

# PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN NIGER STATE SPORTS COUNCIL, MINNA

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## Abstract

The developments of sports can be enhanced if adequate attention is given to the indices of sports development. Sports is seen as veritable tool for unity, progress and change, its development in Niger State seems to be threatened with the issues of funding, personnel, equipment, facilities as well as inappropriate trainings. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. The population of this study comprised 140 participants with the target population of 140. Since the population of the study was not too large and is within the coverage of the researcher, then there was no sample as all the target population was used as respondents. Self-structured questionnaire titled; "Perceived Influence of Management Practices on Sports Development Questionnaire (PIMPSDQ)" was used to collect relevant data for the study. The instrument was validated by three lecturers in the department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Kwara State University, Malete. Test re-test method of reliability of the instrument was established, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to determine the reliability, coefficient and the reliability score of 0.87 was obtained. Mean and Standard Deviation was used to answer five research questions while the five null hypotheses formulated were tested using Linear Regressions statistic at of 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that influence of management practices positively contributed to sports development in Niger state sports council. The findings of the study also indicated a positive influence between funding ( $B = 0.970$ ;  $t(139) = 24.173$ ,  $P = 0.000$ ), personnel ( $B = 0.673$ ;  $t(139) = 6.874$ ,  $P = 0.000 < 0.05$ ), equipment ( $B = 0.451$ ;  $t(139) = 3.660$ ,  $P = 0.000 < 0.05$ ), facilities ( $B = 1.302$ ;  $t(139) = 26.619$ ,  $P = 0.000 < 0.05$ ) and sports development ( $B = 0.300$ ;  $t(139) = 2.901$ ,  $P = 0.004 < 0.05$ ). Based on these findings, the study concludes that funding, personnel, equipment, facility and training, significantly determine sports development in Niger State Sports Council. It was recommended that sport council should employ competent and qualified coaches and trainer's personnel who will plan, organise, schedule and execute purposeful sports programme for the athletes. Considering these factors can motivate athletes to participate in sports programme and may be best done by qualified sports personnel and specialists.

**Keywords: Management practice, sport development, sports council, athlete.**

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## 1.0 Introduction

In sports industry today, the significant role management practices play in sports cannot

be overemphasized. Management according to Douglas (2011) is a process of working with and through others to achieve organizational objectives in changing environment. North (2014) defined management as a process undertaken by one or more individuals to co-ordinate the activities of others to achieve results not achieved by one individual acting alone. Fish and Magee (2015) defined sports as all forms of usually competitive physical activity which, through casual or organized participation, aim to use, maintain or improve physical ability and skills while providing entertainment to participants and spectators. In the opinion of Lacey (2010), sports are activities involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another for medals or entertainment.

Management of sports organizations in the 21st century involves the application of techniques and strategies evident in the majority of modern business, government and non-profit organizations. Sports managers engage in strategic planning, manage large number of human resources, deal with broadcasting contracts worth billions of naira, manage the welfare of elite athletes who sometimes earn 100 times the average working wage and work within highly integrated global networks of international sports federations, national sports organizations, government agencies, media corporations, sponsors and community organizations. (Hoye, Smith, Nicholson, Stewart and Westerbeek, 2009).

Sports management practice deals with factors that contribute to effective sports management. Sports management practices deal with the different parameters that contribute to the growth of sports (Tollion, 2008). Generally, sports management practices involve factors that enhance sports and achievement of stated objectives in sports organization. This is line with Ladani (2008), who identified that management practices are parameters or indices used to enhance the development of sports in sports councils in Nigeria, such parameters of sports management practices are: finance, personnel, facilities, equipment, motivation and athletes participation in sports activities.

The developments of sports can be enhanced if adequate attention is given to the indices of sports development. Sports is seen as veritable tool for unity, progress and change, its development in Niger State seems to be threatened with the issues of funding, personnel, equipment, facilities as well as inappropriate trainings. The researchers observed that the rate of sports management and development in Niger State is relatively below expectations due to the identified management factors.

In spite of the existence of several structures for sports management practices which are parameters or indices used to enhance the development of sports, these appears to be challenges facing the effective and efficient delivery of sport services in the state. For example, funding as a means of sports development has been a persistent problem facing the management of sports in the state.

Poor funding has implications for the provision of other management practices, which means, if sport is poorly funded, the provision of standard training facilities, equipment, employment of trained and qualified sports personnel as well as organizing training schedule for the players and athlete becomes a mirage and this will have adverse effect on the development of sports in the study area.

