

A photograph of a soccer ball on a green field with a white line and a red ribbon. The ball is white with black panels and is positioned on a white line. A red ribbon is draped across the field, partially overlapping the white line. The background is a lush green field.

Journal of
**Physical Education and Sport
Management**

Volume 6 Number 5 August 2015

ISSN 1996-0794



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Journal of Physical Education and Sport Management (JPESM) is published once a month (one volume per year) by Academic Journals.

Journal of Physical Education and Sport Management (JPESM) is an open access journal that provides rapid publication (monthly) of articles in all areas of the subject such as physical fitness ,sports agent laws ,sport organization, health care etc.

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ARTICLE

Research

- The impact of administration and sports programme implementation on the achievement of sports council at the 17th national sports Festival competition: a case study of rivers state sports council** 32
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Full Length Research Paper

The impact of administration and sports programme implementation on the achievement of sports council at the 17th national sports Festival competition: a case study of rivers state sports council

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Received 30 July 2013; Accepted 8 August, 2015

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the importance of sports programme implementation by sports administrators as to achieve success. This study examined the impact of administration and sports programme implementation on the achievement of Rivers State Sports Councils at the 17th National Sports Festival competition. The descriptive survey research design was employed for this study. Incidental sampling technique was used to select 260 sports men/women, coaches, organizing secretaries, management staff, and stadium attendants from Rivers State sports council, who served as subjects for this study. An adapted self designed questionnaire made up of simple questions was used for data collection. The collected data was subjected to chi-square analysis based on the two stated hypotheses. The results of the findings showed that administration of sports has significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State Sports Council at the 17th National Sport Festival with a χ^2 value of 8.90. The cross tabulation of chi-square value of 9.00 obtained, showed that Rivers State sports council programme implementation at the 17th National sports festival was highly significant. Based on this two results of the findings, it was concluded that Rivers State sports council has a sound administration and excellent pattern of programme implementation. It was recommended, among other things that, qualified and adequate coaches/organizing secretaries and athletes should be recruited for training and more programme planning.

Key words: Programme implementation, achievement, sports festivals, sports council, sports commission.

INTRODUCTION

Sports have a long history and dates back to the ancient days of the Greeks, Athenians and Spartan. There were earlier attempts to organize and administer sports in the

ancient times, for instance the games of the Greeks and Romans: the ancient Olympiad, Isthmian, Nemea and Delphi festivals. Bucher and Krotee (2002), conceded

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that sports was highly organized in this period. The inherent values of well coordinated sports programmes implementation manifest themselves in their objectives and the achievement of these objectives.

In the absence of outright conventional global warfare, nations appear to employ sports power as a tool of international dominance or supremacy. Sports in the modern world seem a metaphor for cold war. Long after the Second World War Russian (the former Soviet Union) sustained their political philosophy through sports (Agwai, 1980). With the gradual but steady use of sports as the chessboard of international diplomacy and public relations, nations and governments everywhere commit colossal sums of money in the bid to achieve and maintain accelerated rate of development of sports. In modern times most nations, governments of the world, press and individuals have devoted great interest, time and resources for the promotion of sports. From every indications sports is today a cooperate business.

There is in fact hardly any other human experience that has a universal appeal, more than sports. Kenyon, (1985), has enumerated some of the sports' values as:

- a. The social values in this, the participant is opportune to interact with others and to strength existing relationships.
- b. Health and fitness values are means of improving one's health and physical fitness.
- c. Participants also experience the ups and downs of success and failure which most likely prepare than to be able to cope with the situations in life.

Sports programme implementation

Programming is the process of developing sports plans, while implantation is the accomplishment of the planned sports programme by involving both human and material resources (Daughtrey and Wood, 1976). They felt that this required cost effectiveness and cost benefit analysis is what is needed in the programme. For the programmes implement and process of programming to be of good quality and effective, they warned that a sound administration procedure is needed to run them.

The fact that programme implementation involves planning is reciprocal. Parks (1980) opined that planning entails programming budgeting, staffing (personnel), activities selection, scheduling, supervision, facilities and equipment, competition, awards, motivational incentives to the athletes as well as their health and safety. According to Parks (1980), the scope of planning involves long-term, yearly, unit, weekly, seasonal and daily plans. This however depends on the administrative styles and principles employed by the administrator in implementing his programme.

Concept of achievement in National Sports Festival

The work of sports organizations (such as National

Sports Commission, National Sports Festivals, Sports Councils and other Sports Establishments) is difficult, if not impossible to quantify the output or evaluate the activities of people operating in this sector. Achievement in sports is the successful completion of any set objectives of sports programme with efforts and skills. The festivals have caused the provision and upgrading of sports facilities in the states that have hosted them. A gold medal is a source of state and national pride and symbol of success of the state and country (Edori, 1985; Okojie, 1985; Amuchie, 1990; Biddle, 1991).

