INFLUENCE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND FINANCIAL REFORMS ON THE SPORTS POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN LAGOS STATE

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Abstract
This study examined the influence of professionalism and financial reforms on the development of sports in Lagos State Sports Commission. Two hypotheses were postulated and tested in this study. The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study comprised the administrative staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, chairmen, secretaries, coaches and athletes of selected sports associations in Lagos state sports Commission, Lagos, Nigeria. One hundred (100) administrative staff, coaches, athletes and other members of the sports associations of the Lagos state sport Commission was drawn using purposive sampling technique in selecting the samples. A self-developed and structure questionnaire was used for this study. It was equally validated by a team of professionals in the field of sports administration to justify the construct and content validity of the instrument. The test-retest method was used to establish the reliability of the measuring instrument for this study. The result of the reliability was 0.84 which indicated that the instrument used was reliable. The chi-square (x^2) statistical analysis was used to test stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Result from the study indicated that professionalism and financial reforms implementation has significant effects on sports development among selected sports federation in Lagos state Sports Commission. This study hereby recommends that the government should encourage the use of professionals to improve on sports policy and also aid the development of sports in Lagos State.

Key Words: Sports, Development, Professionalism, Policy, Reforms

Introduction
Sport as one of the avenues to test individual or collective prowess, talents, skills and endurance in a competitive situation, has progressively metamorphosed into a platform for showing evidence of skill supremacy over fellow contestants either as an individual, group or country. Sport is very popular all over the world because of the diverse purpose it serves. According to Ngwoke (2014) who states that sports as a social institution teaches and reinforces societal beliefs, norms and values, thereby assisting in socializing athletes into major cultural and social behaviour patterns in various societies. Sports contribute to character building, discipline, economy, ideology, patriotism, education, mental development, human communication, physical fitness, and health.
Sports competitions, seminars, conferences and meetings of various types provide the opportunity for individuals from different countries to exchange ideas and knowledge which in turn would be of immense benefit in educating the citizens of their countries. It was observed that sports as a social phenomenon has grown from its humble beginning of being an entertainment and recreation pastime to become a visible and prominent business phenomenon that could no longer be ignored in the social, political and economic environment of any nation. Many great nations and societies of the world have realized that participation in sports is the key to a healthy development of their citizens, and have used it to develop their young ones, attaining a success that science, religions and politics have failed to achieve (Ngwoke, 2014). Sporting activities have as well permeated the Nigerian society just as many other societies worldwide and also all aspects of societal life such as politics and religion. Awosika (2003) described sports as a symbol that has become a unifying factor in Nigeria and views it as an essential ingredient for nation building, which cuts across all barriers-ethnic, religious or social, and has served as a medium for the development of youths.

Morakinyo (2000) in his assertion posited that sport is a social phenomenon that could no longer be ignored in the social, political and economic environment of any nation. A formidable sports administration is the bedrock of sports development in virtually all nations. This is the aspects that are responsible for the smooth running of various sports in terms of planning, organizing, directing and controlling all essential inputs in sports.

Oloruntoba and Achigbu (2002), in support of this view state that the success or failure of sports is direct proportion to the appropriate decisions and actions of those who are responsible for managing sports. Fasan (2004) in his submission described organization as a structured system of roles with intertwining functional relationships that should eventually affect the rate of sound execution of the organization policies. To them a complex organization involves a number of groups of people with differentiated roles, different space and equipment and varying levels of authority.

Weinich, Cannier and Koontz (2010) refer to organization as formalized intentional structure of roles for positions. Daft and Marcie (2009) define organization as a social entity that is goal-directed and deliberately structured. Robbins and Coulter (2005) described organization as a deliberate management of people to accomplish some specific purpose of people to accomplish some specific. Reforms are a change, deemed necessary in any society or human endeavor or object aimed at bringing about improvement. He went further, to buttress that national reforms are attempts by government to reshape and reinvigorate various aspect of national life to bring about improvement in our society. It could be in form of introduction of new policies, new programmes, values, attitudes, restructuring of the machineries of government as well as laws that are designed to accelerate overall development of society (Ojeme, 2007).
In Nigeria, in the past four years or in the life of the present administration, much has been in terms of reforms in most sectors of national development including the system of government such as the economic sector, education, energy, health telecommunication anti-corruption, space sciences and currently sports. The essence of those reforms hovers around the desire to have an all-round reform to bring about national development in various sectors (Ojeme, 2007).

One of the problems of the present sports administration in Lagos State sport Commission is lack of an organized framework which allows the organization to change rapidly as needs require. There is no enough division of labor that can facilitate employees’ empowerment to handle diverse jobs activities and problems, so as to achieve the expected goal. The organization structure is mechanistic there is limited information network (mostly down wars communication) and little participation in decision making by lower employees, the athletes who are the essence of the Commission. Funding of sports is also seen as a major aspect that slows down the development of sports. There is also an observed shortage of professional sports administrators managing sports in the state. There is need for the articulation of the states sports programmes in line with the national elements of vision for sports development in all its ramifications from the bottom layer to the top or from the local level to the national. Through these efforts and strategies, the entire system can be galvanized to actualize needed efforts for the achievement of the desired results.

In view of the above, this study is to investigate whether professionalism and financial reforms can influence sports policy and development in Lagos State.

**Hypotheses**

1. Professionalism will have no significant effect on sports policy and development of sports in Lagos State.
2. Financial reforms will have no significant effect on sports development among selected sports federation in Lagos state Sports Commission.

**Methods and Materials**

The research design adopted for this study was the descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised the administrative staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, chairmen, secretaries, coaches and athletes of selected sports associations in Lagos state sports Commission, Lagos, Nigeria.

