

Influence of Availability of Sports Facilities and Equipment on Students' Excellent Performance in Sports Competitions

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Introduction

Provision of sports facilities and equipment in our schools is an essential way of motivating students' active participation in sporting programmes that will lead to acquisition of sports skills which will enhance excellent performance in sports competitions. Sports facilities are those permanently constructed, fixed or immovable indoor and outdoor structures that are used for sports. They include such structures as pitches, courts, tracks, gymnasium or halls and pools (Oworu, 2005). While equipment are expendable, consumable or movable materials used in sports. Facilities and equipment are of great importance in any sports programme. It could be said that the success of any sports programme depends largely on the quality and quantity of available facilities and equipment. Uwagbale (2007) emphasized that it might be impossible to achieve satisfactory results from the athletes whose training facilities are inadequate or sub-standard. He stated further that good sports programme cannot be implemented effectively until they are supported with sufficient equipment in good condition. He affirmed that provision of adequate facilities and equipment are important incentives for the athletes that will facilitate their optimal performance in competitions.

Obiyemi, Adesoye and Ogunsanwo (2002) affirmed that where facilities and equipment are accessible to people, the enhancement of avenues that will facilitate training and acquisition of skills will be promoted. The effects of lack of facilities and equipment were expressed by Iheanacho (2000) when he stated that any sports development programme without sufficient facilities and equipment would not produce excellent results

no matter the level of preparation. Sports resources form an integral and essential part of success in sports participation. Nwanko (2001) posited that availability of sports equipment in adequate quantity and quality contributes tremendously to the success of any sports training and competitions. She further claimed that such equipment motivates athletes to train longer which in turn enhances their optional performance in competitions.

Ajeigbe and Abubakar (2009) equally affirmed that if facilities like soccer field, handball, basketball, tennis, badminton courts are available with adequate personnel, the rate of participation in sports will not only be high, standard of performance will rise and more skilled sportsmen and women would be produced. The functions of sports facilities and equipment cannot be over emphasized as lack of it will handicap both the upcoming and most proficient athletes (Ituh, 1992). The importance of facilities was highlighted by Uwagbale (2007) when he stated that athletes have come to realize that improved performance and development of special skills among athletes can be enhanced through better sports facilities.

Ituh (1995) and Onifade (1995) in separate studies expressed that for the success of any sport programme and physical education, there must be availability of qualitative and quantitative facilities & equipment. Nwanko (2001) in highlighting the importance of facilities and equipment to physical education and sports programmes opined that adequate sports facilities and equipment are of utmost importance for effective instruction because it enhances the efficiency of training, results in much better performance, facilitates sports administration and foster effective sports development.

In addition, Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (2005) described sports resources as material factors or components which aid or support athletes towards the realization of sports goals and objectives. Sports resources could come in two ways visa-a-vis human and material resources. In whichever way they come they are components that are required to ensure the proper running and efficiency of sports programme in any sports organization. For athletic performance to be improved and for athletes to experience success in sports, resources like facilities, equipment, finance, medicals, coaching crew and the like may be a "sine-qua-non" to assist them. In supporting this view, Salami and Odewumi (2006) stated that a lot of sports resources must be at the disposal of the school to enable the participants enjoy and develop interest as well as achieve their potentials in sports. Facilities and equipment constitute very important aspect of any sports programme and they are also very important and essential tools in the improvement and attainment of success by athletes in sports performance. According to Salami (1999) as reported by Akin- Taylor and Abayomi (2008) availability of adequate facilities and equipment is of vital importance to performance in sports.

2.	Availability of sports facilities enable the participants enjoy & develop interest in sports.	45	38	20	17	120	83.9	15	25.00	Ho ₁ is rejected
3.	it enables athletes to achieve their potentials in sports.	20	25	45	30	120				
4.	Availability of sports facilities aid or support athletes towards the realization of sports goals and objectives.	40	50	20	10	120				
5.	when sports facilities are put in place, the rate of participation will not only be high, but standard of performance will rise.	60	25	15	20	120				
6.	With availability of facilities, more skilled sports men and women would be produced.	32	47	23	18	120				
		247	220	133	120	720				

The result in table1 revealed that the Cal. χ^2 val of 83.9 was obtained against the crit. χ^2 val of 25.00 with the degree of freedom of 15. Therefore, since the Cal. χ^2 val. is greater than the crit. χ^2 val. The hypothesis one (Ho₁) is hereby rejected at 0.05 level of confidence. This however, implies that availability of sports facilities will motivate athletes to train regularly that will lead to mastery of sports skills thereby enhancing students excellent performance in sports competitions.