Administration of Sports in Nigeria

Nigeria as a country with multi-ethnic groups has more than 500 languages. Different languages, with different cultures, norms, sanctions, values, religion, belief, and tradition. Nigeria like the ancient city of Greece, use physical activities such as dancing, running, jumping, masquerading and others for religion worshipping. These are cultural and funeral display such as; swimming, hunting, canoeing, horse riding, tree and mountain climbing (Adedeji, 1972).

The need for an organization to promote the development of sports in Nigeria led to the formation in 1944 of the Amateur Athletic Association of Nigeria. The Nigeria National Sports Council (NSC) was set up in 1962. In August 1971, the Federal Government promulgated Decree 34, which gave formal recognition and legal set up of National Sports Commission which was inaugurated on September 23, 1971 and was charged among other things with the responsibilities to promote sports in Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria Gazette, 1979).

Administration is the guidance, leadership and management of affairs through essential functions and responsibilities necessary for the achievement of sports goal. Ever since their creation about 40 years ago, the National Commission and the States Sports Councils have made bold efforts to transform Sports organization and administration in Nigeria (Orunaboka, 1998).

Current administration of sports

It could be observed today that developed countries employ sophisticated and scientific facilities and training programmes to condition their athletes for high performances. If developing countries like Nigeria would hope to meet-up with and indeed surpass the advances of their counterparts in the developed world, they have no option than to make greater commitment to sports programmes. Many states in Nigeria spend large amount of money to maintain and improve their sports programmes. This is likely as a result of the prestige attached to sports at all levels of our national life.

The situation of Nationals Sports Festival in Nigeria

The National sports festival was introduced by the 1st Head of States, General Yakubu Gowon (Rtd.) in 1973, 3 years after the Nigerian civil war. The new rules and aims of the organization and Administration of National Sports Festival (NSF) in Nigeria are:

(i) The National Sports Festival (NSF) shall be held every two years.

(ii) The National Sports Commission (NSC) has the prerogative to award the hosting right of the NSF to a state, following laid down bid procedure. While the aims were stated thus:

1. The promotion of mass participation in sports from the grassroots level throughout the country.
2. The promotion of keen and healthy competition amongst the competitors under an atmosphere of sportsmanship and friendly interaction with a view to enhancing and strengthening national unity.
3. Identification of talents for further development.
4. To provide opportunities for the states to acquire and upgrade sports facilities.
5. The promotion of socio-cultural integration thereby enhancing national unity. (Blue prints Draft, national sports Festival General Rules & Regulations, 2010)

The purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the impact of administration and sports programme implementation on the achievement of Rivers State Sports Council at the 17th National Sports Festival Competition.

Rivers State Sports Programme

Many sports administrators plan, organize and administer competitive sports in order to reach a successful goal. They might have a well laid out programmes with excellent patterns of implementations but without the needed financial backing to affect the programmes, the programmes will not achieve its objectives. A curious follower of sports in Nigeria and Rivers State in particular may agree that the state is recording a declining productivity in her sports progress, most particularly at the National Sports Festivals. To any sports enthusiast this negative trend is not acceptable. The time is now that concerted and honest efforts should be made to resuscitate sports glory in Rivers State of Nigeria. However, Rivers State Hosted and won the 17th National Sports Festival with 135 gold, 72 silver, 82 bronze, but with a lot of controversy and criticism from other states athletes, officials and sports administrators.

Sports lovers in Nigeria are surprised on how Rivers State hauled a total of 299 medals and came to the 1st

position, but sports administrators are much aware of the fact that sports appears to be a mirror of the sports administrators or sports practitioners by reflecting sports programmes implementation to the achieved success or failure of their athletes, which is the main focus of this study.

The examination of a few ethnographical facts about the state of study showed that Rivers state was created on May 27, 1967 with Port Harcourt as the capital city. She has a population of about 8. 96 million people in 23 Local Government Areas. About three quarters of the state is occupied by water with a land area of about 50,000 square kilometers, with the boundaries of Imo and Abia States in the North, Akwa-Ibom and Cross River States in the East, Bayelsa and Delta states in the West and the Atlantic Ocean in the South.

Statement of the problem

The government and citizens of Rivers State have shown some concern at the fluctuating rate of development in the administration and sports achievements in the state and at the national level. Rivers State is placed very low (at the Bottom) in nearly all the national sports competitions. One is bound to reflect with nostalgia the time the name of Rivers State was written with gold in Nigeria sports hall of fame. It is therefore the focus of this study to find out the level of administration and sports programme implementation at the 17th National Sports Festival Competitions held in Rivers State from 27th June, 2011 to 10th of July 2011, and Rivers State took first position.

Research hypothesis

Two research hypotheses were stated and tested, thus:

1. The administration of sports programme at the state level will have no significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State sports council at the 17th National Sports Festival competition.
2. The sport programme implementation at the state level will have no significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State sports council at the 17th National Sports Festival competition.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey design was used for this study.

