

## **Administrative Factors Influencing Sports Involvement of The Girl-Child in School Sports in Rivers State**

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### **Abstract**

The study examined the administrative factors influencing sports involvement of the girl-child in school sports in Rivers State, Nigeria. Reviewed literature, on this topic aids in the formulation of 4 hypotheses. Data were collected with the use of questionnaire, from a sample of 150 girls randomly selected from 6 Government Girls secondary schools in Rivers State. The 4 hypotheses were tested and verified. Results from the mean, standard deviation and “t” test statistical methods used to analyze the data showed that hypotheses 1, 3 and 4 were significantly influencing the sports involvement of the girl-child in school sports in Rivers State. While hypothesis 2 was not significant. This study concluded that for girl-child involvement in school sports, adequate and attractive sports facilities, qualified sports personnel, good sports facilities maintenance culture and adequate funding of sports should be provided. Recommendations were made among them were: intramural sports competitions should be made compulsory in all girls secondary schools in Rivers State. There should be a college sports facility and equipment endowment fund.

**Keywords:** Facility, Personnel, Maintenance, Funding.

### **Introduction**

Sports have been considered a social construct of musicality where physical prowess is demonstrated. Consequent upon the sudden change in societal ideology concerning gender equality as well as wide adoption of Brighton Declaration of 1968 on woman and sports, the sports woman and sports scenario have witnessed dramatic changes worldwide. Yet, all the mythical beliefs, misconceptions and gender imbalance are still showing their ugly heads in some parts of Nigeria.

Sports plays prominent role in the life of a nation either economically or politically. Successful organization and administration of a sports programme in any institution, is an indication of a nation’s human potentials and effective management of such potentials. Nigeria with a population of about 140 million, there is no doubt that there are gifted men and women in the area of sports much more than some other countries of the world. The discovery of gifted girl-child and development of female sports in Nigeria have not reached its peak. This is as a result of challenges confronting the nation which ranges from socio-economic, psychological, to gender related problems. (Orunaboka & Nathan, 2007). What are Nigeria gender considerations in administration of sports despite gender advocacy programmes all over the world?

### **School Sports in Rivers State**

The term “school sports” does not lend to easy meaning. The concept has been defined from different perspectives which, depends on the interest of the person defining the concept. For example, Nixon Jewell (1980) adopted Coakey’s definition of school sports as an institutionalized competitive activity that involves vigorous physical exertion or the use of relative complex physical skills by individual whose participation is motivated by a combination of intrinsic satisfaction associated with the activity itself and external rewards earned through participation. In this article, the concept of “school sports” is used to include as much activity as possible that involves active human movement (organized inter-house sports, organized sports recreation) delimited to the intramural sports competition among students (girls) in a Government own secondary schools in Rivers State.

### **The Role of Stereotype in Girl-Child Sports Performances**

Nigeria belief system is a hindering factor to gender equity, equality, growth and positive development of the girl-child. Gender equity and equality in school sports cannot be achieved when the belief system is faulty and actually working opposite to the idea.

Sex difference in the play behaviour of children is found early in life and in a variety of activities. Like the male child, the girl child is permitted a wide range of sporting activities throughout childhood. At the age of puberty games and school sports participation are at times boys phenomenon (Orunaboka 1998). Females in developed countries have competed successfully in athletics and sports for many years, but later 1970's and early 80's underwent a dramatic revolution in female sports in the developing countries of the world. Demands were made for equality in budget, facilities, equipment, maintenance of facilities and equipment, coaching and competition opportunities to gain status position in the world of sports comparable to that enjoyed by the males. While the demands for equal opportunity was generally attended to, the demands by some females that all male sports be integrated was met with heated discussion and debate (Wilmore 1974, Bucher and Thaxton 1981; Synder and Purdy 1982). History has it on record that the girl-child in Rivers State is generally trained to believe that her chores in the house ends in plate washing, dress washing, sweeping and help her mother cooking.

### Sports facilities influence on the Girl-Child

Jain (2005), William (1995) they agreed that the type of personnel and administrative style adopt by sports administrator may influence athletes' participation or withdrawal from sports participation. The girl-child participation in sports may be influence positively or negatively by the sports facilities, equipment, personnel, and degree of funding of sports. Howe (1981) stated that sportsmen and women generally exhibit high sports achievement due to the presence of adequate available facilities that inadequacies of facilities provide negative reinforcement. Martens (1975), Carron (1980) they opined that situations created by sports administrator in sports environment-physical infrastructures, pre-competitions, playing courts, sports arena, and gymnasias, form an athlete's perspective and can be motivating or threatening.

The researcher noticed that the girl-child participation in school sports in Rivers State has greatly dwindled, which prompted this study. This study focused at analyzing the administrative influences of the quality of sports facilities, personnel to manage facilities maintenance and degree of funding school sports.

