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## Perception on Impacts of Corrupt Practices on Sports Competitions among Technical & Administrative Staff in States Sports Councils in Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT:** Corruption is one the problems militating against smooth running of public sector in which the sport sector is not an exemption. This study examined the perception on impacts of corrupt practices on sports competitions among technical and administrative staff in states sports councils in Nigeria. Descriptive survey research designed was used for this study. The population for this study cut across coaches, athletes, organizing secretaries and management staff of the State Sports Council in Nigeria. A self-developed questionnaire was pilot tested and found to be reliable at  $r = 0.85$ . The data collected was statistically analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation to analyse the research questions and One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypotheses generated for this study at 0.05 alpha levels. From the findings of the study, the mean scores of the research questions were higher than the acceptable level of 3.5, that is  $f$  calculated  $<$  the critical values ( $F = 3,399 > 2.62$ ). The null hypothesis was retained. The study therefore concluded that there was no significant difference among athletes, coaches, organizing secretaries and management staff in their perception on impact of corrupt practices on organization of Sports competitions by States Sports Councils in Nigeria. On the basis of these findings, the study recommended that to restore the integrity and the standard of sports competitions only people with proving integrity and technical knowhow should be allowed to serve as members of the organizing committee of sports competitions.

**Keywords:** Perception, Corrupt Practices, Sports, Competitions, Technical & Administrative Staff

### INTRODUCTION

In previous times, Nigeria was regarded as the sport giant of Africa, because the country was leading the African nations in terms of development in many areas of human endeavor. With vast land, large population and abundant natural resources, the future of the country seemed promising. Nigeria was at the forefront of sports development, and the country had achieved greater successes in many sports and games such as football, basketball, and athletics to mention a few. Although corruption in sports is not a new phenomenon; at the Olympic Games in 388BC Eupolos of Thessalia bribed three of the competitors in a fighting

tournament allowing him to win the gold medal (Maening, 2005). However, in recent times Sports have suffered from a dramatic growth in reports of corruption, from bribery to plain cheating (Chadwick & Gorse, 2013). The most recent of all corruption scandal is the one that erupted among the FIFA executive in which the president and other members were suspended. While in Nigeria the officials of Nigeria Football Federation were indicted for corruption during the world cup in Brazil. Corruption in sports centers around match fixing or gambling, biased refereeing; and to a similar but different degree the use of performance enhancing drugs. This definition seeks to take into account the role of athletes and officials who manipulate sports contest (Atuono, 2011). According to Transparency International – Czech Republic (TICR) (2008), the first step to preventing something is to understand what it is and how it happens.

There are different aspects to sports corruption that it is difficult to provide a short and comprehensive definition. Chappelet, (2012) noted that although the Federal Council's report does not explicitly mention the two categories, it divides sports corruption into two main types: corruption on the field of play and corruption off the field of play. These two categories of corruption in sports have been referred to by Chadwick and Gorse, (2013) as competition and management corruption, these include the rigging of sports events, bidding procedures or elections to important positions in federations, the payment of kickbacks for the construction of sports facilities or the signing of sponsorship and broadcasting contracts, and the manipulation of competitions or match fixing, whether or not related to betting. Considering this, the researcher is optimistic that when defaulters are put to book issue of corruption will be minimized.

Across the sports sector, most deals and decisions take place behind closed doors, allowing corruption to go unchecked and unpunished, thus the actual extent of corruption in sports is greater than reported. This assumption according to (Chadwick, 2013), would seem reasonable particularly because those continents or sub-continents that are regarded in the discussion as the highly corrupt, such as, Africa, South America and Asia, hardly appear in reports on corruption in sports this has serious



consequences on the continent sports development (Chadwick, 2013). Sports development means progressive change in the quality and quantity of manpower that can effectively conduct the management of affairs in sports organizations, sports federations and associations, construction, expansion and maintenance of standard Sports facilities and provision of equipment for all games, well organized sports competitions, where rules, regulations and standards are maintained to enhance high performance by both athletes and officiating officials, and an encouraging public private partnership in the promotion, sponsor and ownership of sports clubs (Atuona, 2012). Lack of integrity in the sports industry in Nigeria may endanger sport's most essential elements and core values such as fair play, ethics, mutual respect and trust in the rules of the game (Atuona, 2012). This if not checked, may lead to the collapse of the sport sector.

