

ADMINISTRATIVE VARIABLES AS CORRELATE OF KWARA STATE ATHLETES PERFORMANCE AT DELTA 2023 NATIONAL YOUTH GAMES

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Abstract

This study investigated administrative variables as correlate of Kwaraathletes performance at Delta 2023 National Youth Games. Descriptive design of correlation types was employed for the study. The population comprises of all coaches, athletes and sports administrators in the study area. A multistage sampling techniques of stratified and purposive sampling were used to select 100 respondents for this study. A researcher structured questionnaires was used to gathered data for this study. The instrument was validated by 2 lecturers in the department of Human Kinetics Education and 2 experts in sports commission. The reliability level of the instrument was established through test re-test method using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) A correlation coefficient of 0.65 was obtained. The instrument was administered by the researchers and 3 trained research assistants. The data collected where analysed using descriptive statistics of percentage to answer the research questions while inferential statistics of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the postulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level. The result of the findings revealed that, there was a significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara athletes, also there was a significant relationship between Bureaucratic process and leadership style and performance of Kwara athletes at National Youth Games. Based on the findings of the study recommends that there should be prompt release of fund to cater for these athletes before and during competition so as to improve their performances. Also sports Administrators should adopt a leadership style that is friendly to both coaches and athletes that would enhance their performance in a competition.

Keywords: Administrative strategies athletes, performance, National youth Games

Introduction

Sports at any level is a social activity and event that requires human and material resources with the aid of administrative effectiveness. Sports are more than ever before, commanding global attention, its influence on world peace, the economy, and the development of social relationships cannot be underestimated.

The administration of mega or small-scale recreational or competitive sports programme in every society requires human and material resources. One of the challenges facing the administration and development of sports at any level and society is inadequate skilled personnel or manpower. The inadequacy of personnel needed for any event or programme can be augmented through the use of volunteers. A volunteer is referring to an individual who offers his/her labour, knowledge, skills, and experience at no wage cost to a utilizing organization.

Throughout the world, volunteers are utilized by various organizations for various events. Volunteers have become vital assets in ensuring the efficiency of events. Sports development is the process of continuous improvement of the sports structure, institutions, and programmes to create societal conditions that are conducive to the effective functioning of the Sports Council that would enhance athletes' performance in an organized competition. Administrative variables are the process of getting activities completed efficiently with and through other people, the process, according to Robbin 2018, represents the functions or primary activities engaged in by the managers. He further observed that management has several generic properties as regards the level of organization; all managers perform the same job and functions regardless of the type of organization. Management involves clear, definable functions, such as planning, organizing, staffing, leading, communicating, and controlling.

Massie and Douglass (2016) pointed out that administrative involves the cooperation of individuals and thus deals with the behavioural components of how people in groups can best work together. Management is the process of working with and through individuals and groups

to efficiently accomplish organizational goals. Sports personnel must thoroughly understand the importance of effective and efficient administrative variables that can enhance sports development in an organization (Ajadi&Falaye 2022). The administrative variables are very vital to the success of any organization or team, it could be described as the official line of authority and control within an organization .

Administrative variables often describe the relationship of work between staff in a particular organization, in this case, the goal setting of an Administrator depends on the environment and nature of workforces available. Effective management requires a design structure that ensures that the various component is integrated so that their efforts can contribute to the overall aim of the goal set for the team (John, 2018), it is the responsibility of the management to set up and support the government policies before any activities is been initiated to ensure that all key decisions are taken from the appropriate offices. Furthermore, the management defines team governance in the document that outlays the role and responsibilities for decision-making among teams and stakeholders which may include the creation of a committee and its high-level operating rules.

In sports management, athletes and coaches levels of performance depend largely on the cooperation and efficiency of the sports manager in attending to their needs. All these individuals are regarded today, as practitioners in the field of sports management. Sports management is the bedrock or cornerstone for sports development in virtually all nations. This is the organ that is responsible for the smooth running of various sports in terms of planning, organizing, directing, and controlling all essential inputs in sports. Sports can succeed or fail in direct proportion to the appropriate decisions and actions of those who are responsible for managing them (Oloruntoba&Achugbu, 2018). An effective and efficient management strategy in any

organization such as the administration of football clubs in particular rests solely on the board of management practices adopted by the club.

Bakri (2017) opined that sports management and development can be regarded as a process of continuous improvement of the sports structures, performances of athletes, and development of programmes to create a condition that is conducive to physical fitness for all and the effective functioning of self-actualization. It is common knowledge today that the attainment of world-class status in sports is a strong reflection of sports development through effective administrative variables (Ajadi&Falaye 2022).