### Hypothesis

The general hypothesis for this study was that quality of personnel, facilities, maintenance and funding would not significantly influence the Girl-child involvement in school sports.

### The specific hypotheses were that:

1. The quality of the sporting facilities in school would not significantly influence the girl-child involvement in school sports.
2. The quality of personnel to manage the facilities would not significantly influence the girl-child involvement in school sports.
3. Level of maintenance would not significantly influence the girl-child involvement in school sports.
4. Degree of funding would not significantly influence the girl-child involvement school sports.

### Method

The survey method of research design was adopted. The study sample was one hundred and fifty (150) girl-child students from six Government Girls secondary schools in Rivers State, Nigeria.

The questionnaire was the main instrument used in data collection. Respondents were made to (√) in any of the two columns marked; positive Response and Negative Responses, in response to questions asked "T" test inferential statistics was used to treat the collated data.

### Results and Discussion

Table 1: Influence of the Quality of facilities on girl-child involvement in school sports:

N = 150

| Option | N | $\bar{\chi}$ | SD | df | T.O | T.C |
|--------|---|--------------|----|----|-----|-----|
|--------|---|--------------|----|----|-----|-----|

|                   |     |      |      |     |       |      |
|-------------------|-----|------|------|-----|-------|------|
| Positive response | 150 | 6.87 | 3.70 | 298 | 15.87 | 1.96 |
| Negative response | 150 | 1.97 | 1.69 |     |       |      |

Significant  $P < 0.05$

Table 1, shows that the mean score that indicates positive influence was 6.87 (SD = 3.7) and the mean score that indicates negative influence was 1.97 (SD = 1.69). Therefore, the null hypothesis relating to the influence of the quality of facilities on girl-child involvement in school sports was rejected. This shows that the availability of facilities have an influence on the degree of girl-child school sports involvement. This result agrees with the studies of Martens (1975), Carron (1980), Howe (1981) among others.

**Table 2: Influence of Quality personnel to manage the facilities on girl-child involvement**

**N = 150**

| Option            | N   | $\bar{\chi}$ | SD   | df  | T.O  | T.C  |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|------|-----|------|------|
| Positive response | 150 | 9.58         | 3.70 | 298 | 1.65 | 1.96 |
| Negative response | 150 | 7.95         | 0.69 |     |      |      |

Not significant  $P < 0.05$

The table 2 above shows that the observed “T” of 1.65 which was less than the critical value of 1.96 for the above hypothesis. The null hypothesis was thus accepted. This shows that girl-child not involvement in school sports was not influenced by quality of personnel who are managing the facilities. This result disagreed with the statement of Jain (2005) and that of William (1991).

**Table 3: Influence of maintenance of facilities on girl-child involvement**

| Option            | N   | $\bar{\chi}$ | SD   | df  | T.O   | T.C  |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|------|-----|-------|------|
| Positive response | 150 | 6.78         | 3.63 | 298 | 11.67 | 1.96 |
| Negative response | 150 | 2.71         | 2.25 |     |       |      |

Significant  $p < 0.05$

The observed “T” showed 11.67 which is greater than the critical value of 1.96. Thus this hypothesis was accepted. Provision and maintenance of facilities are very important in sports institution and the involvement of

the girl-child. It must be accepted that provision of facilities is important but equally important is good maintenance culture.

**Table 4: Influence of Degree of funding sports**

N = 150

| Option            | N   | $\bar{\chi}$ | SD   | df  | T.O   | T.C  |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|------|-----|-------|------|
| Positive response | 150 | 7.21         | 4.61 | 298 | 12.73 | 1.96 |
| Negative response | 150 | 1.97         | 2.18 |     |       |      |

Significant  $p < 0.05$

The result shows that the “T” of 12.73 was greater than the critical value of 1.96. This hypothesis was accepted and the alternative rejected. Funding is the bedrock of sports involvement of the girl-child

### Conclusion

The analysis of the results from the four (4) tables showed that hypothesis 2(two) was rejected while the other 3 hypotheses were accepted as some of the administrative factors influencing the sports involvement of the Girl-Child in school sports in Rivers State. For Girl-child involvement in school sports, it was concluded that adequate and attractive of facilities, qualified sports personnel, good sports facilities maintenance culture and adequate funding of sports should be provided.

### Recommendations

Based on the results of the findings, the following were recommended:

- ❖ Intramural sports competitions should be made compulsory in all girls secondary schools in Rivers State.
- ❖ Rivers State Government and Parents Teachers Association (PTA) should join hands in the provision of quality and standard sports facilities and equipment.
- ❖ There should be sports facilities and equipment maintenance unit by each of the secondary schools.
- ❖ There should be a college sports facilities and equipment endowment fund.

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