

ADMINISTRATIVE VARIABLES AS CORRELATE OF ORGANIZING GRASSROOTS SPORTS PROGRAMMES AMONG SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS IN KWARA STATE SPORTS COMMISSION

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Abstract

This study investigated Administrative variables as correlate of organizing grassroots sports programmes among Association in Kwara State Sports Commission descriptive research design of correlational type was adopted for this study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 107 respondents for this study. A researcher structured questionnaire was employed for the study. The instrument was validated by lecturers in Department of Human Kinetics Education, University of Ilorin. The reliability level of the instrument was established through test retest method using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. A correlation co efficient of 0.60 was obtained. The instrument were administered by the researchers and two (2) trained research assistants. The data collected were analysed using inferential statistics of Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) to test the postulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level. The result of the finding revealed that Bureaucracy procedure and sports funding allocation of resources and sponsorship are crucial to effective organization of grassroot sports programmes. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that sports Administrators should adopt global best practices in organizing grassroot sports, also the allocation of fund should be used to improve the organization of grassroots programme in sports commission.

Keywords: Administrative variables, Bureaucracy procedure, Grassroot sports programmes, Correlate.

Introduction

Globally sports has become an economic and social phenomenon in uplifting the status of individual and groups as well as empowering them by contributing to the economy of the nation. Bamidele (2022) affirmed that sports is a game or contest that involves individuals or group of people with skills or power which money or reward is at stake that is done for personal and natural love. Onifade (2021) observed sports as any physical activity that has the character of play which involve a struggle with oneself or with others with the aim of winning laurel or trophy with the application of rules and regulations. Furthermore, sports is an integral part of the competitive experiences which can be described as an emotional way of exhibiting content of learning and acquisition of technical skills needed to succeed and desire to increase desirable behaviours that is efficient to relate with human failures and inadequacies that normally crept up during sports events (Abdulraheem, Falaye and Ajeigbe 2023).

Furthermore, sports at the grassroots level is usually refer to as an organized sporting activities that take place at the local community level which often involve amateur athletes with the local teams. Grassroot sports are typically less formal and structured than professional sports that also involve a wide range of activities for the young ones to explore their talents (Adebayo 2022). The focus of grassroot sports is often on participation and personal development, rather than winning a competition. This often creates a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages people of all ages and abilities to get involved and enjoy many benefits of sports such as improved physical health, increase socialization and personal growth (Adedeji&Adeyanju 2020). Grassroot sports play an important role in the development of sports in a community which also serve as a foundation for the growth of professional sports. On the other hand, Grassroot sports development is the process of promoting and supporting the growth of sports in

all ramifications which include building sports facilities, providing coaching training programme and creating opportunities for young athletes to participate in competitive sports (Akinbode2020). Grassroots sports development also provides opportunities for young talent to be discovered and nurtured regardless of their socio-economic background or geographical location. In Nigeria grassroot sports development has contributed significantly to the country's socio-economic development. In addition to this, through grassroots sports development young people usually learn important life skills such as team work, discipline and leadership qualities that can be applied to their personal and professional lives. Grassroot sports development can be used to create employment opportunities for coaches, trainers and sports administrators and as such government at all levels and also private sector can prioritize investment in promoting grassroots sports development to harness its potential benefits for the growth and development of sports industry in the country (Odeyemi&Abubakar 2021).

In addition, the goal of grassroot sports development is to encourage active participation in sports especially among the youth which often help to develop a strong foundation for the future of sports development in Nigeria. Similarly effective grassroot sports development programme should be design in such a way that it would have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the youth in the community and moreso it must also be used to enhance social benefits through job creation and advancement of tourism (Spiff &Obukadeta2025). Meanwhile the effectiveness of grassroot sports development at the National sports commission requires adequate finances to achieved its set goal and objectives. Sports funding allocation for grassroot sports development in sports commission is refer to the process of assigning funds to support sports development at the local or community level. Grassroot sports entails talents identification, sports development and funding of local sports infrastructure such as construction

of football pitch, courts and sports centre to trained young athletes (Abdulraheem, Falaye&Ajeigbe 2023). In Nigeria today the National Sports Commission and sports council at the state level are responsible for allocating funds for grassroots sports development.

