

## Factors Militating Sports Development Among Nigerian Army Force in Sobi Barrack Ilorin, Kwara State

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**Abstract.** This study examined the factors militating sports development among Nigerian Army force, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State such as facilities, equipment, sports personnel and budget. The population of this study comprised 850 officers of the 22 armored brigade in Sobi barrack, Ilorin. Three hundred and forty (340) constituted 40% of the respondents was sampled. Instrument used for data collection was researcher's self-structured questionnaire. The instrument was validated and tested for reliability using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation. Co-efficient of 0.76 was obtained. Data collected were analyzed using Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) at 0.05 level of significance. All the hypotheses were rejected. The result revealed that there is a significant influence of facilities, equipment, sports personnel and budget on sports development among Nigeria Army Force in Sobi Barrack. Ilorin. It was concluded that; facilities, equipment, sports personnel and budgeting have significant influence on sports development. It is therefore recommended among others that modern sports facilities such as field, court, swimming pool, gymnasium and so on are to be provide by the management for Nigeria Army force, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin. This will motivate the officers to participate in sporting activities and thereby promote the development of sports among Nigerian Army force in Sobi barrack.

**Keywords:** Sports Development, Facilities, Equipment, Sports Personnel and Fund.

### 1. Introduction

Sports started with the beginning of life and it is used for different purposes in time. According to Obiyemi and Musa (2003), sports are the activities involving powers, skills, competition and strategy engaged in for the enjoyment and satisfaction of personal gain. Traditionally, these were the main aim of participating in sports. In Nigeria today, sports is fast gaining recognition as a way of the life of the people.

Sports has also become a universal political game; therefore, no effort should be spared in encouraging every person to participate in sports. Globally, sports is considered as a creator of beauty and as an instrument of ethical values that brings about peace, unity and understanding among people of all races, during sports participation which wholly the result of social invention and social heritage (Emiola, 2008). Sports are highly significant in national development through leisure and recreation as it enhances a high degree of productivity and healthful living. Sports is one of the greatest endeavors in human experience. It is a celebration of physical excellence which involves the ability to sustain and maintain ones' physical health in such a situation that one would be able to walk, run, think and move the parts of the body as may be demanded. It is a medium through which competition, friendship, tolerance, unity, discipline, endurance and diplomacy are promoted. Sports as a social event

is a civilizing and socializing process of gathering men and women of good will who came together to take part in athletics and sporting events for the purpose of physical, mental, social and political development (Dale and Wayne, 2003).

Sports is a social agent which brings people of different ages and religious background together as either producer or consumers (players or spectators). It is a social link among nations of the world. To the whole world, sports has become an effective instrument of international politics and one of the easiest ways of promoting the image of a nation (Jatau, 2000).

Facilities are very central to meaningful sports organization and participation whether amateur, recreational or competitive status. Facilities is as important to the athletes as laboratories are to the scientists. Without facilities sports cannot take place. This does not however imply that sports facilities is the only variables that is necessary for sports development in a particular area; others such as equipment, personnel finance to mention a few are indispensable complements to the sports facilities. Having said this the availability, adequacy, supervision, safety, location, and accessibility of sports facilities deserve adequate attention for sports' facilities to contribute to excellence in sports participation and development in a particular area (Krotee, 2002).

Facilities, supplies and equipment provision are important aspect of physical education and sports management. Excellent programme is the key word in physical education and sports competitions, and this requires well equipped good play-ground for training. Standard facilities and equipment are essential pre-requisites to good and impressive performance. Lack of adequate and standard facilities and equipment hampers physical education and sports programmes in many ways. Hardman (1997). Adedeji (2000), also pointed out that there must be sufficient motivation in the form of attractiveness of facilities, supplies and equipment to captivate athletes' interest to participate in sports or games.

The sports programmes require a large amount of money every year. This is because facilities

such as courts and pitches are constructed and maintained. Also equipment and supplies such as balls, nets, javelin, rackets, hockey sticks, bats, gymnastic and athletic (track and field) materials require either purchasing, replacement or repairs. Bucher and Reddy,(2007) mentioned that facilities should be planned and constructed with an eye to the future. Too often, facilities are constructed and out-grown their use within a very short time. According to Awosika (2009), it might be impossible to achieve satisfactory results from athletes whose training facilities and equipment are inadequate or of sub-standard. The scarcity of physical education facilities, supplies and equipment constitute a big cog in the successful administration, organization and management of physical education and sports in Nigeria.

Maintenance of most public properties which belongs to nobody is less concern of some citizen of Nigeria. Maintenance culture should be established by the physical education administrator, with proper repairs of physical education facilities, supplies and equipment. Bucher and Krotee (2002) explained that equipment and facilities should always be maintained in a serviceable condition.