An important factor contributing to sports administrators' success and organisational effectiveness is the leadership style adopted by the sports administrator. Leadership style is a complex behavioural process in which group dynamics, interpersonal communication and achievement of goals interplay. Being one of the basic and most important needs in an organisation, leadership is often considered as the solution to most problems that an organisation experiences. (Donald 2016) asserted that the manner in which a leader interacts with employees determines how well they will perform.

Bureaucracy is the outcome of political, scientific and sociological analysis of management and government organizations which is applicable to almost all large organizations including sports management (Ogunsanwo, 2005). The principle of social organisation that characterized the 20th century industrial Society is "rational coordination" known as bureaucracy. Under this form of organisation, people are brought together in formal and complex setting run by professionals. They went further by saying that, the 19th century produced a number of brilliantly descriptive and literary accounts of modern bureaucracies. The National Youth games started in the year 2013 as an idea conceived by the federal government led by this Excellency Dr. Goodluck Jonathan through the former minister of Youth and sports event sought

to find and develop youthful talent by allowing them to thrive in a variety of sports discipline. The maiden edition was hosted by in Abuja from December 5 – 15, 2013 with Delta state taking first place overall. (Abdulsalam2023) The ideas and philosophy behind the National Youth Games (NYG) is very explicit. It is strategically designed by the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development to address our National aspiration of representing sports at the grassroots level and to served as a platform to discover budding talents in the country. (Samuel, 2021)

Furthermore, sports performance could be measured from the number of successes achieved in national and international sports competitions. These successes have a direct hearingon the indices of sports development especially through the National Youth Games. Ajadi, Babadare, Ibraheem, and Adesoye (2014) stressed that sports performance is usually regarded as an aggregation of individual results such as performance over a month or season of competition as opposed to single or isolated activity. The performance of any athlete depends largely on the type of motivational measures put in place by the Sports Manager and the sports facilities that are available for training within a period. Sports performance of an athlete can be measured through the outcome of results obtained in a competition or the number of medals won in a tournament either by a team or by a single athlete. (Ajadi&Falaye 2021) Moreso, performance in sports is the high level attained or the peak of an athlete as a result of a high degree of training.

The performance of Kwara athletes in the 6th and 7th edition of the National Youth Games are as follow, at the 6th edition held in Unviersity of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara took 14th position with the total number 16 medals, 6 gold, 4 silver and 6 Bronze and in the just concluded 7th edition,

Kwara contingents took 5th position with the total number of 36 medals stated as follows, 13 gold, 14 silver and 9 bronze.

Statement of the problem

The State Sports Council has been organising enough tournaments and championships due to availability of funds from the State Government, and the Sports Administrators in the Council have been able to develop initiatives to source funds outside the Government. Also, researcher observed that championships like the Inter-Local Government Competitions and State Sports Festival have helped the state athletes in the last edition of National Youth Games held in Delta State 2023. And this was against the previous performance of the state athletes in the 6th edition of National Youth Game. The researchers observe that poor funding, leadership style adopted by the sport administrator and the bureaucratic process that is delay in releasing of fund serve as ahindrances to athletes performance in the previous edition of National Youth Championship held in University of Ilorin. Therefore, this study was initiated to find out the Administrative Strategies as Correlates of Kwara State Athletes' Performance at the National YouthGames.

Objective of the study

The objective was specifically meant to:

1. Investigate the relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State Athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.
2. Find out the relationship between the Bureaucratic Process and the performance of KwaraState athletes atDelta, 2023 National Youth Games.
3. Assess the relationship between leadership styles and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested for this study:

1. There is no significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State Athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.
2. There is no significant relationship between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.
3. There is no significant relationship between leadership style and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Methodology

Descriptive research design of correlation type was adopted for the study. The population for this study comprises of all 100 respondents that consist of athletes, coaches and sports administrators. Multistage sampling procedure of stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used to select 100 respondents for this study. The respondents were stratified into 3 strata. All 25 administrators, 20 coaches and 55 athletes were purposively sampled. In all 100 respondents were sampled for this study. A structured questionnaire was used to gathered information for this study. The instrument was validated by 2 experts in the field of sports management in the department of Human Kinetics Education and 2 experts in Kwara state sports commission. The reliability level of the instrument was established through test re-test method using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). A correlation coefficient of 0.65 was obtained. The administration of instrument was done by the researchers and 3 trained research assistants. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of percentage to answer

the research questions while inferential statistics of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used to test the formulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level.

