



Perceived Influence of the Attitude of University Management on the Participation of their Institutions in Nigeria University Game 2022

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to assess the perception of the university Directors of Sports on the attitude of the university management toward the participation of their institution in the 2022 Nigerian University Games competition held at Lagos. The university Directors of Sports, who were constantly interacting with the Management, served used as respondents for this study. The purposive sampling technique was used. The research instrument used was a questionnaire containing 10 items. This was administering to the respondents to obtain their response. A total and of 50 questionnaires were administer, completed and returned. The data collected were statistically analyzed to determine the mean scores and standard deviation. The data was further used to compute one sample t-test to test the Null hypothesis. The result showed observed t-value 7.010 which is greater than 2.50 mean of acceptability set for this study. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. Thus there was significant difference among university Directors of Sports in their perception of the attitude of the management on the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022. It was recommended that NUGA should undertake a serious sensitization of the university management on the importance of sports participation to the physical social and psychological wellbeing of their students and that Management should find additional sources of sports funding to complement the sports levy paid by the student

Keywords: Perception, Influence, Management, Attitude & NUGA competition

INTRODUCTION

Sport in our times is one of necessities of life for people, especially for youth and it is a key training tool. Lack of caring about sports and physical training particularly in our Institutions, can lead to a wide damage for each society. Ewing, M.E.at al. (2002) observed that well-designed sport programs that educate, support and empower youth can encourage positive behavioral change by enhancing self-perception, imparting self-esteem, and promoting more conscious care and respect among youths for their own bodies. Several studies conducted on the importance of sports has suggested that critical dimensions of properly

designed sport programs with Health Education components can help reduce the vulnerability of young people to substance abuse, premature, unprotected, or unwanted sexual activity, and the transmission of infectious disease through these activities. Individual constant engagement in physical training obviously improves their cardiovascular functions. Their respiratory system is better and able to utilize and process oxygen for muscular work. When two individuals, trained and untrained persons exposed to the same amount of muscular work, there is evidence that, trained people will do well than untrained persons.

Turner (2000) noted that globally, sport is considered as a creator of beauty and as an instrument of ethical values that brings about peace, unity and understanding among people of all races. Sports are highly significant in national development through leisure and recreation as it enhance a high degree of productivity and healthful living. There is no doubt that the development of any nation is greatly hinged on the qualities and capabilities of its youth, who are responsible for converting passive resources into active and functional. The development of youth in the various fields of human Endeavour is the basic functions of the all intuitions; this is why the institutions are second to none in terms of youth accumulation and development.

Saqib K (2021) said that globally, Universities are the epic institutions of higher learning; as educational centers the Universities provides ground for manpower training and research for the national development, Universities are generally acclaimed to be the spinning centre of knowledge crucial for the training of human minds and accordingly for the development of society. Ebuara et al. (2009) argue that universities exist to generate, disseminate and apply knowledge through teaching, research and extension services. For this reason, Osundare (2005: 11) observes that universities are 'the bedrock of progress, the indispensable instruments for the emergence of the nation-state, the fertile ground for learning and knowledge without which a nation's quest for advancement can only be a futile joke. This is because they are reservoirs of the national human resources, and they are seen as the major engine room for the development, up liftmen and integration



of the youths and citizens of a nation at large into the social, economic and political fabrics of the society.

Marsh, H. W., & Kleitman, S. (2003). Stressed that Universities have vital roles to play toward sport developments; They are expected to combine academic pursuit with development and promotion of the participation of their student; in intra and extra mural sporting activities within and outside the schools, Today like ever before, the realization of the importance of sports in the life of the youth has made universities all over the world to regard and include sports as components of the educational programme provided for their students. According to Bakari, (2014) " Nigeria is in need of bright and talented sportsmen and women and Universities are vital not only to the development of sport in Nigeria but as a vehicle for molding the characters of the youths who, through these institutions, are preparing themselves to be future leaders of the nation" It is on the opinion of the researchers that the continuity of sports is greatly hinged on the ability to sustain it through sports education and continues talent development, by way of giving the youths opportunities to train and participate in sports competitions. In the United state of America (USA) .for example many of their sports men and women were discovered from the Universities, The universities provide scholarship to potential sports talents, and in return they participate and represent their schools and the notion in the national and international championship. This is why Universities have been the mainstay of sporting aspirations and achievements of the nations.