Ibitoye (2025) stressed that Sports funding allocation is often refer to as the mobilization and allocation of financial resources for the sports development, organization and management of sporting activities within the sports industry. Globally funding in sports is typically derived from the three sources namely: government allocations, private or corporate sponsorships and internally generated revenues such as ticketing and broadcasting rights (Adedeji&Adeyanju 2020). The concept of Sports funding allocation on grassroots sports development in the sports commission at the state level lays with the government to make provision for sports facilities and empower the personnel to be used in achieving the goal of financing grassroots programmes.

However, the concept of sports funding entails the implementing sports policies, and accountability mechanisms that often regulate how sports resources are mobilized and allocated for effectiveness of grassroots sports development. The Administration of sports in Nigeria involve allocation of funds, transparency and Bureaucracy efficiency that has consistently promote the sustainability of grassroots sports development in sports commission (Moronfolu, 2021).

Bureaucracy is often refer to as the administrative system governing any large institution. Bamidele (2022) pointed out that the word Bureaucracy has developed negative connotations. Bureaucracy are criticized for their complexity inefficiency and inflexibility of the system that often result in disappointment. According to Onifade (2021) Bureaucracy is the administrative style marked by constant striving for increasing functions and power through lack of initiation and flexibility by indifference to human needs and public opinion. He further affirmed that Bureaucracy is a style in an organization whereby actions are impede with “red tap” that is

excessive use of power in carrying out action or taking decision that would determine the growth of organization.

Grassroot sports is an organized sports programmes that is design to cater for the young athletes at the schools and community level which form the basis for sports development both at state and National level (Ibrahim 2021). Historically sports has served as a tool or socialization, integration and mass participation, particularly during the colonial era and Christian missionary activities (Ademola 2022). However grassroot sports has been identified as a means of talents identifications among the youths. The National Sports policy of Nigeria (2021) emphasizes the importance of grassroots sports development in the sports commission.

In Nigeria today sports commissions are like National Sports Commission or State sports council that are saddle with the responsibility of organizing and allocating funds for the sports associations to organized grassroot sports development. Kwara State is known as the home for excellence in sports with talented athletes nurtured from the grassroots to represent the state at National and International competitions. However grassroot sports were once a vital activity involving local government individuals and community promoting unity and development (Ademola 2022).

Statement of the Problem

Grassroot sports are organized sports programmes for the youth at the schools and local government level which served as a basement for talents discovering for sports development in the community. It is also a sports programmes that requires comprehensive administration on the part of sports administrators at the Association level. Furthermore the researchers observed that grassroots sports is one of the cardinal unit of sports development that enhance the growth of sports at the community level. Despites this, the administration and organization of grassroot

sports programmes is struggle to survive among the sports associations in the study area due to the following factors, such as Bureaucracy inefficiency, lack of sponsorship and poor financial resources to organized grassroot sports programmes. All these are factors that undermines the growth and effective organization and administration of grassroot sports programmes. These therefore necessitate the needs why the researchers investigated administrative variables as correlates of organizing grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study is to examine the administrative variables as correlate of organizing grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission. The objective is specifically meant to:

- (1) investigate the relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission
- (2) examine the relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission
- (3) evaluate the relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested for the study:

- (1) There is no significant relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission
- (2) There is no significant relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroot sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission

- (3) There is no significant relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission

Methodology

Descriptive research design of survey type was used for this study. The population for this study consist of all staff of Kwara State sports commissions and chairmen of all sports Associations in the study area. A multistage sampling techniques of stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used to select the sample size for the study. The respondents were stratified into two areas: the staff and chairmen of the 19 sports association. Purposively all the 88 staff of the sports commission and 19 chairmen of sports associations were sampled. In all 107 respondents were sampled for this study. A researcher structured questionnaires of four points likert rating scale format of Strongly Agree (SA) Agree (A) Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) were adopted for this study. The reliability level of the instrument was established through test retest method using Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC). A correlation coefficient 0.60 was obtained. The administration of the instrument was done by the researchers and 3 trained research assistants. The data collected were analysed using inferential statistics of Pearson product moment correlation to test the formulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level.

