

## **IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMMES IN ILORIN METROPOLIS KWARA STATE**

**BY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programme among secondary schools in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State. Descriptive research design of survey type was used. The population for this study comprises of sports officers and school athletes within the study area. Stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used to select 150 respondents. A researcher structure questionnaire was employed for this study. The instrument was validated by three (3) lecturers in the department of Human Kinetics Education, University of Ilorin. The reliability level of the instrument was established through test re-test method using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). A Correlation Coefficient of 0.85r was obtained. The data collected were analysed using inferential statistics of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) to test the postulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level. The result revealed that suspension of sporting activities and the lost of interest in sports have significant influence on organization of annual school sports programmes. Based on the findings, the study recommends that, there is need for sports officers in schools to sensitizes the Ministry of Education through the principal to allow school to organized school sports competition following the Covid-19 laid down protocols. This would arouse the students athletes interest and build their confidence to participate in sporting activities.

**Key words:** Covid-19 Pandemic, School Sports, impact, suspension of sporting activities

## **Introduction**

School sports is one of the components of community sports development that served as basement for talent discovery at early stage. It focuses on discovery of secondary school athletes who have the right potentials to exhibit their talents in competitive sports and also to nurture them into elite athletes who would be able to compete with their counterpart in the world (Abubakar, 2018). School sports programme is an institutionalized competition that involves vigorous physical exertion or the use of relative complex physical skills by an individual whose participation is been motivated by a combination of intrinsic satisfaction associated with the activity itself and external rewards which can be carried through athletic performance (Orunaboka & Ihekwe, 2011).

Saba and Agbeko (2009) pointed out that school sport is an effective tool used for developing the youths through competitions and imbibing in the spirit of nationalism. In realizing the importance of educational institutions in sports development in Nigeria, the National Sport Commission (NCS) established a division for school sports called competitions in Nigeria among secondary schools, tagged All Nigeria Secondary Schools Games (ANSSG). This implies that, secondary schools are looked as one of the fertile breeding grounds for the nations sportsmen and women. Saba and Agbeko (2009) further stressed that, the interscholastic competition is usually organized in 3 stages, the local, state and national levels. Some of the aims of interscholastic sports competitions among Nigeria youth is to harness the abundant sporting talents and to produce young men and women of high sporting skills to represent the country. Ibrahim (2013) observed that the Nigeria School Sports Federation was established in 1976 under the auspices of Federal Ministry of Education. Each state chapter operates under the auspices of the State Ministry of Education. N.S.S.F is charged with the responsibility of organizing and administering sports at primary and post-primary institutions basic and secondary in Nigeria.

Nigeria is also one of the vulnerable African nations, given the weak state of the healthcare system. In Africa, there are still communities without healthcare facilities, apart from the scarcity of health workers (World Health Organization, 2020). Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in December 2019, in Wuhan province of China, the world has not been the same again with disruption in all spheres of human endeavor including sports.

COVID-19 pandemic has been considered a relative of a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) which has the possibility of transference from animals to humans (Yingfe & Zhen, 2020). The biggest sporting casualty this year is the 2020 summer Olympics scheduled for Tokyo, Japan that was earlier scheduled to hold from July 24 to August 9, 2020, has been postponed till the next year 2021, due to the ravaging of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sociologically, the pandemic has caused global social disruption by limiting global social relations. The idea of "social distancing" negates regular social interaction, which is the bedrock

of human society (WHO, 2020). A contagious disease of global health importance also disrupts the usual norms of close physical contacts since the disease transmits through contact with individuals who already contracted the disease.

According to the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the training of the rapid response teams across the 36 states in Nigeria was concluded in December 2019. On January 28, the NCDC further revealed that a Corona virus Group had been set up to activate its incident system to respond to any emergency. Additionally, the NCDC worked with 22 states in Nigeria to activate their emergency operations centers to manage and link up with the national incidence coordination centers (Ihekweazu, 2020). Although the government had strengthened the surveillance at the airport since January 2020, Nigeria recorded its COVID-19 index case that was imported from Italy, on February 27. This raised concerns about the effectiveness of airport surveillance and, by extension, the country's general preparedness. The index case (an Italian) had visited some other states of the federation before testing positive for COVID-19. The pre-COVID-19 preparedness was grossly inadequate.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Nigeria is one of the vulnerable African countries, given the weak state of the health care service delivery. The idea of social distance as one of the measure put in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19 Pandemic in the society has really affected the organization of school sports programmes in the study area. The researchers observed that strict adhere to Covid-19 protocols such as closure of schools, physical distancing and hand washing and to mention but few has lead to lost of interest on the parts of secondary school students to participate fully in sports and this would have negative impact on grassroot sports development in secondary schools as a result of adverse effect of Covid-19 Pandemic. This necessitate the needs why the researchers investigated impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on organization of school sports programme among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objective of this study was to examine the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. The objectives were specifically meant to:

- (1) Investigate the impact of suspending sporting activities due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes in secondary schools.
- (2) Evaluate the impact on lost of interest by students in sports due to Covid 19 pandemic on organization of school sports programme in Secondary Schools.