Results

HO₁: There is no significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Table 1: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation analysis showing the correlation between funding and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Variable	N	Mean	Std.	Cal. r-value	df	Crit.	Value Sig	Remark
Funding	100	41.10	34.12	0.321	243	0.164	0.002	Reject
Performance		26.22	33.14					

P < 0.05 alpha level

Table 1 indicates the calculated 'r' value of 0.321 and the critical p-value of 0.164 with the degree of freedom of 243 at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated 'r' value is greater than the p-value, the null hypothesis that stated that there is no significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta ,2022 National Youth Games was hereby rejected. This implies that there was a significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

HO₂: There is no significant relationship between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State

athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Table 2: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation analysis showing the correlation between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Variable	N	Mean	Std.	Cal. r-value	df	Crit.	Value Sig	Remark
Bureaucratic process	100	60.73	3.221	0.393	243	0.164	0.000	Reject
Performance		43.11	31.250					

P < 0.05 alpha level

Table 2 indicates the calculated 'r' value of 0.393 and the critical p-value of 0.164 with the degree of freedom of 243 at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated 'r' value is greater than the p-value, the null hypothesis that stated that there is no significant relationship between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games was hereby rejected. This implies that there was a significant relationship between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

HO₃: There is no significant relationship between leadership style and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Table 3: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation analysis showing the correlation between leadership style and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Variable	N	Mean	Std.	Cal. r-value	Df	Crit.	Value Sig	Remark
Leadership style	100	48.13	21.021	0.322	243	0.164	0.000	Reject
Performance		52.65	6.245					

P < 0.05 alpha level

Table 3 revealed the calculated 'r' value of 0.322 and the critical p-value of 0.164 with the degree of freedom of 243 at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated 'r' value is greater than the p-

value, the null hypothesis that stated that there is no significant relationship between leadership style and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games was hereby rejected. This implies that there was a significant relationship between leadership style and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Discussion of the Findings

The finding from tested hypothesis one revealed that there was a significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games. This result supported the findings of Obiyemi and Abayomi (2017) that stated that funding of sports programmes required huge amount of money and that only the government that can finance such programmes as far as administration of sports is concern. Also Aluko and Adodo (2011) stressed that under the present management structure, sports must be properly funded so as to improve on the infrastructural development by training and recruitment of competent personal especially in the sports council. Lack of incentives for athletes and coaches considering the economic situation of the country can pose a threat to the performance of state athletes to any major competition both within and outside the state.

The finding from tested hypothesis two shows that there was a significant relationship between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games. This result is in agreement with the finding of Park (2016) who affirmed that bureaucratic organization like that of sports tend to use rules as a decision making crutch. In this regard, sports administrators tend not to search extensively for alternative solutions to problems thereby lend to unintended results. And as such rules become flexible not rigid as regards fund released. In the same vein Morakinyo and Aluko (2008) argued that rules in bureaucratic act are substitute for orders, since they comprise an explicit body of standing obligations. Bureaucratic

have the virtue of securing corporation between the numbers of people without those people necessarily feeling cooperative. The finding from tested hypothesis three revealed that there is no significant relationship between leadership style and performance of KwaraState athletes at Delta, 2023National Youth Games. This result buttressed the finding of Donald (2016) who stressed that effective leadership style adopted by sports administrators often helps to determine the performance of an organization. Sports administrator can influence the activities of the sportsunit towards the goal or success of a team or an athletes. In the same vein Orunabaka (2011) pointed out that the extent of the leadership skills is largely dictates the outcomes in sports organization. The fact that, the leadership role appears to pervade all the managerial activities of the sports administrator make it an important factor contributing to the overall process of an organization.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were made:

- (1) There was a significant relationship between funding and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.
- (2) There was a significant relationship between bureaucratic process and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.
- (3) There was a significant relationship between leadership style and performance of Kwara State athletes at Delta, 2023 National Youth Games.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following were recommended:

- (1) Government should endeavor to increase the allowances given to athletes before, during and after the competition so as to improve their performance in a competition.
- (2) There should not be delay in the process of releasing and attending to the needs of the athletes while they are preparing for a competition.
- (3) Both the coaches and the sports administrators are to adopt a leadership style that is friendly so as to encourage the athletes to achieved excellent result in a competition.

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