Thus it was in line with these sporting aspirations that the Nigerian University Games (NUGA) was introducing as multi-sport events in 1966. The first competition was hosted by the University of Ibadan with 5 universities as participants. Only 8 events were competed for (Abeku 2012) In Nigeria one major area where opportunities are provided for student sports participation is through introduction NUGA competition, that is why today the number of events has increased to 17 with over 72 universities participated in NUGA 2022. This development according to Abeku (2012) has made NUGA competition

to be one of the large attendances in Nigeria. The 2022 edition took place at the University of Lagos tagged UNILAG 2022. Seventy two (72) public and private universities took part and compete in seventeen events. Just like the previous edition, UNILAG 2022 has come and gone but it was marked by history making events. Right from the preparation; take off to the end of the competition, it is thus very important to make a case study, particularly of some of the challenges that constitute great threat to the future survival, progress and the developments of the NUGA. This will assist in bringing sanity in the whole process of NUGA competition.

Ladani (2000) pointed out that sports consume a lot of money. He stated that sports practices could not be classified as with commercial ventures and on this regard the funding of sports should be adequate and there should be no delay. In Nigeria one major challenge to general sport development in is poor management due mostly to lack of fund, Okunbor and Aibueku (2007) observed that the poor management of sports in Nigeria is largely due to lack of funds. Little or no funds are set aside for provision of sports and physical activity facilities. According to them, a situation where sports federations are starved of funds or left to source for funds for organizing sports programmes often result in several draw backs. Mohammed (2005), stated that almost 90% of sports funds in Nigeria is provided by government and this cannot continue if Nigeria must get to the 'promised Land' in sports, hence alternative sources of funding should be sought to ensure that sports programmes are adequately executed.

Adesoye (1977) reported that sports were properly financed in the 70th during Nigerians oil boom. He however suggested alternative sources of income for funding sports. He recommended that Institutions' should seek for donation, appeal to industries and corporate for aid and launch. Although only few Universities has followed this recommendation, Over the year however, Institutions in Nigerian particularly the Universities have introduced an alternative source of funding for sports programs, through the introduction of sport levy, paid by student in order to enhanced sports development; thus sports funding is now the



main responsibilities of parent through their sons and daughters who are made to pay between one to five thousand naira together with other form of school fee annually. The aim of introduction of sport levy is to finance the provision of new sports facilities and upgrading the existing once, purchase of sports equipment, funding the training of athletes, organization intramural sports programs like inter faculties and attending mega sports competition such as NUGA games. This new Enovation of sport funding through payment of sports levy is a guaranteed and surest way of enhancing sport development in Nigerian Universities. But to achieve the desire sports development we must be concern with the ways and manners these funds are managed by the leadership of Nigerian Universities

According to Ladani (2008) stated that whatever be the sources of fund for sport implementation in the tertiary institution there must be judicious management, utilization and disbursement of available fund by the managers by which the success of the programme can be enhanced in these Institutions. Unfortunately In the face of competing needs in the universities, only leaders that viewed sports as worthwhile ventures in the development of the student can maintain a positive attitude toward utilizations of sports fund for the purpose to which it was paid by the students. This can only be possible in the universities that are blessed with such leaders are ready to stop the practices of diverting the sport levy into other used thereby saving their institutions of sports equipment and facilities Audu (2009) noted that, though the Federal Government is directing its attention and resource to sports development but for the efforts to succeed it require a more pragmatic approach by the provosts of the Colleges of education. This is also applicable to the Universities Vice Chancellors who are the administrative heads of University management.

A leader need to influence the behavior of his subordinates for the successful functioning of the organization and attainment and objectives as noted by Laxmikant (2005) three major leadership styles are identifiable in the management of organization, Autocratic, Democratic and Laissez faire. Any of the three leadership styles could