Today there is growing concerned and attempts by individuals who are asking why despite huge amount of money claimed to have been expended on sports by government at all levels in Nigeria, sports continues to suffer from too many structural and managerial problems, remaining to a large extent in the hands of quacks and non-professionals, who are more interested in their personal gains than sports development (Idris, 2014). This coincides with the researchers' observation with regard to the recent global concerns on the impact of corrupt practices such as embezzlement, bribery, nepotism, match fixing, doping, and host of other and the emergence of several reforms directed at addressing the problems of corrupt practices in international sport. This calls for this study.

## THE PROBLEM

Governments at all levels have made several efforts, toward ensuring effective and efficient sports development by expending substantial part of their annual budget on sports. In order to actualized the mission of the National Sports Policy of Nigeria, 2009. "Which is to, "develop the sports sector to a world class level where it would provide continuous improvement of quality of life for the entire citizenry, to the extent that Nigeria would be recognized as one of the leading sporting countries in the world (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2009). Studies on corrupt practices in sports have been under explored, and the extent of known

cases in Nigeria merely represents the tip of the iceberg. The researchers observed that in the past several research studies have been conducted on the constraint to sports development in Nigeria, while very little have been mention about corruption in sports, it seemed that the previous research findings and the recommendations there after did not address the problems to any significant level. This prompted the researchers to undertake this study purposely to find out the perception of technical and administrative staff in the states sport council about the impacts of corrupt practices and recommend the best possible ways of at least reducing its impact to the barest minimum.

### **Research Question**

Does the technical and administrative staff differ in their perception on impacts of corrupt practices on sports competitions in the States Sports Councils in Nigeria?

### **Hypothesis**

There is no significant difference between the technical and administrative staff in their perception on the impact of corrupt practices on sports competitions in the States Sports Councils in Nigeria.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Descriptive survey research design was used for this study because the study is by nature non-experimental. The state sports councils were selected through a simple randomly sampling technique by dip- pick-record and return method. The State Sports council's names were written on piece of papers differently and drop in a bag and the research assistants picked one at time, the researcher recorded the name on a paper, the piece of paper was refolded and returned to the bag on each occasion a Sports council was picked until the two sports councils required for each zone are recorded.

Simple random sampling technique was also used in the selection of the respondents for the study; however both the technical and administrative staff were further splited into two groups each From the technical section; coaches and athletes were sampled separately while from the administrative staff; organizing secretaries and management staff were



also sampled separately. The justification for the use of simple random sampling techniques, is to ensure that every state Sports council and member of the population have equal probability of being selected and represented in the study. The target population for this study comprised of all 4,352 athletes, 912 coaches 738 organizing secretaries and 1,447 management staff, from the thirty six states sports council and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja totaling 7,449. The states sports councils were grouped according to the six geo-political zones of Nigeria out of which two states sports council were selected from each of the six geo-political zones. Thus a total of twelve (12) states sports councils with a sample size of 2,457 personnel were selected. Four hundred and twenty (420) respondents representing 17% of the sample size were thus selected for the study as follows Twenty (20) athletes, five (5) coaches; five (5) organizing secretaries and five (5) from management staff, making total thirty five (35) respondents from each of the twelve states sports councils as indicated in table below.