Ho₂: Availability of equipment will not significantly influence students' excellent performance in sports competitions.

Table 2: chi-square showing the influence of availability of equipment on students' excellent performance in competitions.

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Cal. χ^2 val	df	Crit. χ^2 val	Decision
1.	Availability of sports equipment in quality and quantities are essential	55	25	15	25	120				

	way of motivating students' active participation in sports programs									
2.	Good sports programs cannot be implemented effectively until they are supported with sufficient equipment in good condition.	70	30	12	08	120	93.6	15	25.00	Ho ₂ is rejected
3.	provision of adequate equipment are important incentives for the athletes which will facilitates their optional performance in competition	20	35	40	25	120				
4.	Availability of sports equipment in adequate quantity and quality contributes to the success of any sports training and competition.	45	50	10	15	120				
5.	when sports equipment are provided, it facilitates sports administration and foster effective sports development.	28	42	20	20	120				
6.	Availability of sports equipment is of utmost importance for effective instruction because it enhances the efficiency of training & better performance.	62	20	18	20	120				
		290	202	115	113	720				

Table 2: Result shows that the Cal. χ^2 val. of 93.6 was obtained against the crit. χ^2 val of 25.00 with 15 degree of freedom. However, since the crit. χ^2 val. is less than the Cal. χ^2 val. The hypothesis two (Ho₂) is rejected. This means that availability of sports equipment for athletes both in quality and quantity will encourage students being actively involved regularly in trainings which enhances acquisition of sports skills that improve their level of performance in competitions.

Discussion of findings

The result of both hypotheses one and two which revealed that availability of facilities and equipment have positive influence on students excellent performance in competitions were supported by Obiyemi, Adesoye and Ogunsanwo (2002) who affirmed that where facilities and equipment are accessible to athletes, the enhancement of avenues that will facilitate training and acquisition of skills will be promoted. The effects of lack of facilities and equipment were expressed by Iheanacho (2000) who affirmed that any sports development programme without sufficient facilities and equipment would not produce excellent results in competition no matter the level of preparation.

In addition, Ajeigbe and Abubakar (2009) also affirmed that if facilities like Soccer field, Handball, Basketball, Tennis, Badminton courts are available with adequate personnel, the rate of participation in sports will not only be high, standard of performance will equally rise and more skilled sports men and women would be produced. Nwanko (2001) in highlighting the importance of facilities and equipment to physical education and sports programmes opined that adequate sports facilities and equipment is utmost importance for effective instruction because it enhances the efficiency of training, results in much better performance in competitions, facilitates sports and foster effective sports development. The importance of facilities was also highlighted by Uwagbale (2007) when he stated that athletes have realized that improved performance and development of special skills among athletes can be enhanced through better sports facilities. Salami and Odewumi (2006) asserted that facilities and equipment constitute very important aspect of any sports programme and they are also very important tools in the improvement and attainment of success by athletes in sports performance. They further stated that a lot of sports resources must be at the disposal of the school to enable the participants enjoy and develop interest in sports programmes as well as achieve their potentials in sports.

Conclusion

The following conclusions were drawn from the study

1. Availability of facilities for the trainings will have influence on students' excellent performance in sports competitions.
2. Availability of equipment both in quality and quantity will encourage students' active participation and improvement in sports performance.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were suggested based on the results of the study.

1. Standard facilities should be made available for students so as to encourage them to participate actively in trainings which will enhance acquisition of sports skills that lead to excellent performance in competitions.
2. Sports equipment should be made available both in quantity and quality to allow mass participation of students' in sports programmes of the school and to enhance their success in competitions.

3. The available sports facilities and equipment should be well taken care off so as to prevent damages that may adversely affects trainings which will results in students' poor performance in competitions.

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