

# Assessment of Non-Implementation of Sports Policy as an Administrative Constraint to the Development of Sports among the Operators of the National Sports Commission of Nigeria

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## Abstract:

The study examined non-implementation of sports policy as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria. One (1) research question and one (1) null hypothesis was formulated to direct the study. The population of the study consisted of 800 personnel of the national sports commission using multi-stage and simple random sampling techniques of sample size of 200 subjects for the study. Four points Likert scale format questionnaire was developed and validated by the three experts from the department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Prince Abubakar Audu University Anyigba Kogi state. A reliability coefficient of 0.80 was obtained through test retest of 18 students who were not part of the main work. The instrument was administered by the researcher and research assistants to the selected subjects for the study. The data collated was analyzed using inferential statistical of three chi-square ( $X^2$ ) statistical method. The outcome of the study revealed that nonimplementation of sports policy is a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of national sports commission of Nigeria, it was recommended that sports policy should be implemented in order to avoid administrative constraints for sports development in Nigeria. It was further recommended that seminars, conferences and workshops should be organized periodically for the staff of the National sports commission on the dangers posed by non-implementation of sports policy for sports development in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Administrative, Constraints, Policy, Sports, Commission.

## Introduction

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2005) defined sport as “any physical activity which has the character of play and which involves a struggle with oneself or with others, or a confrontation with Natural Elements in a

sport”. If this activity involves competition it must be performed with a spirit of sportsmanship. Bucher (2014) explained that sports is a game or contest involving individuals and group of individual skills or physical powers on which money or reward is at stake and is also done for personal and natural love.

He also stated that sport is important to the societies and that it is a medium that permeates every aspect of life. Thus physical educators are therefore interested in studying the influence of sports and the socio-cultural complex of the society. Ajisafe (2015) stated that sports are such activities that grant amusement whether competitive or recreational, and it includes: hunting, fishing, mountaineering and a host of others.

According to Ekpenyong (2016) sports is human activity that involves specific administrative organization and a historical background of rules and regulation.

Bucher (2015) described a policy as a statement of a course of action adopted and pursued by an organization. He further stated that with well articulated policies, an organization would be able to function more efficiently and effectively and its members would undertake what is expected of them. And that policies are essential for the efficient management of any organization whether it is a departmental sore, school, business enterprise or other related establishment.

Ladani (2014) reported that efficient and effective management of sporting activities requires the establishment of sound policies if it is to achieve its goals. Perhaps this is what prompted the federal government of Nigeria in the production of her national policy on sports development to guide the actions of the National sports commission (NSC) and other arms of the government in their development and implementation of sports program. Abioye (2015) said that administrative policies for organizing intramural sports in selected state and the federal colleges of education in Nigeria are statements of procedures that represent the legalistic framework under which the organization operates. As such they are not changed frequently or hastily written. He added that since decisions are not independent of all other actions, there is need to give guidance or directions to the decision being made by the members of an organization. The federal republic of Nigeria (1989) endorsed the description of policy

as a guiding that serve as basis for a course of action, hence, the establishment of the National sports development policy to guide government actions. However, policy does not spell out in detail what exactly the organizational orientation are, but it does point the direction for achieving such organizational objectives.

#### **The purpose of this study:**

The purpose of this study is to examined non-implementation of sports policy as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria.

#### **Research Questions;**

For the purpose of this study one (1) null hypothesis was formulated to direct the study;

1. Will non-implementation of sports policy be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission in Nigeria?
- 2.

#### **Hypotheses Testing;**

For the purpose of this study one (1) null hypothesis was formulated to direct the study;

**Ho1:** Non-implementation of sports policy will not be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operator of national sports commission in Nigeria.

