sports have many beneficial consequences such as enhancing upward social mobility, providing a healthy athlete for aggression and development of specialist skills and performances. Others are promotion of happiness and self-actualization, tolerance, concern for others, respect for authority and cooperation among others. Aluko and Adodo (2003) observed that the specific aim of athletics is to help all students take part in most physical education programmes and recreation according to their needs and wholesome interest.

According to Wilfred (2015), sport has become a unifying factor in Nigeria and it has become an essential ingredient towards nation building. He noted that intramural programmes in sports provide an avenue for competition among various groups considering its popularity in every educational level, primary, secondary, colleges and universities. Omolawon and Adisa (2009), asserted that intramural programme is one of the three phases of physical education, the others being instructional and inter-scholastic sports. He pointed out that intramural sports have been seen as a vehicle used in bringing sporting activities to the door step of all and that it coordinates all sporting activities at the grass root level so that hidden talents in sports are discovered and given equal opportunity to participate in sports. These programs provide students with the opportunity to participate in various sports and physical activities, fostering their physical fitness, social interaction, and overall well-being. Effective management of intramural sports programs is crucial to ensure their success and maximize the benefits for students.

Intramural sports require adequate preparation, support within and outside the institution, well-articulated and well planned. Schedule of practice and disciplined training session to achieve desired objectives. The major ingredient for having well organized intramural sporting programme includes scheduling, provision of facilities and equipment, funding and personnel.

Inadequate funding can hinder the opportunities for participation and accommodate varying interest in an intramural sport programme. Adesoye, and Ajibua (2015) opined that finance is critical to the success and effective planning and organization of the resources in any organization as its availability necessitates the purchases of every material required for the attainment of its goals. The scarcity of physical education facilities, supplies and equipment constitute a big challenge in the successful organization and management of intramural sport. Awosika (2007) further stated that it might be impossible to achieve satisfactory results in an organization whose training facilities and equipment are inadequate or of sub-standard it is good to have strong financial support for intramural sport programme.

Alla and Ajibua (2012); Ekuri, Edi and Odok (2014) in their collaborative position opined that the ability of intramural organizers at all levels to provide and administer sound intramural sports programme depend to a large extent on the budget presented to them for the programme. They reiterated that intramural organizers or directors should be given the fiscal responsibility for administering their programme if they are to be held accountable for the quality of their rendered services. Adequate financial resources are essential to establish and maintain a well-organized and comprehensive program that can meet the needs and interests of a diverse student population. Funding can come from various sources, including government allocations, school budgets, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts. The influence of funding on the effective management of

intramural sports among public secondary schools is multifaceted. Some of the key areas where funding plays a critical role in intramural sports includes Provision of Facility and Equipment, Program Development, Participation Opportunities, Promotion and Outreach, Maintenance and Sustainability (Ojeme,1999).

Statement of problem

The influence of funding on the effective management of intramural sports programs among public secondary schools poses a significant challenge. While intramural sports provide numerous benefits to students, including physical fitness, social interaction, and overall well-being, the availability and allocation of adequate funding are critical factors that impact the success and sustainability of these programs. Insufficient funding can hinder the ability of schools to establish and maintain well-organized, comprehensive, and inclusive intramural sports programs, limiting opportunities for student participation and impeding the achievement of program objectives.

Indeed, the influence of funding on the effective management of intramural sports programs among public secondary schools presents a significant problem. In recent time, intramural sports in the government owned secondary schools in Kogi-central have been on the decline. Students with outstanding performance in some organized events often times are not rewarded, facilities and equipment are rarely available or not provided at all, perhaps due to lack of fund. The researcher observed that most public secondary schools in the study area have good students who are potential athletes and have keen interest in sports, yet there have always been poor environmental motivation through several challenges among them in the researchers view include insufficient funding which limits the availability of adequate facilities and equipment, hampers program development and expansion, creates inequalities in participation opportunities, hinders effective promotion and outreach, and compromises program sustainability in Kogi Central Public Secondary Schools. Addressing this problem is crucial to ensure that the public secondary schools can provide inclusive and high-quality intramural sports experiences for all students. Lawal (2013) identified poor planning, organization, lack of sports programme, especially as the major inhibitor of Sports programme in secondary schools. This scenario is also playing out among public Secondary School in Kogi-central of Kogi state where secondary schools students are not showing great enthusiasm for intramural program due to lack of motivation hence these informed the decision of the researcher to carry out this study.

