



Relationship between Funding and the Successful Organization of the Bi-Annual Sports Competitions in Unity Schools in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examined the relationship between funding and the successful organization of the bi-annual sports competitions in unity schools in Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of all unity schools, Principals, academic staff, games masters/mistress, Bursar, deputy bursar of the schools of about 880 subjects and a total of 500 subjects were selected at random from the unity schools in Nigeria. The instrument used for the study was a well-developed and validated questionnaire which contained forty (40) items. One null hypothesis was formulated to direct the study using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) in testing the hypothesis. The outcome of the study revealed that significant relationship existed between provision of funding and the successful organization of the bi-annual sports competition. For the way forward, it is therefore recommended that enough funds should be provided for the effective organization and success of the bi-annual sports competition among the unity schools in Nigeria.

Keywords: Funding, Relationship, School, Sports, Competition.

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INTRODUCTION

There is hardly any country that does not underscore the importance of education in the achievement of its national objectives. All nations adopt strategies for promotion and sustenance of education in their national plans. Without doubt, education is a large multifaceted venture. It has various aspects and segments. These numerous aspects include, the physical, social, psychological and physiological which must be viewed as integral, essential and inseparable for a balanced education. Sports and other strategies for physical and mental enhancement are on importance part of this while. Through education, citizens of each nation enjoy human rights to the fullest. Education helps them to understand and access the full importance of human rights such as optimal health, security, freedom, economic welfare and participation in socio-political activities (Venkateswarlu, 2001).

Besides, when provided appropriately and adequately, education can help to alleviate the negative aspects of the lives of the different segments in the population. It also strengthens the weak and disadvantaged groups such as women, minorities and people with disabilities and empowers them against discrimination and marginalization. Education gives them a voice. Its pertinent to understand and appreciate the contributions of physical education and sports in the general education field, first, physical education and sports go a long way in the satisfaction of the learning needs of children and adults by psychologically creating the convenient environment. An old but popular adage says “All work and no play makes jack a dull boy” Besides, physical education and sports serve as channels for meeting the increasing demand for trained teachers and other man power in education. Through physical education and sports, children and adult alike are trained to become employable. Despite these possible contributions of physical education and sports, the overall global impact is rather pessimistic. The situation underlying physical education and sports does by far lag behind the rhetoric (Doll-Tepper & Maillet, 2005).

The repercussions of this sordid situation on the place and role of physical education in the educational system are enormous and disastrous. But the challenges of such pessimism notwithstanding, schools remain the most comprehensive means available to ensure that all children receives training for their physical, social, moral and intellectual development and well-being. If the school system is not effectively used for the development of life skills, the potentials for life-long participation will be an extremely remote possibility for many children from the poorest and less privilege background (Adeyanju, 1991; Venkateswarlu, 2000; NASPE, 2004) utilization of school system is an essential foundation for developing physically active population in different countries. Rink (2002) in view of this particular contribution and in the basis of the expectation of both the government and the general public for the discovery of talented athletes, the Federal Ministry of Education introduced in the unity schools a bi-annual sports competition which was first organized in the federal government college (FGC) Sokoto in 1974.

It was expected that these competitions would promote interaction, produce man power to reduce unemployment and to discover athletes’ talent. At the initial stages of these competitions, there are several problems that cropped up and affected the organization. Such problems marred any immediate attempts at hosting the competitions such that it took about 14 years before the second edition was organized some of the identified problems were poor officiating during both the preliminaries and funds inadequate and inconsistent funding of the competitions inadequate and sub tended facilities and equipment and non-involvement of the professionals in the competitions. However it’s not clear whether these problems affected the success of the competitions. This study was therefore conducted to find out the relationship between funding and successful of the organization of bi-annual sports competition in unity schools in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Inadequate funding of sports especially competitions is one of the major constraints hindering the progress in sports performance. Igbanugo (2000) stated that “it is abundantly clear that lack of financing of sports is the cause of the nation’s backwardness in sports performance”. The government should therefore accept responsibility of funding of sports section through regular budgetary allocation and mobilization of additional resources from the private organization for sports development programme. In her contribution, Igbanugo (2000) maintained that the tiers of government should jointly sponsor and encourage project that could bring progress to the sports and competitions alone, the funding committee should be set up to suggest ways of fund raising by the government. This should involve eminent Personalities within and outside the country and philanthropists to donate for the improvement of sports activities. As a result of the important role that sports and recreation play in the life of a nation, many countries now spend a good percentage of their annual budget on their development. In the former Soviet Union, sports programmes are financed by the government through the state budget (Igbanugo, 2000).