#### **Methodology:**

The information required to assess non-implementation of sports policy as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria was already available without manipulation of variable, therefore, ex-post facto research design method was used for the study. The sample for this study consisted of three hundred and eighty-five (385) subjects from the population of two thousand (2000) of the national sports commission, The subjects were selected at random consisting

directorade cadre staff of the National sports commission, presidents and board members of the national sports federations, commissioners and directors of the state’s sports councils in the 36 states and the federal capital territory .The main instrument used was a structured and validated questionnaire to elicit appropriate information from the respondents. The designed questionnaire was presented to the experts in sports management in the department of human kinetics and health educationPrince Abubakar Audu university Anyigba kogi state for their input and necessary comments. Their suggestions and corrections were adopted in the final print out of the questionnaire which was personally distributed to the selected subjects of the national sports commission for the study. The filled and returned questionnaire were however collated for the data analysis. t-test statistics was used to analysis the data collated at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**Results;**

The result of the study is presented below;

**Table 1: summary of t-test on the assessment of non-implementation of sports policy among the operators of national sports commission of Nigeria**

Variable	Mean	STD	SE	DF	t-value	P.	t-critical	Decision
Non-implementation of sports policy	5.1134	0.474	0.026	499	13.618	0.003	1.96	0.000 rejected
Fixed mean	3.500	0.000	0.000					

**t (499)=1.96<0.05**

The result of the above table one (1) revealed that the mean score test was 5.1134 with the standard deviation of 0.414 while the calculated t-value of 13.618 was obtained and greater than the critical value of 1.96 and the degree of freedom was 499. Hence the null hypothesis which states that Non-implementation of sports policy will not be a significant administrative constraint to sports development among the operators of the national sports commission in Nigeria was rejected.

**The finding of the study;**

1. The study revealed that Non-implementation of sports policy among the operators of national sports commission will be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports in Nigeria.

**Discussion of findings;**

The study revealed that Non-implementation of sports policy among the operators of national sports commission will be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports in NigeriaNon-implementation of sports policy as a constraint to the development of sports in Nigeria was tested. From the result obtained in the test, the respondents agreed that Non-implementation of sports policy is a significant constraint to the development of sports in the country. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. The problems of Non-implementation of sports policy are associated with unnecessary bottleneck and reptatism which result in most programme not being executed on time and in most cases not completed while some policies are known to be wrongly implemented. This finding is consistent with the report of Kelth and Fessler (2016), who stated that Non-implementation of sports policy as an 'administrative problem often lead to either poor implementation of sports blue prints or impose negative impact on the sports development particularly in Nigeria. In the National Sports Commission, process of work is still in line with the

Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which, if applied to the letter, does not encourage taking decision when faced, with an emergency situations, without recourse to approval from the overall boss. In some instances, before directives are given, by superior authorities, it would have been too late to save the situation. A case in point, was during the 2003 All African Games, in Abuja Nigeria, when Team Nigeria Athletes needed extra training equipment,. The equipment were in the store but approval had to come from the Director of Sports, who was not available to give directives for the release of the equipment. The athletes refused to go for training sessions for two days, the Director eventually gave approval and the equipment were released, but the athletes have already missed some days of training periods. The result of the test revealed that the variable was perceived to be a significant constraint to the development of sports among the operators of national sport commission in Nigeria. Therefore the null hypothesis that states Non-implementation of sports policy will not significantly influence the development of sports among the operators of National sports commission in Nigeria was therefore rejected.

### **Conclusion;**

Based in the findings from the study, it was concluded that;

1. Non-implementation of sports policy is an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of national sports commission of Nigeria

### **Recommendations;**

In the light of this finding of this study, the following suggestions were made;

1. The national sports commission should endeavor to implement sports policies for the development of sports in Nigeria

2. Seminal, conferences and workshops should be organized periodically for the operators of national sports commission on the need to be focused on the available sports policies for the development of sports in Nigeria
3. Staffs of the national sports commission that needed to be upgraded on the area of certificate should be allowed to proceed on further studies and be sponsored.

### **Conflict of interest:**

The authors satisfy that there is no conflict of interest with any financial organization regarding the materials discussed in the manuscripts.

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