



INFLUENCE OF THE NIGERIAN SCHOOL SPORTS FEDERATION ON FUNDING OF SPORTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed and analyzed the perceived influence of the Nigerian school sports federation on funding of sports in secondary schools in Kogi State, Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of two thousand (2000) subjects and five-hundred (500) subjects selected at random for the study. The instrument used for the study was a well-developed and validated questionnaire which contains forty-five (45) items. One hypothesis formulated to direct the study using one sample t-test in testing the hypothesis on the Nigerian school sport federation funding of sporting programmes in the secondary schools of Kogi State. The outcome of the study revealed that significant difference exists between the constant and the observed mean. As a way forward, funding of sports should be the main concern of the Nigeria Schools Sports Federation (NSSF) in the secondary schools of Kogi State. It is further recommended that NSSF with collaboration of the state government should provide enough funds in the annual budget of secondary schools as such will enhance the development of sport in secondary schools of Kogi State.

Keywords: Organization, Competition, Development, School Sports, Students, Kogi State, Nigeria.

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INTRODUCTION

The competition was then known as Hussey Shield. The Hussey Shield competition was replaced in 1976 by the Nigerian School Sports Federation (NSSF) under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Education, and each state chapter of the (NSSF) operates under the state Ministry of Education (Ojene, 2000). The organization appreciates and adopts the policies of the International school sports Federation as well as recognizes the Federal Government policy on international sports' as expressed in the National Sports Development plan and vision 2010 particularly section states in the Federation. Its objectives include: to identify talented sports men facilities and organization of sports in all educational institutions shall be the responsibility of Federal, state, and local Government in close collaboration with the Federal and state Ministry of Education. Nigeria's National Sports Development plan and vision (2010), (Nixon, 2004)

The (NSSF) has been the cornerstone for the nation's grass root sports development programme because through it great star athletes have been produced. In fact, all the star athletes of this country both at home and abroad are products of school sports development programmes in Nigeria e.g. Yekini Jimoh, Garba Lawal, Tijani Babangida and many other soccer stars in Nigeria. Nigeria's National Sports Development plan and vision (2010) (Munn, 2006)

Through the activities of the State branch of the (NSSF) in Kogi State Ministry of Education, the state has shown steady progress in school sports development which is manifested in the increase in numbers of medals, prizes and trophies won by the state's school sports contingents at both national and international school sports competition (Omoruan, 1999). Meanwhile, Krotee (2012) documented that the Kogi State Branch of the (NSSF) under the auspices of the Ministry of Education has never relented in its responsibility in funding and organizing of school sports competitions. Kanin (2007) collaborated further that the efforts of the (NSSF) in state's secondary schools could not have been yielding the tremendous results that have been shown over the years, in terms of good sports achievement without the continuous support and assistance of the State Sports Council, which provides coaches who train and select athletes from schools for participation in both national and international school sports competitions (Adedeji, 2012).

Eneje (2014) posits that Students cannot move from one school to another for sports competitions, except the distance is short or money is made available for the transportation or the school has its transport system. Adeyemi (2012) concluded that it is sad and worrisome to note that, only 15 secondary schools out of over 286 schools can boast of a rickety vehicle in the name of school bus (Nossek, 2003).

As a result of the increased realization of the importance of the role sports and recreation play in the life of a nation, schools' annual budget should have more of sports on its development (Ike, 2008). All organizations connected with sports received money from the state budget to spend on sports and P.E in schools. Low (2006) documented that this expenditure was expected to cover the expenses that physical culture and sports bear in maintaining their councils and institutions, contracts as well as other national and international sporting competitions, which require adequate funds for training sessions and competitions in many sporting events in the country (Onifade, 2000).

Janne (2008) stated further that In China, the national as well as state school sports associations are financed by the government through the All China Athletic Association. Ladani (2007) contrary to what is obtained in China in Nigeria until recently, the national school sports associations are founded by the Federal Government, through the Nigeria School Sports

Federation. While the sports associations are financed by the state government through the state ministries of education and supported by the states sports councils (Conseus, 2013).