Procedures for caring for facilities, equipment and supplies should be routinized so that repairs are provided as needed. All used equipment and supplies should be checked and then repaired, replaced, or serviced as needed. Such used items should be cleared and stored properly. (Brown 1977, Carron 1982, Howe 1981) Sports more obvious contribution may be indirect and lie in its ability to contribute positively to partnerships with educationalists and others. In particular, research evidence indicates that the importance of sport for many young people means that it may have a significant role to play in educational policy.

Oloruntoba and Achugbu, (2002) contends that positive outcomes are most likely to occur through appropriate supervision, leadership or management. Witt and Crompton (1996), in a review of crime diversion programmes in the USA, concluded that: "leadership is perhaps the most important element in determining the positive impact of a programme, since it shapes what participants derive from their experience".

## 2. Statement of the Problem

There is no doubt that the Nigeria military force are not regularly involved in sporting activities which is assumed to be as a result of many factors such as: lack of sport facilities, equipment, personnel and budget. Also experienced as shown that the role of the factors mentioned above goes a long way to determine the interest and involvement of individual in sports. Availability of sports facilities and equipment may motivate the officials' interest in sports which thereby promote the development of sports among officials and men of the military corps. The researcher therefore finds it imperative to carry out a study on factors militating sport development among officers and men of Nigeria military corps in Ilorin kwara state.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the Factors Militating Sports Development among officials and Men of the Nigeria Military Corps and how these factors can be improved upon factors such as Facilities, equipments, personnel and budget in order to promote sports development among the officials and men of the Nigeria military corps

## 3. Significance of the study

The researcher had undertaking this study to be able to promote sport participation and development among officials and men of Nigeria military corps and also to provide a possible solution to some identified factors suggested to be militating against sport development such as facilities, equipment, sport personnel and budget in other to promote and motivate the interest of the Nigeria military force in sport involvement. Also to inform officers of the 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin about some of the benefits of participating in sports.

## 4. Research Questions

- (i) Does unavailability of facilities affect sports development among officers of Nigeria Army Force in Ilorin, Kwara State?

- (ii) Does lack of sports personnel such as coaches affect sports development among officers of Nigeria Army Force in Ilorin, Kwara State?
- (iii) Does lack of fund affect sports development among officers of Nigeria Army Force in Ilorin, Kwara State?

## 5. Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are postulated to guide the study:

- (i) Availability of sports facility will not significantly affect sports development among officers of Nigeria Army Force in Ilorin, Kwara State.
- (ii) Sports coaches will not significantly affect sports development among officers of Nigeria Army Force in Ilorin , Kwara State
- (iii) Fund will not significantly affect sports development among officers of Nigeria Army Force in Ilorin , Kwara State

## 6. Methodology

Descriptive research design of survey type was used for this study. This study was carried out in Sobi Barracks, in Ilorin East Local Government Area of Kwara State. The barrack is made up of 3 autonomous military units; Headquarters 22 Armoured Brigade, 22 Battalion and the Nigerian Army School of Education. With a total of about 850 soldiers, the barrack is a multiethnic with seemingly homogenous representation of all religious and ethnic groups in Nigeria. 340 (three hundred and forty) soldiers were selected as respondents for this study which constituted 40% of the population. A multistage sampling strategy was used. An initial sampling proportionate to sizes of the three army units which comprises of 850 followed by systematic sampling technique using each unit's register as a sampling frame and a calculated sampling interval. Then the respondents in each of the units were randomly selected using the ballot method. 340

questionnaire forms were administered by the researcher with the help of two research assistants.

The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire of the close-ended type designed in line with the modified likert (4scales) instrument consisted of 16 items with the likert scale of Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree Agree and Strongly Disagree. The items required respondents to tick the response that best their interest. The questionnaire comprised two sections, section A for personal information of the respondents such as Age,

marital status, religion, etc while section B will sought information on the factors militating sport development among 22 Almond Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin .

The questionnaire was duly validated and tested for reliability which produced  $r = .76$ . The information obtained through the administered questionnaire was analyzed with the use of percentages for the personal data of the respondents. Inferential statistic of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) was used to test the hypotheses that was generated at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**7. Results**

**Hypothesis one:** Availability of sports facilities will not significantly influence sports development in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Table 1 : Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) analysis showing the influence of sports facilities and sports in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin , Kwara State.

S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	D	SD	N	CAL.	df	TABLE	Remark
1	Modern sports facilities such as field, court, swimming pool, gymnasium are available in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin	20	122	96	102	340				
2	Facilities provided are adequately maintained by officers in Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin	18	132	99	91	340				
3	There is easy accessibility to sports facilities by men and officers of 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin	44	120	112	64	340	128.51	12	21.03	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
4	There is always a lectures on effective use of sports facilities by 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin	37	111	114	78	340				
5	Low quality of sports facilities are installed and thereby affecting the sports participation among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin	83	153	69	35	340				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>1703</b>				

P > 0.05

Table 1 showed that the calculated chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) value of 128.51 is greater than critical value of 21.03 at 0.05 level of significance at 12 degree of freedom. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected a which implies that availability of sports facilities have significant influence on sports development among officers of 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

**H02:** Availability of sports personnel will not significantly influence sports development in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Table 2: Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) analysis showing the influence of sports personnel and sports development in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin , Kwara State.