## 2.0 Methodology

Descriptive survey design was used for the study because it allowed the researchers to describe those management variables as they affect sports development in Niger State. It enabled researchers to gather data and use it to describe the nature of the existing conditions. Deemua, (2014), posited that this is a type of design in which the researchers gather data from a large number of people on their behaviour, attitudes and perception. Therefore, this design is appropriate for the study since data was obtained on behaviour, attitude and opinion from stakeholders concerning the management variables as they influence the development of sports in Niger-State.

The population of this study basically consists of sports administrators, coaches, sports managers, stadium managers and organizing secretaries of the Niger state sports council. Based on data retrieved from the sports council, there are; 1 sports director, 78 coaches, 32 sports managers, 1 stadium manager and 28 organizing secretaries of the Niger state sports council. This brings to a total of 140 participants for the study. Therefore, since the population of the study was not too large and is within the coverage of the researchers, all the target population was used. The data collected was analyzed using frequencies and percentage for the demographic variables, mean and standard deviation for the research questions while the hypotheses was tested using the inferential statistics of linear regression at 0.05 levels of significance.

## 3.0 Decision Rule

Research Hypotheses: If probability value is equal to or less than 0.05 the null hypothesis to be rejected but if the probability value is greater than 0.05 the null hypothesis was retained.

### Test of Hypotheses

Four null hypotheses were formulated for the study. The null hypotheses were tested using linear regression at 0.05 level of significance. The summary of the test of hypotheses are presented in Tables 1 to 10 as follows:

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant perceived influence of funding on sports development in Niger State.

**Table 1: Summary of Regression Analysis of significant perceived influence of funding on sports development**

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	140	0.899	0.809	0.808	584.316	.000

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Funding
- b. Sports Development

**Table 2: Test of significance**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
	B	Std. Error				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	0.121	0.132		0.921	0.359	0.139	0.381
Funding	0.970	0.040	0.899	24.173	0.000	0.890	1.049

**Dependent Variable: Sports Development**

Table 1 summarizes the regression results of significant influence of funding on sports development in Niger State. The result indicated that there is a positive correlation between funding and sports development ( $R = 0.90$ ) while R-squared is 0.81 which means that the independent variable (funding) explained 80.8% variations of the dependent variable (sports development). These indicate a good fit of the regression equation. The test of significance results as presented in Table 2 showed that funding statistically significantly influences sports development ( $B = 0.970$ ;  $t(139) = 24.173$ ,  $P = 0.000$ ). It indicated that at 5% level of significance there is enough evidence that the regression equation is well specified that funding significantly influences sports development. Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected and it was concluded that funding would significantly influence sports development in Niger State.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant Perceived influence of personnel on sports development in Niger State.

**Table 3: Summary of Regression Analysis of significant perceived influence of personnel on sports development**

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	140	0.505	0.255	0.250	47.250	0.000

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Personnel
- b. Sports Development

**Table 4: Test of significance**

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized			95% Confidence Interval	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	1.117	0.316		3.533	0.001	0.492	1.742
Personnel	0.673	0.098	0.505	6.874	0.000	0.479	0.866

**Dependent Variable: Sports Development**

Table 3 summarizes the regression results of significant perceived influence of personnel on sports development in Niger State. The result indicated that there is a positive correlation between personnel and sports development ( $R = 0.51$ ) while R-squared is 0.26 which means that the independent variable (personnel) explained 25.0% variations of the dependent variable (sports development). These indicate a good fit of the regression equation. The test of significance results as presented in Table 4 showed that personnel statistically significantly influence sports development ( $B = 0.673$ ;  $t(139) = 6.874$ ,  $P = 0.000 < 0.05$ ). It indicated that at 5% level of significance there is enough evidence that the regression equation is well specified that personnel significantly influence sports development. Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected and it was concluded that personnel would significantly influence sports development in Niger State.

**H<sub>03</sub>:** There is no significant perceived influence of equipment on sports development in Niger State.

**Table 5: Summary of Regression Analysis of significant perceived influence of equipment on sports development**

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	140	.297	.089	.082	13.399	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Equipment

**Table 6: Test of significance**

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized			95% Confidence Interval	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	1.789	.409		4.380	.000	.982	2.597
Equipment	.451	.123	.297	3.660	.000	.208	.695

**Dependent Variable: Sports Development**

Table 5 summarizes the regression results of significant perceived influence of equipment on sports development in Niger State. The result indicated that there is a positive correlation between equipment and sports development ( $R = 0.30$ ) while R-squared is 0.09 which means that the independent variable (equipment) explained 8.2% variations of the dependent variable (sports development). These indicate a good fit of the regression equation.