be used for achievement of organizational goals. Leadership style encompasses how the leaders (Vice Chancellors) relate to others within and outside the organization, how they view themselves and their position. With steady and guaranteed Sources of sports funding through sports levy, the success or failure of respective universities in sport development may no longer rest on adequacy or inadequacy of fund; but to a large extent on the attitude and leadership style of management. It is therefore very important to look beyond financial constrains and focus attention and study the general leadership attitude of the various university management, and its influence toward sports development and participation of their respective institutions in the recently concluded NUGA. This study therefore sought to find out the perception of the Directors of Sports of the various universities on the attitude of management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The universities are blessed with different categories of sports talents. This is why in the past the bulk of the nation's athletes were made of undergraduates, who are motivated to combine sports and their academics pursuit. These are athletes whose performances continue progressively as they move from one level of institution to the other. It is worthy to note that American Universities have produce quite a lot of stars who proceed to represent United State of America (USA) in various sporting discipline at major international competitions and championships including the Olympics Games and World Athletics Championships, is the situation the same in Nigeria? The big question that needs to be answer here is what is going on with our institutional sports? Is it not a reflection of the state of our country? Can we separate the Nigerian sports from its political environment Are Nigerian Government and the management of our Universities paying the right attention to sport. The unique contribution of sport to the development of the students and on the Nigeria Universities in the realm of Neuromuscular kills, development physical and motor fitness, perceptual motor development, self –concept development,



development of academic understanding and wise use of leisure time is a contribution that no other type of education does.

Bucher (2002) noted that the tertiary of sports in tertiary institutions are financed from central body administration just as other phases of education program in all tertiary institutions. This structure according to Bamidele.B et al (2012) could affect adversely the management of sports in tertiary institutions. Today tertiary institutions have introduced sport levy as part of the student registration fee. Regrettably however it seemed as sports in our Nigerian University is viewed by the management only in terms of how much sport levy is paid into the revenue account of the University by the student during the registration for the academic years without any conscious efforts to provide the necessary facilities, equipment and funding of sporting events, thus creating a lot of doubt as to whether the Nigeria University management are even aware of these important contributions of sports to the students and the institution at large. There are those who believe that the rate of sports development in many of Universities in Nigeria does not match the amount of money being paid by the student as sports levy. Others view that the attitude of the management toward sports participation and development, as well as the working relationship between the Management and their Directors of sports, Coaches and athletes in some universities, need much to be desired. All these therefore have created a gap, making it necessary to conduct this study on the perceived influence of the attitude of university management on the participation of their institution in Nigeria university game 2022.

Research Question

Will there be any difference among the directors of sports in their perceived influence of the attitude of the University management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022?

Hypotheses

There is no significant difference among the Directors of Sports in their perceived influence of the attitude of the University management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022.

METHODOLOGY

The Ex-Post facto research design was employed for the study. The population of the study comprised of the University Directors of Sports of the seventy two Universities that participated in NUGA 2022. They were selected rand purposively for the study and 50 of the were issued with questionnaire through accidentally sampling at the avenue of the competition. A standardize questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection the questionnaire contained 18 item divided into two (2) section A sought information on the attitude on the management while section B was concern with management motivational level of athletes and official. The data collected was analyzed through the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version. Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation was used in computing the scores. The scores were further subjected to the statistical analysis of one sample t-test for testing the hypothesis of significant difference. A critical alpha value of 0.05 was used in determining the level of significance for the data obtained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation scores of assessment of the attitude of University management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2011

S/N	Item	N	Mean	SD	SDE
1	The management was easily accessible for us for discussion on all matters on NUGA 2022 competition	50	2.62	.710	Accepted
2	The management was very accommodating and friendly in our discussion on NUGA 2022 competition	50	2.52	.935	Accepted
3	The budget proposal for NUGA 2022 competition was jointly screened between us the management	50	2.23	.651	Rejected
4	There was unanimous agreement between us and the management on whether to include or step down any item from the proposal with cogent reasons	50	2.33	.938	Rejected
5	The management willingly approved all the items agreed upon in the budget for NUGA 2022 competition	50	2.97	.567	Accepted
6	The management approved and release adequate fund for purchase of sports equipment for training for NUGA 2022 competition	50	2.22	.723	Rejected
7	The management approved and release adequate fund for upgrade of facilities for training for NUGA 2022 competition and	50	2.95	.877	Accepted
8	The management approved enough days and release	50	2.86	.826	Accepted



	fund for camping allowance for athletes and officials in preparation for NUGA 2022 competition					
9	The management approved and release allowance for athletes and officials for the numbers of day for NUGA 2022 competition	50	2.26	.826	Rejected	
10	The management was represented during the opening ceremony to honor the invitation of NUGA 2022	50	2.32	656	Rejected	