Research Question

-Does funding determine effective management of intramural sports program among public secondary schools in Kogi-central senatorial District of Kogi State?

Research Hypothesis

The following research hypothesis was tested

- Funding will not significantly determine effective management of intramural sports program among public secondary schools in Kogi-central senatorial District, Kogi state.

Materials and Methods

The study employed a descriptive survey research design, utilizing a self-developed and validated questionnaire. The research focused on two hundred and eighty Secondary School students and game masters, carefully chosen as the study sample from the entire public secondary school population in Kogi-central senatorial District of Kogi State.

To ensure a representative sample, the researchers employed multi-stage stratification, purposive, and random sampling methods. Three Local Government Areas, namely Okene, Ajaokuta, and Ogori-Magongo, were randomly selected from the five Local Government Areas constituting the District. The sample included participants from both the principal and games master populations.

In the analysis of the collected data, descriptive statistics such as frequency count, percentage, and mean were utilized to present the respondents' positions on various items in the questionnaire. Additionally, inferential statistics, specifically the chi-square test, was employed to test hypotheses formulated at a significance level of 0.05 alpha.

Hypothesis 1

Funding will not significantly determine effective management of intramural sport programme among public secondary schools in Kogi-Central Senatorial District of Kogi State. The analyzed results of the findings are presented in the table below:

Table 1: Responses to funding and effective organization of intra-mural sports

| S/N | ITEMS | (\bar{X}) | df | cal-val | table-val | Decision |
|-----|---|---------------|----|---------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | School sports levy collected is enough for competitions annually. | 2.46 | | | | |
| 2 | The funds solicited from corporate bodies and some philanthropy responses are low | 2.94 | | | | |
| 3 | It is very expensive to organize inter-house sports by the school alone | 3.23 | 9 | 64.59 | 16.92 | H_0 rejected |
| 4 | We do not regularly organize inter-house sports due to lack of funds | 3.14 | | | | |
| | Average Mean | 2.96 | | | | |

From the table above, item 1 showed 32 (11.42%) and 60 (21.43%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while 64 (22.86%) and 124 (44.29%) disagreed and strongly disagreed with the item. Item 2 showed 88 (31.43%) and 108 (38.57%) strongly agreed and agreed respectively, while the remaining respondents 64 (22.86%) and 20 (7.14%) disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. Item 3 showed 126 (45%) and 100 (35.71%) strongly agreed and agreed with the item respectively, while the 50 (17.86%) and 4 (1.43%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed with the item. Item 4 reveals that 108 (38.57%) and 114 (40.71%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed with the statement, as 48 (17.14%) and 10 (3.57%) disagreed

and strongly disagreed with the item respectively. The direction of the responses indicates that funds have positive influence on the administration of the intramural sports in the schools. This is because the average mean score for the table was more than 2.5 which translate to the fact that adequate fund was significant to well organized intra-mural sport programme at the secondary school's level.

Discussion of Findings

Finding from the table also revealed that calculated chi-square value of 64.59 is greater than the table value of 16.92 with 9 df at 0.05 alpha level. If the calculated value is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that availability of funds has significant influence on the sports Organization/Programmes among public Secondary Schools in Kogi-Central Senatorial District of Kogi State. Olusola (2022) assertion is in line with the findings when she noted that the programme had been handicapped by provision of insufficient fund along with inadequate facilities. Nwaogu and Oyedele (2019); Alla and Ajibua (2012); Lawal (2013) are of the above support that the ability of intramural organizers at all levels to provide and administer sound total intramural sports programme depend to a large extent on the budget presented to them for the programme.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that:

Funding plays a pivotal role in the effective management of intramural sports programs among public secondary schools. It impacts various aspects, including facility and equipment provision, program development, participation opportunities, promotion and outreach, as well as maintenance and sustainability. Adequate financial resources enable schools to create a supportive and engaging environment for students, promoting their physical well-being, social interaction, and overall development through intramural sports.

Recommendations

1. Secondary schools in Kogi State Central Senatorial District should not always depend on the Government for funding; rather they should also reach out to Philanthropist, corporate bodies and non-Governmental Organizations in their quest to achieving effective management of intramural sport.
2. Government should try to make it as a priority, by releasing enough funds for the regular sporting activities in the secondary school.

Conflict of Interest

All authors have no conflicting interests.

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