The test of significance results as presented in Table 6 showed that equipment statistically significantly influences sports development ( $B = 0.451$ ;  $t(139) = 3.660$ ,  $P = 0.000 < 0.05$ ). It indicated that at 5% level of significance there is enough evidence that the regression equation is well specified that equipment significantly influence sports development. Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected and it was concluded that there is significant influence of equipment on sports development in Niger State.

H04: There is no significant perceived influence of facilities on sports development in Niger State.

**Table 7: Summary of Regression Analysis of significant perceived influence of facilities on sports development**

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	140	0.915	0.837	0.836	708.569	0.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Facilities

**Table 8: Test of significance**

	Unstandardized		Standardized			95% Confidence Interval	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	0.745	0.152		4.903	0.000	1.045	0.444
Facilities	1.302	0.049	0.915	26.619	0.000	1.206	1.399

***Dependent Variable: Sports Development***

	Coefficients		Coefficients	T	Sig.	95% Confidence Interval	
	B	Std. Error				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	0.745	0.152		4.903	0.000	1.045	0.444
Facilities	1.302	0.049	0.915	26.619	0.000	1.206	1.399

***Dependent Variable: Sports Development***

Table 7 summarizes the regression results of significant influence of facilities on sports development in Niger State. The result indicated that there is a positive correlation between facilities and sports development ( $R = 0.92$ ) while R-squared is 0.84 which means that the independent variable (facilities) explained 83.6% variations of the dependent variable (sports development). These indicate a good fit of the regression equation.

The test of significance results as presented in Table 8 showed that facilities statistically significantly influence sports development ( $B = 1.302$ ;  $t(139) = 26.619$ ,  $P = 0.000 < 0.05$ ). It indicated that at 5% level of significance there is enough evidence that the regression equation is well specified that facilities significantly influence sports development. Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected and it was concluded that there is significant influence of facilities on sports development in Niger State.

H05: There is no significant perceived influence of training on sports development in Niger State.

**Table 9: Summary of Regression Analysis of significant perceived influence of training on sports development**

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	140	0.240	0.057	0.051	8.416	0.004

a. Predictors: (Constant), Training

**Table 10: Test of significance**

Model	Unstandardized		Standardized			95% Confidence Interval	
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1 (Constant)	2.349	0.323		7.282	0.000	1.711	2.987
Training	0.300	0.103	0.240	2.901	0.004	0.096	0.505

**Dependent Variable: Sports Development**

Table 9 summarizes the regression results of significant influence of training on sports development in Niger State. The result indicated that there is a positive correlation between training and sports development ( $R = 0.24$ ) while R-squared is 0.06 which means that the independent variable (training) explained 5.1% variations of the dependent variable (sports development). These indicate a good fit of the regression equation.

The test of significance results as presented in Table 10 showed that training statistically significantly influence sports development ( $B = 0.300$ ;  $t(139) = 2.901$ ,  $P =$

0.004 < 0.05). It indicated that at 5% level of significance there is enough evidence that the regression equation is well specified that training significantly influence sports development. Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected and it was concluded that there is significant influence of training on sports development in Niger State.

#### **4.0 Discussion of Findings**

The findings of the study revealed that funding would significantly influence sports development in Niger State. This finding is in line with the findings Igbunugo (2000), which stated that “it is abundantly clear that lack of financing of sports is the cause of the nation's backwardness in sports performance”. This study is also in consonance with that of Bucher and Krotee (2002), which suggested that funding is the bedrock for sport development and should be budgeted in sports organizations. Saba (2005), also reported in his study that every sector of the sport industry requires adequate amount of funds. He also posited that inadequate funding of sports especially in competitions is one of the major constraints hindering the progress in sports performance.

Another finding revealed that Personnel would significantly influence sports development in Niger State. This finding is supported by Oyedele (2014), who reported that personnel are the officials that play an integral role in any competitive sport programme and should be well qualified, certified and licensed and hold membership in their respective, officiating association. The finding is also in line with Abubakar and Ajeigbe (2009), who stated that when considering the structure and operation of an organization, one must take cognizance of the personnel who provides the leadership and sees to the smooth conduct of the day-to-day affairs of the organization. This study also in line with Bucher and Krotee (2002), who expressed that excellent officials are necessary for quality sports programme. They should have social qualifications, including knowledge of the activity, the participants, and the goals of the programme and the organizations philosophy of competition.