## **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were tested for this study.

- (1) Suspension of sporting activities will not have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programme among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara state.
- (2) Lost of interest by students in sports will not have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

## **Methodology**

Descriptive research design of survey type was used for this study. The population consists of all sports officers and students athletes in schools. Stratified, simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used to select the respondents 150 respondents for this study. The respondents were stratified into two groups, sports officers and students athletes. Purposively, all the 50 sports officers were sampled and 10 secondary schools were randomly sampled and in each school 10 athletes were sampled. In all, 150 respondents were sampled for this study. A researcher structured questionnaire of modified likert rating scale format was employed for this study. The instrument was validated by three (3) lecturers in the department of Human Kinetics Education, University of Ilorin. The reliability level of the instrument was established through test re-test method using Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC). A correlation coefficient of 0.85r was obtained. The administration of instrument was done by the researchers and 4 trained research assistants. The data collected were analysed using inferential statistics of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistical tools to test the formulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level.

## **Results**

**H<sub>01</sub>:** Suspension of sports activities will not have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Table 1 revealed  $\chi^2$  analysis of impacts of suspension of sporting activities due to Covid-19 on organization of school sports programmes

| S/N                | Item                                                                                                                      | SA         | A          | D          | SD         | Raw total  | Cal $\chi^2$ value | df | Critical $\chi^2$ value | Decision            |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.                 | Suspension of sporting activities is a preventive measure taken by the government to stop the spread of Covid-19 pandemic | 24         | 22         | 53         | 51         | 150        | 63.48              | 9  | 16.92                   | Hypothesis rejected |
| 2.                 | Suspension of sporting activities in schools has nothing to do with the organization of school sports programme in school | 37         | 21         | 25         | 67         | 150        |                    |    |                         |                     |
| 3.                 | The organization of school sports programme cannot be effective because of the suspension.                                | 24         | 41         | 46         | 39         | 150        |                    |    |                         |                     |
| 4.                 | One of the greatest mistake made by the government is the suspension of the school sports programme.                      | 31         | 23         | 46         | 50         | 150        |                    |    |                         |                     |
| <b>Colum total</b> |                                                                                                                           | <b>116</b> | <b>107</b> | <b>170</b> | <b>207</b> | <b>600</b> |                    |    |                         |                     |

Table 1 shows the calculated  $\chi^2$  value of 63.48 and critical  $\chi^2$  value of 16.92 with a degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level, and since the calculated  $\chi^2$  value is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value, therefore the null hypothesis that stated that suspension of sporting activities will not have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programme among secondary schools was therefore rejected. This implies that suspension of sporting activities has significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** Lost of interest by the student in sports will not have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Table 2 revealed the  $\chi^2$  analysis on impact of lost of interest in sports by the students due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes.

| S/N                | Item                                                                                                                 | SA         | A          | D          | SD         | Raw total  | Cal $\chi^2$ value | df | Critical $\chi^2$ value | Decision            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|----|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1.                 | Suspension of school sports competition had really discourage the students to participate in sports                  | 30         | 60         | 10         | 50         | 150        |                    |    |                         |                     |
| 2.                 | Lost of interest in sports by the students cannot be attributed to impact of Covid-19 pandemic.                      | 33         | 20         | 52         | 45         | 150        | 45.12              | 9  | 16.92                   | Hypothesis rejected |
| 3.                 | The suspension of school sports programmes can only arouse the interest of students to organization of school sports | 24         | 26         | 36         | 64         | 150        |                    |    |                         |                     |
| 4.                 | Lost of interest in sports by the students has nothing to do with organization of school sports programmes           | 20         | 27         | 52         | 51         | 150        |                    |    |                         |                     |
| <b>Colum total</b> |                                                                                                                      | <b>107</b> | <b>133</b> | <b>150</b> | <b>210</b> | <b>600</b> |                    |    |                         |                     |

$P < 0.05$

Table 2 revealed the calculated  $\chi^2$  value of 45.12 and critical  $\chi^2$  value of 16.92 with a degree of freedom at 0.5 alpha level and the calculated  $\chi^2$  value is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value hence the null hypothesis that stated that lost of interest by students in sports will not have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State was hereby rejected. This implies that lost of interest by students in sports have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programmes among secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

## **Discussion of the Findings**

The findings from the tested hypothesis one revealed that suspension of sporting activities have significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programme among secondary schools in the study area. These results supported the findings of Ihekweazu (2020) that a contagious diseases like Covid-19 pandemic is a global health issues that destructs the usual norms of close physical contact since the diseases transmits through contact with one another and in an attempt to stop the spread of the virus preventive measure such as social gathering and organizing sporting activities especially among secondary school was suspend. Similarly WHO (2020) emphasis on restricting movement of people from one country to another and also suspend all sporting activities in schools while schools and colleges were asked to shutdown.

The findings from tested hypothesis two indicated that lost of interest by students in sports has significant impact due to Covid-19 pandemic on organization of school sports programme among secondary schools in the study are. This result is in line with the view of Michael (2020) who affirmed that since the schools were shut down for a long period of time and suspension of sporting activities has reduce the number of young boys and girls who have passion for sports in our colleges. Also some these students were instructed by the parents not to have close contact with their other colleagues in schools and by implication has lead to lost of interest in participating in sporting activities in schools.

## **Conclusions**

Based on the finding of this study, the following conclusions were drawn:

- (1) Covid-19 had impact on organization of school sports programme in Ilorin metropolis Kwara State due to suspension of sporting activities.
- (2) Covid-19 had significant impact on organization of school sports programme in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State due to lost of interest in sports by the students.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the finding of this study the following recommendations were made:

- (1) There is need for sports officers in schools to sensitize the Ministry of Education through the principals to allow schools to organized school sports competitions
- (2) The school management should direct the sports officers and their subordinates to design school sports programme for the athletes in schools that would arouse the interest of students by ensuring that the Covid-19 protocols are observed.

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