Information from the above table indicate that items 1,2,5,7, and 8 were accepted this is indicated by the mean scores obtained which were above 2.5 the minimum mean of acceptability set up for this study. However items 3,4,6,9 and 10 were rejected as the mean score obtained failed to meet up with the minimum mean of acceptability which is 2.5. To determine if the difference between the mean score obtained and the minimum mean of acceptability were significant the data were further subjected to one sample t-test and the results is indicated below

Table 2: One sample t –ratio for difference among Directors of sports in their perception on the influence of the attitude of University management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022

Variable	N	Mean	Df	SD	t	Sig.	Decision
Attitude toward participation in NUGA 2022	50	2.46	49	0.2712	7.010	.000	Rejected
Fixed mean		2.50		0.00000			

$$t(49) = 2.704$$

The result in table 2 above indicate the mean of the scores on attitude of the management toward the participation of their institution in the NUGA 2022 is significantly lower than the fixed mean of 2.50 used for the test . The observed t-value was also significantly higher than the critical table value. This implies a significant difference exist among the director of in their perceived influence of the Directors of Sports on the influence of attitude of the management toward the

DISCUSSION

The study revealed significant difference on the perception of Directors of Sports on attitude of the management the universities toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022. Thus rejecting the

hypothesis as the value t -cal is higher than 2.50 the minimum mean of acceptability set for this study. Information from this study indicate that the management was easily accessible for the Directors of Sports for discussion on all matters on NUGA 2022 competition giving by the mean score of 2.62 which is higher than 2.50. Majority of the Directors were also in agreement that the management was very accommodating and friendly in their discussion on NUGA 2022 competition (mean=2.52) Despite the higher mean in item 1 and 2 the Directors were not in agreement that the budget proposal for NUGA 2022 competition was jointly screened between us the management (mean= 2.23) and there was no unanimous agreement between Directors and the management on whether to include or step down any item from the proposal with cogent reasons (mean=2.33) Thus indicating that the management adopted democratic leadership style in their deliberation, but in terms of the screening of financial proposal they adopted an autocratic leadership style. This is in line with Laxmikant (2005) who state that three major leadership styles are identifiable in the management of organization, Autocratic, Democratic and Laissez faire. Any of the three leadership styles could be used for achievement of organizational goals. However that lack of involvement of the director of sports in the screening of their budget proposal might have been the reason why some of the university could not provide for their athletes some of the standard sports equipment needed in the NUGA 2022

The investigation further revealed the Directors accept that the management willingly approved all the items agreed upon in the budget for NUGA 2022 competition (mean=2.97) they however did not accept that what was approved and release for purchase of sports equipment for training for NUGA 2022 camping and the logistics during the completion were adequate. Adequate mean scores for all these items were negative. This is in support of Ladani (2006) who noted the leaders in most of the Colleges of Education and other institution stave sport of equipment, facilities and fund to attend completion. The lack of release of adequate fund during the NUGA 2022 might also be the reasons why many Universities have to send



their athlete home long before that closing ceremony. There was a general feeling of discontentment among many of the Directors with regard the attitude of their management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022. It seems as most Vice Chancellors do not honor NUGA 2022 the Invitations for the opening and closing ceremony as indicated by the low mean score of the responses of the directors of Sports who reject that the management was represented during the opening ceremony to honor the invitation of NUGA 2022. This is an indication that many of the University management have no passion for sports

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to assess how the attitude of the management influence the participation of their institution in NUGA2022 one research question and one hypothesis were Formulated and the data collected through the use of questionnaire was analyzed and tested and the following conclusion was made.

- I. There was significant difference among the Directors of Sports in their perceived influence of the attitude of the University management toward the participation of their institution in NUGA 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Base on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made:

1. NUGA should undertake a serious sensitization of the university management on the importance of sports participation. They should viewed the sports as a cross cutting vehicle that will contribute to achieving national development and a healthy society.
2. The Management should find additional sources of sports funding to complement the sports levy paid by the student and as the head of the institution the management should encourage, all forms of physical activities that contribute to physical fitness, mental grooming and social interaction such as play, recreation, organized or competitive sport, indigenous sports and games at all levels.

3. They should be made to understand that the sport levy being collected from student should be utilize to provide sports excitement to student exclusively, for provision of sports facilities, equipment and competition this will motivate student to participate in sports programmes .

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