Furthermore, officials play an integral role in any competitive sports programme. Therefore, they should be well qualified, certified and licensed and hold membership in their respective officiating association. To ensure that only the best officials are employed, procedure should be established to register and rate officials and determine which are the best qualified. Akintunde (2001), noted that the quality of personnel in the sport institutions determine the standard of the institution. In addition to the above, Oyedele (2014), expressed that the sports personnel are also seen to possess good sense of justice, self-restraint and a show of competence in the handling of his organization programme. Omolawon (2000), stated that the role of sports management cannot be over-emphasized; this is because sport personnel are regarded to facilitators of the numerous activities involved in sports.

Also, the finding of the study revealed that there of significant influence of equipment on sports development in Niger State. The study also corroborates with Ogundairo (2010), who identified equipment to be very important in enhancing sports and games. The



availability of these equipment stimulate interest in athletes, also teaching and it make for easy comprehension and skills perfection. The finding also in line with Umeiegbu (2015), who reported that good sports programme can function at full effectiveness only when they are supported with sufficient equipment in good condition. In other words, there must be adequate sports equipment in good condition for regular training and practice of athletes for athletes in sports councils.

The findings are also in line with that Haruna (2013), who ascertain that sports programme are mainly concerned with movement and one important factor in the conduct of successful sports programme is the provision of adequate facilities, equipment and supplies. Lack of this will greatly hinder even the most proficient coach. Fatai (2006), opined that provision of equipments should be adequate and timely and that limitations imposed by those factors that restrict the number and kinds of activities that may be performed in the sport programme are detrimental to sports development.

The study revealed that there is significant influence of facilities on sports development in Niger State. The study is in line with that of Ekpe (2011), who opined that, it is difficult to separate the standard of sports in a particular country from the standard of facilities available for the training of athletes. The study also in line with that of Ogedengbe (2006), who hinted that, availability of adequate sports facilities are necessary ingredients to successful sports and that their absence negates proper development of sports programme in Nigeria. Fasan (2004), collaborated the above statement that availability and accessibility of these sport facilities to the athletes will surely promote instructions, training and acquisition of skills. In support of this view, Adamu (2002), stated that facilities and adequate provision of equipment have been identified as the major problems facing the Nigeria athletes because they performed better with facilities abroad than with those at home.

It also in line with Adisa (2004), who opined those sports men and woman generally exhibit high sports achievement and encouragement due to the presence of adequate facilities and equipment. This finding was further collaborated with that of Ojeme (2000), who also emphasized that, it is pertinent to note that organized sports programmes due to its nature, need adequate and standard facilities. This is highly essential because facilities are the cornerstones on which the success of such programme rest. That many competitions including Nigeria National Sports Festivals and All African Game have suffered indefinite postponements or total withdrawal of hosting rights to the inability of host to provide or put essential facilities in place.

In addition, one of the findings to the study revealed that there is significant influence of training on sports development in Niger State. The finding is in consonance with that of Abubakar and Ajeigbe (2009), who opined that such efficient, sustained and motivated long-term training period is to ensure athletes conditioning, understanding, perfection of tactics, strategies and blending. There is also the need to develop potent and relevant training schedule since the training at this level is for skill perfection, competition strategies and tactics. The finding is also in line with Cogan (2008), who have defined the

relationship between sports training programs and the intended results. Successful athletes utilize a training-performance interaction model to plan wisely in advance of training and rest at appropriate intervals to maximize physical fitness improvement while minimizing the chronic fatigue.

## 5.0 Conclusion

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

The study examined the influence of management practices on sports development in Niger statesports council, Minna. Based on the findings of this study, it can be established that Funding would significantly influence sports development in Niger State. The study concluded that Personnel would significantly influence sports development in Niger State. However, it can be concluded that, there was significant influence of equipment on sports development in Niger State. It was also concluded that there was significant influence of facilities on sports development in Niger State. In addition to the above, there was significant influence of training on sports development in Niger State.

## 6.0 Recommendations

**The following recommendations are made based on the findings of this study:**

1. Council management should employ competent and qualified coaches and trainer's personnel who will be able to plan, organize, schedule and execute purposeful sports programme for the athletes. Considering these factors can motivate athletes to participate in sports programme and may be best done by qualified sports personnel and specialists.
2. The development of sports facilities be planned and taken in phases having in view the various sports and the cultural interest of the people.
3. Provision of sports equipment and facilities should be enhanced through planned annual budget, while also private interested individual should be solicited and encouraged to build and donate sports equipment and facilities to the council to enhance mass participation of people in the sports program of the state.
4. The athletes/players should be committed to regular trainings and at high intensity level to enhance athletes conditioning, mastery of skills, understanding perfection of tactics which will assist in improving their performance level both at trainings and competition levels.
5. Government should allocate adequate fund to the management of sport council so as to encourage the management. That is, sports director, coaches and athletes to put in their best to develop sports programme in the state.

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