Research Question

For the purpose of the study one research question was formulated to guide the study;

- Will Nigerian school sports federation significantly contribute to the funding of sporting programmes in the secondary schools in Kogi State?

Hypothesis Testing

For the purpose of the study one research hypothesis was formulated to guide the study;

- Nigerian school sports federation will not significantly contribute to the funding of sporting programmes in the secondary school of Kogi State.

METHODOLOGY

The information required to examine the perceived influence of Nigeria School Sport Federation (NSSF) on sports development in secondary schools in Kogi State was already available without manipulation of the variables, therefore, ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study, The sample for this study consisted of five-hundred (500) subjects selected at random from the population of two thousand (2000) subjects. The main instrument used was a structured and validated questionnaire to elicit appropriate information from the respondents, The designed questionnaire were presented to three experts from the sports management 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 in the secondary schools of Kogi state Nigeria. The filled and returned questionnaire were however collected for data analysis, The one sample t-test statistical analysis was used to analyze the data collected at alpha level of 0.05.

RESULTS

Research Question One and Hypothesis One

Table 1: One sample t-test on Nigerian school sport federation significantly contributes to the funding of sporting programmes in the secondary school of Kogi State

Variables	X	SD	SE	DF	t-vale	P	t-critical	Decision
Funding of sports	4.3960	0.381	0.027	499	4.08	0.000	1.96	Not significant
Fixed mean	3.5000	0.000						

t=4.08 df=499(P=0.000 <0.05)

The above table revealed that the respondents did not agree that the Nigerian school sport federation significantly contributes to the funding of sporting programmes in the secondary school of Kogi State. The mean score (4.300) is significantly higher than the mean (3.5000) for agreement by the results as indicated in the table. The observed t-value is 4.08 is higher than the critical value of 1.96. The observed level of significance is 0.000. By the result of the test, the null hypothesis which states that Nigeria school sports federation will not significantly contributes to the funding of sporting programmes in the secondary schools of Kogi state is thereby rejected.

DISCUSSION OF FINDING

The main objective of this study was to find out the influence of the Nigerian school sport federation in contributing to the increased funding of sporting programmes in the secondary school of Kogi State. The aggregate analysis of the data as presented in the main hypothesis did not reveal that the NSSF has in any way significantly influenced the development in sports among the selected secondary schools in Kogi state.

This finding is in line with Ladani, (2007), where it was pointed out that Kogi State is one of the states in the Federation with the least in funding of sports in place. Krotee (2012), where it was reported that provision of funds were grossly inadequate at state government.. Also in line with this finding is Omorua (1999), where it was reported that it does not appear that adequate funds are made available by the NNSFF for the development of sports in Kogi state secondary schools the physical That teachers' preparation is sadly neglected and that since one can only offer what one has, that these teachers have little to collect the secondary school children. Lamenting this development, it was pointed out that the specialist teachers are so few compared to the population of the students.

The researcher in the course of this study however, established some basic facts which formed the conclusion of the study.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the related literature reviewed and the data analysed during the study, the following conclusions have been made.

- That the Nigerian School Sports federation lacks adequate funds to contribute towards the provision of sporting facilities and equipment for effective development of sports in secondary schools in Kogi state.
- That lack adequate funds to recruits well trained sports personnel's with the relevant knowledge, skills and experience in secondary schools, seriously militates against the effort by the Nigerian school sports Federation towards sports development in the state's secondary schools..

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made towards improving on the activities of the Nigerian school sports Federation in funding sports development in secondary schools in Kogi state .

- The Kogi state government should compel some profit making organizations like commercial banks and other corporate business organisations to contribute some percentage of their after tax profit in funding secondary school sports in the state.
- The government should help in the recruitment of well-trained qualified professional teachers who will help in raising the standard of sports in secondary schools; hence, no any meaningful programme can succeed or survive without making available adequate funds.

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