**Table 1 Sample of the respondents from each of the state sports councils across zone**

		DEPARTMENTS					
S/N	States	Zones	Technical division		Administration division		Total
			Athletes	Coaches	Org. Sec.	Managt. Staff	
1	Kebbi Zanfara	North West	20	5	5	5	35
2			20	5	5	5	35
3	Taraba Bauchi	North East	20	5	5	5	35
4			20	5	5	5	35
5	Benue Kogi	North Central	20	5	5	5	35
6			20	5	5	5	35
7	Ekiti Ogun	South West	20	5	5	5	35
8			20	5	5	5	35
9	Edo	South-south	20	5	5	5	35
10	Akwa-Ibom		20	5	5	5	35
11	Enugu	South-south	20	5	5	5	35
12	Anambra		20	5	5	5	35
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>240</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>420</b>

The instrument for this study was questionnaire which was developed by the researcher presented on 5 points Likert's scale of measurement; the respondents were requested to express their feelings on each of the items.

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In order to determine the face validity and internal consistency of the questionnaire a draft copy of the questionnaire was prepared and vetted by five different professional experts in Sports management, within and outside the Department of Physical and Health Education Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, a pilot study was conducted in three states (one each from North, South and West) which were not part of those selected for the main study, but had similar characteristics with other state sports councils in Nigeria. These are Niger, Delta and Ondo states respectively. In each of these states sports councils, thirty five (35) copies of the questionnaire were distributed. The instrument is reliable as the Cronbach's alpha = 0.91.

To obtain the data for this research, the researcher employed the services of 6 research assistants in the administration of the questionnaire in the selected States. Four hundred and twenty (420) questionnaires were distributed to the technical and administrative staff of the State Sports Councils in the states selected. Descriptive statistics of frequency and percentage was used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents. One- Way Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level.

## RESULTS

**Table 2 Classification of the respondent's by demographic Characteristics**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Option</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Designation	Athletes	223	55
	Coaches	60	15
	Organizing secretaries	60	15
	Administrative staff	60	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>100%</b>
Gender	Male	317	79
	Female	86	21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>100%</b>
Age range	18-22years	54	13
	23-27years	157	39
	28-32years	88	22
	33-37years	40	10
	38yeras and above	64	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>100%</b>



Qualification	Secondary	196	49
	NCE/ND	97	24
	HND/BSC	61	15
	M.sc	49	12
	Total	<b>403</b>	<b>100%</b>
Working experience	1- 5years	55	14
	6-10 years	60	15
	11-15years	89	22
	16-20years	114	28
	21 & above	85	21
	Total	<b>403</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table two shows the demographic data of the respondents. 223 (55%) of the respondents were athletes this constitute majority of the respondents 60 (15%) were Coaches, 60 (15%) were organizing secretaries and 60 (15%) management. Majority of the respondents 317 (79%) were male, while 86 (21%) were female. 54 (13%) of the respondents were between the age range of 18-24years 157 (39 %) of the respondents were between 23-27years of age 88 (22%) were between 28-32year of age 40 (10%) were those between the age range of 33-37 years, while those within the age range of 38 years and above were 64 (16%). From the table also 196 (49%) of the respondents hold secondary school certificates while 24% were those with National Diploma, 97(24%) of the respondents hold NCE/ ND 61 (15%) of the respondents hold either HND or BSC and 49 (12%) respondents were those with MSC and above. Information about the years of working experiences of the respondents indicated that 55 (14%) of the respondent had working experience between 1-5 years 60 (15%) fall within 6-10years working experiences. also 89 (22%) had working experience between 11-15 years, those whose working experience were between 16-20 years of experience were 114 (28%) and those respondents whose year of working experience were 21year and above were 84 and represented 21%.

**Table 3: Mean scores and standard deviation of responses on perception on impacts of corrupt practices on sports competitions in Nigeria**

S/N	Items	Mean	SD
1	Lack of due process has paved ways for involvement of nonprofessionals in to competition organizing committee in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.437	.59144
2	Appointment of political loyalists as members of organizing committee, has led to poor organization of sports competitions in States Sports Council	4.312	.56540