Results

Hypothesis one: *There is no significant relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission.*

Table 1 shows Pearson analysis of relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations.

Variables	N	df	Cal. r-value	p-value	Remark
Bureaucracy procedure organization of grassroots sports	107	105	0.921	0.001	Hypothesis Rejected

$P < 0.05$

Table 1 revealed the calculated r-value of 0.921 and p-value of 0.001 with 105 degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated r-value is greater than the p-value hence the null hypothesis that stated that, there is no significant relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission was hereby rejected. This implies that, there is a significant relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission*

Table 2 revealed the Pearson analysis of relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations.

Variables	N	df	Cal. r-value	p-value	Remark
Fund allocation					
organization of grassroots sports	107	105	0.034	0.001	Hypothesis Rejected
P < 0.05					

Table 2 indicates the calculated r-value of 0.034 and p-value of 0.001 with 105 degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated r-value is greater than the p-value, hence the null hypothesis that stated that, there is no significant relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission was hereby rejected. This implies that, there was a significant relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission.

Hypothesis Three: *There is no significant relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission*

Table 3 indicates the Pearson analysis of relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations.

Variables	N	df	Cal. r-value	p-value	Remark
Sponsorship					
organization of grassroots sports	107	105	0.061	0.001	Hypothesis Rejected
P < 0.05					

Table 3 revealed the calculated r-value of 0.061 and p-value of 0.001 with 105 degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated r-value is greater than the p-value, hence the null hypothesis that stated that, there is no significant relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations was hereby rejected. This means that, there was a significant relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State Sports Commission.

Discussion of the Findings

The finding from tested hypothesis one revealed that there was a significant relationship between Bureaucracy procedure and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports association in Kwara State sports commission. This result is in agreement with the findings of Bamidele (2022) who affirmed that Bureaucracy procedure is a constraint to the development of sports in Nigeria. He further stressed that the problems of Bureaucracy procedure are usually associated with unnecessary bottleneck and red-tapism that result in most programmes not being executed on time and in most cases not completed while some policies are known to be wrongly implemented. Similarly Adedeji and Adeyanju(2020) observed that Bureaucracy is an

administrative constraints that often lead to either poor implementation of sports blueprints or impose a negative impact on the sports developments particularly in Nigeria. The finding from tested hypothesis two indicated that there was a significant relationship between fund allocation and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State sports commission. This result supported the findings of Ibitoye (2025) who pointed out fund allocation is fundamental to sports development because running a sports business or organizing sports programmes like grassroots sports and building of sports facilities requires huge amount of money from the government. Also Adebayo (2022) observed that funding model such as Sports funding and allocation of resources are crucial to the sustainability of grassroots sports programmes at the National Sports commission.

The findings from tested hypothesis three shows that there was a significant relationship between sponsorship and organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations in Kwara State sports commission. This result buttressed the findings of Spiff and Obukadeta(2025) who stressed that corporate sponsorship is globally recognized as a lifeline for sports development especially in Nigeria where companies like Globacom, Guinness and Nigeria Breweries have historically sponsored games like football, Basketball and athletics and their contribution are often linked to sports development. In the same vein, Ademola(2022) submitted that sponsorship deal by the private bodies usually serve as long term investments for the administration of sports programme especially in the area of promoting grassroots sports programmes at the sports commission.

Conclusions

Based on the finding of this study. The following conclusion were made:

- (1) Bureaucracy procedures is very crucial to the effective organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports association in kwara state sports commission.
- (2) Sports funding allocation has significant contribution towards the organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports association in kwara stte sports commissions.
- (3) Sponsorship contribute immensely to the effective organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports association in kwara state sports commission.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study. The following recommendations were made:

- (1) Unnecessary Bureaucracy procedure in the management of sports should be removed and avoided so as to enhance efficiency in the organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Associations.
- (2) Sports Administrators at the sports commission should be encourage to make judicious use of allocation of funds set aside for the organization of grassroots sports programmes among sports Association.
- (3) Sports Administrators should endeavour to collaborate with private bodies through sponsorship deals that would enhance efficiency in the organizing grassroots sports among sports Association.

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