Population

The population for this study was made up of coaches, stadium attendants, organizing secretaries, management staff and athletes from the Rivers state sports councils for twenty one sports.

Table 1. Results of Cross tabulation chi-square analysis of opinions on administration of sports.

Variable		Coaches	Officials	Athletes	Row total
A/AS	F	3	21	115	139
	%	1.2	8.1	44.2	53.5
D/SD	F	12	24	85	121
	%	2.7	9.2	32.7	46.5
COLUMN		15	45	200	260
TOTAL		5.8%	17.3%	76.9%	100%

Chi-square 8.90*, df 2, P < 0.05.

Sample and sampling technique

With the use of incidental sampling technique; 260 sports men/women, coaches, organizing secretaries, management staff, and stadium attendants of Rivers State sports council were selected for this study: this represents more than half of the population under study.

Research instrument

An adapted self-designed questionnaire made up of simple questions meant to obtain answers was used for data collection.

Data collection

The researcher personally distributed the questionnaire items to the respondents in their offices with the assistance of the management staff of the council, and was collected back on the spot. This was possible because the researcher was once a staff of the council. All the items were retrieved and well completed

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Hypothesis 1: The administration of sports programme at the state level will have no significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State sports council at the 17th National Sports festival competition in Rivers State.

Table 1 shows cross tabulation chi-square (χ^2) used to test the significance of the administration of sports at state level. All the five questions used in testing that hypothesis shows that administration of sports have significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State sports council at the National Sports Festival with a chi-square (χ^2) value of 8.90.

Administration is the key function of all organization. No organization can expect efficiency in its operations without sound administration. Administration should ensure detailed information of future sports programmes. Administration is the management of both human and material resources. An administrator who planned ahead of time is likely to get things done efficiently.

The findings revealed that the standards of administration of sports programmes in Rivers State by the Sports Council are at times lower than the national sports festival standard. That the state does not always start in time for their sports preparations as to meet their yearly planned sports programmes towards national sports festivals. The key to this early preparation in competitive sports lies on the ability of a dynamic administrative style of the council officials and leaders (Ikulayo, 1986; Strawb, 1990). Administration of sports as to achieve success requires cost effectiveness and cost benefit analysis of what is needed in the programme. According to National Sports Blue Print by Ndanusa (2010). It is however expected that the state Government and Local Governments will collaborate to jointly finance the construction of the community sports centres and develop a sports programmes in the face of the competing demands for financial resources.

Hypothesis 2: The sports programmes implementation at the state level will have no significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State Sports Council at the 17th National sports festival competitions in Rivers State.

Table 2 has a cross tabulation chi-square (χ^2) value of 9.00 significance, on sports programmes implementation of Rivers State Sports Council at the 17th National Sports Festivals. The (χ^2) value confirms or corroborates the results of frequencies and percentages of those who stated that sports programmes implementation will have significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State Council at the 17th National Sports Festival competition in Rivers State. The null hypothesis which stated that sports programmes implementations will have no significant effect on the achievement of Rivers State sports council at the 17th National Sports Festival was therefore rejected.

To develop a sound wholesome sports programme and achieve success at any level required a good sports programme that must be implemented by a hard working sports administrator. Studies and opinions by Ekeji (2003), Knop et al., (2013), Welikala and Sohal (2008),

Table 2. Analysis of opinions of respondents with chi-square (X^2) Cross tabulation.

Variable		Coaches	Officials	Athletes	Row total
A/AS	F	15	29	123	167
	%	5.8	11.1	47.3	64.2
D/SD	F	0	16	77	93
	%	0	6.2	29.6	35.8
COLUMN		15	45	200	260
TOTAL		5.8%	17.3%	76.9%	100%

Chi-square (X^2) = 9.00*, df 2, P < 0.05.

confirm this finding. That most sports programmes had been handicapped by poor implementation by the sports organizers and administrator. The sports administrators should be knowledgeable enough to provide sound programme and see to its implementation by providing all the necessary logistics and strategies. Success is the end result of proper sports programmes implementation.

Conclusion

In line with the findings and observations made during this study, it was concluded that, the Rivers State sports council administration in conjunction with Rivers State government should encourage sports training programmes by improving on the employment of quality staff, provision and maintenance of sports equipment and facilities both at the state capital and local government levels. This will go a long way to improve styles of organization and administration of sports programmes. The findings of the study showed that, by the national Sports Commission norms, programme implementation and the achievement of Rivers State at National Sports Festivals over the period of study was satisfactory.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the findings, it was recommended that:

1. The Rivers State Sports Council should improve on its organization and administration of sports at state level.
2. Qualified and adequate coaches/organizing secretaries and athletes should be recruited for training and programme planning as to boost participation and performance in different sports.
3. Though there were great improvements in organization and administration policies of the council, there is more need to improve on them by the application of managerial evaluation model as to have a better programme its

implementation and achievement.

Conflict of Interests

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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