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3	Selection of coaches for sports competitions is sentimental, this led to poor performance among coaches in State Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.316	.59554
4	Selection of athletes for sports competitions is sentimental, this resulted in low performance among athletes in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.456	1.0307
5	Athletes are not often fully paid their allowances during sports competitions, this led to low level of motivations in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.419	.71520
6	Athletes bribed the organizing committee to get better fixtures this affects the standard of sports competitions in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.058	.70603
7	Athletes are lodged in bad accommodations during sports competitions, this affected the level of their determinations in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.3015	1.0365
8	Mismanagement has led to lack of improvement in the standard of organization of sports competitions in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.7327	.51532
9	lack of improvement in the standard of sports competitions, has discouraged investment in to sports, in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.1723	1.6058
10	The absent of a well-organized sports competitions has retarded the pace of sports development in States Sports Councils in Nigeria	4.3918	.63610
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43.596</b>	
<b>Aggregate mean score</b>		<b>43.596</b>	

Table three shows that the respondent perception on the impact of corrupt practices on organization of sports competitions in Nigeria is positive. The aggregate mean score of 4.3596 was obtained, which was above 3.5 the minimum mean of acceptability. The respondents perceived that mismanagement has led to lack of improvement in the standard of organization of sports competitions in States Sports Councils i ( $\bar{X}=4.73$ ). They were also unanimous that Selection of athletes for sports competitions are based on other sentiments, this have resulted in the low sports performances among athletes in States Sports Councils, as indicated by that value of ( $\bar{X}=4.46$ ). This might be as a result of nepotism that exists in dealing with individuals and groups in the State Sports Councils.





**Table 4. Summary of Analysis of variance (ANOVA) for differences between the different categories of respondents in their perception on the impacts of corrupt practices on Sports competitions in States Sports Councils in Nigeria**

Sources of Variance	Sum of square s	DF	Mean square	F	Sig
Between Groups	78.912	3	26.304		
Within Groups	17,412	339	43.640	0.603	0.789
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,490.912</b>	<b>402`</b>			

F (3,399) > 2.62      P > 0.05

Table four above indicates no significant difference among the four categories of respondents in their perception on the impact of corrupt practices on organization of sports competitions in the States Sports Councils Nigeria. The calculated F-value is 0.603, at the degree of freedom (3,399) and alpha level 0.05 while the critical value is 2.62; which is greater than calculated f-value. This indicates that Sub-hypothesis 4 which states that there is no significant difference between technical and administrative staff in their perception on the impact of corrupt practices on organization of sports competitions in the States Sports Councils Nigeria is retained. This implies that the respondents were in agreement that corrupt practices are hindrance to the effective organization of sports competitions in state sports councils in Nigeria.

## DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The finding of this investigation revealed no significant differences between the categories of respondents in their perceived impact of corrupt practices on sports competition. The respondent perceived that the absence of a well-organized sports competitions has retarded the pace of sports development in States Sports Councils in Nigeria. The findings in support of the notion that organization of sports competitions are areas that are always prone to corrupt practices. This have previously been enunciated by Westberge, Stavros & Wilson (2008) who stressed that for the mere fact that the money of tax payers is being spent on the activity of sports clubs and associations increases possibility for arbitrary allocation of the money and for favoring certain sports organizations and activities, which do not necessarily lead to the Sports development. This is also in agreement with TICR (2008), who noted that sport events open

a possibility to corruption which always goes hand in hand with huge money. The finding revealed that the respondents were unanimous in their believe that the appointment of political loyalist as members of sports organizing committee and the selection of players for competitions based on nepotisms and meritocracy have led to poor organization and standard of sports competitions. The finding supports the view of Adegaju (2007) who stated that, the access to certain facilities, positions and services have been associated with who one knows in the society irrespective of his or her qualifications.. This encourages mediocrity which affects the sectors of the society including sports.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the finding the study concluded that, there was no significant difference among athletes, coaches, organizing secretaries and management staff in their perception on impact of corrupt practices on the organization of sports competitions by States Sports Councils in Nigeria.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of these findings of the study the researchers recommended that:

1. Technical/officiating officials should have proving qualities and technical knowhow to enable them serve as members of the organizing committee of sports competitions
2. Coaches should be qualified and dedicated in discharging their duties to enable them restore the integrity and the standard of sports competitions in State Sport Councils.
3. Athletes should not dope and or in any way bribe coaches to gain extra advantage over their counterparts.

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