All organizations connected with sports receive money from the state budget to spend on sports and physical education. This expenditure is expected to cover the expenses that physical culture and sports committee bear in maintaining their councils and institutions in making international sports contacts and conducting training sessions and competitions and in mass sports activities in the country (Benettee et al., 1983). In England, the greater part of funding of sports is done by voluntary organization (Anonymous, 1976; Igbanugo, 2001). These organizations sponsor all clubs or national teams to any international sports competitions sometimes, the government gives the financial assistance, but it has no say in the organization and conducts of such competitions (Igbanugo, 2000). The national sports organization seldomly supports research (Bennett et al., 1983).

In Nigeria, the government finances the national sports association but with the introduction of some harsh economic policies by government like the deregulation of the economy, government finances have dropped thereby making it increasingly difficult for the associations to raise the funds they need to support their sporting programme. Chom (1996) suggested that even government is trying its best to subvert these associations. Official of the various associations are not helping matters either there are instances where officials are greedy and corrupt practices hinder athletes to participating in sports competition. According to Chom (1996), this situation can be remedied by making the chief accountant of the sports council responsible directly to the government.

Hypothesis Testing

For the purpose of study one (1) null hypothesis was formulated to direct the study.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between funding and the successful of the organizational of bi-annual sports competition in unity schools in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The information required to find out the relationship between funding and successful of the organisation of bi-annual sports competition in unity schools in Nigeria was already available without manipulation of variables. Therefore ex-post facto research design was used. In this study, the sample for this study consisted of 500 subjects which were purposively sampled from the unity schools in Nigeria. The main instrument used was a structured and validated

questionnaire to elicit appropriate information from the respondents. The design questionnaires were presented to the experts in sports administration for their input and necessary comments. Their suggestions and corrections were adopted in the final print out of the questionnaire which was personally distributed to the selected subjects.

The filled and returned questionnaire was collected for data analysis using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) to find out the relationship between funding and successful organization of the bi-annual sports competitions in unity schools in Nigeria. The finding of the study revealed that significant relationship existed between provision of funding and the successful organization of the bi-annual sports competition in the unity schools in Nigeria. For the way forward, it is therefore recommended that enough funds should be provided so that the needs and aspirations of competitions for the bi-annual sports will be achieved.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study is presented below;

Table 1: Correlation between funding and successful of organization of bi-annual sports competitions in unity schools in Nigeria

Variable	Mean	Standard deviation	R	Df	P
Success of sport competition	1.7425	0.9001	0.0226	429	0.640
Funding	3.5826	1.3113			

Note: Significant relationship is set at alpha level 0.05

The relationship between the two variables as indicated in the above table did not show any significant relationship. The observed level of significance is 0.640 ($P > 0.05$). The null hypothesis therefore retained, since the two variables are not significantly related. However, the observed correlation coefficient indicates a positive relationship between two variables.

DISCUSSION OF FINDING

Inadequate funding of sports especially competitions is one of the major constraints hindering the progress in sports performance (Igbano, 2000). The government should therefore accept responsibility of funding the sports programme through regular budgetary allocation and mobilization of additional resources from the private organization for sports development programme (Venkateswarlu, 2000) in her contribution in Igbano (2000) maintained that the tiers of government should jointly sponsor and encourage projects that could bring progress to the sports sector. On the relationship between finding and success of sports organization of bi-annual sports competitions of unity schools in Nigeria are not significantly related. The observed significant level of 0.0640 ($p > 0.05$) the null hypothesis is therefore retained or accepted. The two variables are not significantly related. However, the observed correlation coefficient indicates positive relationship between the two variables. This is in agreement with Saba (2005) who reported in his study that every sector of the educational industry requires adequate amount of funds. Amyene (2000) also agreed that the government which is responsible for the financial operation of schools should recognise physical education and sports education as a unique school's programme that need special grants in addition to the games fees that may be charged on students. Therefore, the finding of this study showed that relationship existed between provision of funds and the successful organisation of bi-annual sports competition in the unity schools in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The finding of this study revealed that significant relationship existed between provision of funding and the successful organization of the bi-annual sports competitions in the unity schools in Nigeria. Based on the finding and also in view of the limitation of this study, the following conclusion is drawn: funding was also related to the facilities, equipment and personnel in the successful organization of the school sports competitions in unity schools in Nigeria. It is therefore recommended that enough funds should be provided so that the needs and aspirations of competitors for the bi-annual sports will be accomplished.

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