A total of one hundred (100) staff members were drawn using purposive sampling technique in selecting the samples. The employees in these establishments are such categories as administrative staff, coaches, athletes and other members of the sports associations of the sport Commission.
A self-developed and structure questionnaire was used for this study. It was equally validated by a team of professional in the field of sports administration to justify the construct and content validity of the instrument. The main instrument for this study was questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two sections A and B. Section A contained information on demographic characteristics, format will be adopted for this section. Section B was divided into subsections according to variables being studied. A numbered of statements were provided under each of the variables against which respondents indicated their choices or views. For the purpose of this section, the questionnaire was a close ended type designed in accordance with a 4 point Likert scale technique of summated rating with weights allotted to enable the respondents indicates their extent of agreement and disagreement to the supplied statements. The responses sough was on a four of strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree. The Likert type technique was used as it affords the respondents the opportunity to indicate the degree of their belief or acceptance in a given statement. The test-retest method was used to establish the reliability of the measuring instrument for this study. The tests were conducted two times within a two weeks interval. The data obtained from the tests was corrected with use correlation co-efficient to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The result of the reliability was 0.84 which indicated that the instrument used was reliable

A total of one hundred (100) copies of questionnaire were distributed by the researchers. The copies of the questionnaire were retrieved on the spot to avoid loss. The statistical tool used in the analysis of data was percentages. Responses of the participant were prepare on the frequency distribution table, while chi-square ($\chi^2$) statistical analysis was used to test stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. A pilot study was also conducted for 2 weeks prior to the actual study, 20 participants were used to be sure that the measuring instrument is reliable, sensitive, and meaningful. This exercise gives an opportunity to the researcher to discover the ambiguities contains in the research questions which might constitute other limitations not initially envisages during the study.

Results
Testing of Stated Hypotheses
Hypothesis One

H01: Professionalism will have no significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State.
Table 1: Effects of Professionalism and sport Policy reforms and development of sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Cal $X^2$</th>
<th>Tab $X^2$</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport policy reforms and development</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>84.32</td>
<td>9.48</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi ($X^2$) statistics tool was used to establish a relationship between professionalism and sport policy reforms and development as presented in Table 1. From the table, the calculated Chi-square value is 126.11 and the tabulated value is 9.48 at 0.05 significant levels with 4 degree of freedom. Since, the calculated Chi-square value of 126.11 is greater than tabulated value of 9.48, therefore the null hypothesis which states professionalism will have no significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos state is rejected, while the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

This implies that professionalism has a significant effect on sports policy and development of sports in Lagos State.

Hypothesis Two

H02: Financial reforms will have no significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State.

Table 2: Effects of Financial reforms and sports development among selected sports federation in Lagos State sports Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Df</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Cal $X^2$</th>
<th>Tab $X^2$</th>
<th>Decision</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Financial reforms</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Policy Reforms and development</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>84.32</td>
<td>9.48</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chi ($X^2$) statistics tool was used to establish a relationship between Financial reforms and sport development as presented in Table 2. From the table, the calculated Chi-square value is 84.32 and the tabulated value is 9.48 at 0.05 significant levels with 4 degree of freedom. Since, the calculated Chi-square value of 84.32 is greater than tabulated value of 9.48, therefore the null hypothesis which states financial reforms will have no significant effect on sports policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos state is rejected, while the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

This implies that financial reforms have a significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State.
Summary of Findings
The findings of this study are summarized below:
1. Professionalism has a significant effect on sports policy and development of sports in Lagos State.
2. Financial reforms have a significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State.

Discussion of Findings
The null hypothesis one which states professionalism will have no significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State is rejected, while the alternated hypothesis is accepted. This implies that professionalism has a significant effect on sports policy and development of sports in Lagos State.

This is in line with the finding of Aghenta (2009) when he attests to the fact that a well-trained and professional sport man will influence the rate of policy in the sport bringing about development in the sector especially in the sport section. This goes in line with the study of Adams (2010) a sport analyst when he attests to the fact that what is kicking the sporting development in Nigeria is as a result of lack of professionalism of the personnel handling issues relating to sport formulation and implementation in the country. This is to say that the people that take decision on issues relating to sport matters are complete novice who has affected the professionalism of the game in achieving its purpose and objectives. It is expected that the selection of professional should not be based on nepotism or tribalism but should be based on criteria, qualification and experience as it will influence policy development, new innovation in the sector thereby making it attractive.

The null hypothesis two which states financial reforms will have no significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State is rejected, while the alternate hypothesis is accepted. This implies that financial reforms have a significant effect on sport policy reforms and development of sports in Lagos State.

This is in line with the findings of Adesina (2009) when he argued the fact that financial resources which is seen as the monetary value is the only tool that oil wheels and reshape the sporting programme of a state and country. It was argued that the success of any sport is determined by the quantity of money that is injected into the system as money will enhance facilities procurement and maintenance, payment of personnel and carrying out other activities to achieve is aims and objectives.

Okon (2013) attest to the fact that the success of sport policy depends on the nature of the budget preparation and execution in which fund is the vital tool. It has been noticed that fraud and stealing of money allocated to have been the number one problem in this aspect. That is to say that enough funds generation and budget preparation with its effective allocation will
lead to success of the sector.

**Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following are the recommendations of this study:

1. The government should encourage the use of professionals to improve on sports policy and also aid the development of sports in Lagos State.
2. Financial implication should also form a major basis when formulating sports policy and developing sports.
3. For sports to be enjoyed by participants and spectators there is need for availability of standard facility which can be managed and maintained by keeping it safe through supervision.
4. Sports policy should be formulated to ensure only sports administrators/professionals can be selected to manage sports at various sports federations in the country.

**References**