S/N	VARIABLES	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL	CAL.v	df	TABLE	Remark
1	Sports personnel such as : coaches , sports officials , and sports administrators are available among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	51	158	81	50	<b>340</b>				
2	There is qualified /trained coaches and sports administrators to organize and coordinate sports programme among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	56	124	99	61	<b>340</b>	143.37	9	16.92	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
3	There is cooperation among coaches and officials in the promotion of sports among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	33	141	111	55	<b>340</b>				
4	The coaches always encouraged and motivated in participation among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	36	150	90	62	<b>340</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1703</b>				

Table 2 indicated that calculated chi-square ( $X^2$ ) value of 143.37 is greater than critical value of 16.92 at 0.05 level of significance at 9 degree of freedom. The null hypothesis is rejected. This means that availability of sports personnel such as coaches will significantly influence on sports development in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

**H03:** Availability of fund will not significantly affect sports development among officers of 22 armoured brigade , Nigeria Army , Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Table 2: Chi-square ( $x^2$ ) analysis showing the influence of fund availability and sports development in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin , Kwara State.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	TOTAL	CAL.V	Df	TABLE.V	Decision
1	Enough fund is provided to sponsor sports activities among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	33	90	97	120	<b>340</b>				
2	Good references are given to sports when budgeting and thereby promote sports development among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	25	111	101	103	<b>340</b>	153.2	9	16.92	Reject H <sub>0</sub>
3	Money budgeted for sports activities are judiciously managed and thereby promote sports among 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	29	109	101	101	<b>340</b>	4			
4	There is no delay in the release of fund to sponsor sports among the 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin.	24	119	87	110	<b>340</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>1703</b>				

Table 3 shows that the calculated chi-square ( $X^2$ ) value of 153.24 is greater than critical value of 16.92 at 0.05 level of significance at 9 degree of freedom. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that availability of funds will significantly influence sports development in Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

## 8. Discussion of Findings

Table 1 showed the influence of sports facilities on sports development among officers of 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State. From the result in the table 1, the hypothesis was rejected meaning that sports facilities has significant influence on the development of sports among officers of 22 Armoured brigade , Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack , Ilorin. This finding is in line with Zacus (2007) who stated that Standard facilities are essential pre- requisites to good and impressive performance. Lack of adequate and standard facilities hampers physical education and sports programmess in many ways. Facilities are very central to meaningful sports participation whether amateur, recreational or competitive status. They are as important to the athletes as laboratories are to the scientists. Without facilities sports cannot take place (Brown, 2007). Therefore, there is a need to understand this relationship and effort should be geared towards the provision of sports facilities to promote sports development among the 22 Armoured brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack Ilorin

Table 2: shows that there is a significant influence of sports personnel such as coaches and sports development among officers of 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack Ilorin. This implies that qualified /trained coaches and sports administrator play a significant role in sports thereby influencing sports development. This is in line with Oloruntoba , and Achugbu , (2002) which contends that positive outcomes are most likely to occur through appropriate supervision, leadership or management. Witt and Crompton (1996), in a review of crime diversion programmes in the USA, concluded that: "...leadership is perhaps the most important element in determining the positive impact of a programme, since it shapes what participants derive from their experience".

Table 3also showed that is fund is significant to sports development among officers of 22

Armored Brigade Nigeria Army Force, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State. This implies that the provision of enough fund will promote sports development among officers of 22 Armoured brigade, Nigeria Army Force , Sobi Barrack, Ilorin. This is supported by Abone (2003) which stated that sports, especially competitive sports require huge amount of money for its organization especially in the sphere of purchase and maintenance of sports facilities and equipment.

## 9. Conclusion

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

Availability of sports facilities have significant influence on sports development among officers of 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Sports personnel have significant influence on sports development among officers of 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Funds have significant influence on sports development among officers of 22 Armoured Brigade, Nigeria Army, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin, Kwara State.

## 10. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

Modern sports facilities such as field, court, swimming pool, gymnasium etc are to be provide for the 22 Armoured Brigade , Nigeria Army force, Sobi Barrack, Ilorin . This will motivate the officers to participate in sporting activities and thereby promote the development of sports in the barrack.

Sports personnel such as coaches, sports officials, and sports administrators are to be made available for the officers of 22 Armoured brigade sobi barrack Ilorin.

Good references are to be given to sports when budgeting as this will promote sports

development when there is funds to sponsor sports activities among officers of 22 Armored brigade, Sobi Barrack , Ilorin

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