

## **SPORTS VOLUNTEERISM AS TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE SPORTS ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS**

**BY**

**Sadiq, Suleiman Sabonkudi: Department of Human Kinetics Education, Faculty of Education,  
University of Ilorin; E-mail: sadiq.ss@unilorin.edu.ng**

### **Abstract**

*This study examined volunteerism as a tool for effective sports administration and development among secondary school students in Ilorin metropolis. Descriptive research design of the survey type was adopted. The population of the study comprised of all secondary schools students in Ilorin metropolis. Using multistage sampling techniques, a sample population of 300 (three hundred) was selected from five secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis. A validated researcher's structured questionnaire tagged was used with a correlation coefficient of 0.72 reliability. The two postulated hypotheses were tested with the use of inferential statistic of chi-square at 0.05 alpha level. The results revealed that sports coaches is significant influence effective sports administration and development ( $cal.x^2 = 288.50 > Table\ value = 16.92\ atdf=9$ ), and that volunteered sports administrators significantly influence effective sports administration and development ( $cal.x^2 = 331.30 > Table\ value = 16.92\ atdf=9$ ). The study concluded that volunteered sports personnel such as coaches and sports administrators significantly influences effective sports administration and development. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made; sports volunteers with good knowledge and understanding of terrain of sports venues and road network should be used for competitions. The sports volunteers should be well integrated into sports programme by the sport organizers for them to have a sense of belonging. The school hosting the competition should ensure good rapport between sports volunteers, school sports administrators and other sports participants.*

**Keywords:** *Volunteerism, Sports administration, Development and Secondary school students*

### **Introduction**

It has been recognized that participation in sports and volunteering activities such as sports coaching and sports philanthropy has the potential to deliver a wide range of individual and social benefits such as well-being, civic engagement (Putnam, 2000). It can be argued, therefore, that sports could be viewed as valuable asset. Yet despite theoretical claims about the role of sports, and sports coaches, there is a lack of robust empirical evidence that support these claims. In the contemporary context of "The Big Society", the aim of this review was to locate and analyse existing evidence to support expectations about the role of volunteer coaches and philanthropy and sports, in community social action. According to Chris (2007), sport can not only make a valuable contribution to delivering key outcomes of lower long term unemployment, less crime, better health and better qualifications, but can also help to develop the individual pride, community spirit and capacity for responsibility that enable communities to run regeneration programmes themselves (PAT, 1999). Scott (2009) in an overview of a social inclusion partnership programme wrote, "Sport can help foster a sense of belonging, build self-esteem and confidence, bring people together, reduce crime, create routes into jobs and improve health and fitness." At a political level, much is claimed for sport; at an academic level, claims are more modest.

Parker (2000) asserted that sports may be competitive, where a winner or winners can be identified by objective means, and may require a degree of skills, especially at higher levels. Hundreds of sports exist including those for a single participant, those with dual participants and in team participants. Some no physical activities, such as board games and card games are referred to as sports. But a sport is generally recognized as being based on physical athleticism. Laoye & Ackland, (2008) opined that sports are usually governed by a set of rules and or customs. Physical events such as scoring goals or crossing a line first often define result of a sports, however, the degree of skills and performance in some sports such as driving, and figure skating is judged according to a well criteria. In recent years, there has been renewed attention on the role played by volunteers in society. Volunteerism contributes to social cohesion, citizenship and civil identity (CVI, 2001). It is generally recognized that volunteering is an important indicator of social cohesion for nation-states and should be fostered and promoted in all areas of social life (ISUMA, 2001). The impact and importance of volunteers is nowhere better experienced than in sports. Volunteers have been and continue to be a vital component of the sports system, contributing extensively to the organization, governance and administration, and delivery of sports (Macintosh, 1990). Taylor

(2003) acknowledged that the benefits of volunteering can be felt in a number of different ways: “For volunteers, it provides friendship, enjoyment and satisfaction; for clubs, it enables them to exist; and for communities, it sustains sports participation, from which a number of social benefits can be derived”.

Safai (2005) study of the Sports Medicine and Science Council, asserted that “there is no question that sports cannot operate in some country without the total substructure of volunteers. The money isn’t there...the organization isn’t there...the volunteer is the lifeblood of sports. Alegi (2000) opined Volunteerism is, therefore, one of the main determinants of sport sector capacity and, without volunteers, sports as we know them would be non-existent. Volunteers are a fundamental feature of sports system in a multitude of ways and are relied upon heavily at every level, whether grassroots or elite international competitions. Volunteer administrators, coaches, judges and referees are integral to young children as they learn about and participate in community recreational leagues. Highly skilled officials, medical clinicians and sports scientists are also crucial volunteers who ensure the success of sports high performance athletes and conduct the delivery of elite sport. According Judge (2003), volunteering in sport is defined as individual volunteers helping others in sports and receiving either no remuneration or only expenses”. Some reasons why people volunteer include: the opportunity to help others; contributing to a valuable area; having fun; promoting and maintaining sports and recreation programme and services; contributing in an area where the family (or self) are active participants; contributing to the community; using learned skills; learning new skills; and also companionship and friendship. Although cited by participants, such reasons as filling up spare time, improving one’s career and gaining recognition as a volunteer was of comparatively less importance for respondents than those cited above (Harvey, 2002).

Jackson (2003), stated that sports volunteerism are generally understood to be a strong contributor to social capital. However, how sport volunteerism contributes to social capital, what forms of social capital are generated by sport, or whether sport really does contribute to social capital are highly debated questions (Maguire, 2002). Currently, the literature on sport and social capital is scarce to say the least; particularly and surprisingly given the explosion of published work on social capital in the last ten to fifteen years. The paucity of data on social capital and sport is also surprising, given the increased government interest on social capital as a tool for policy development and evaluation, including sport policy (Frank, 2003). According to Alade and Adegboyega (2010), sports is the only forum that can bring people together for a common goal. It is possible that sports, through the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C) and the international sports federations could succeed where United Nations had failed to promote world peace. In order to understand the link between sports and national development, the logical starting points is to take an overview of the benefits of sport from the perspectives of individual requirement. We must look at sports from the point of view of a broad spectrum primarily focusing on sport as a means to adhere health stands and enjoyment. Shuyler (2008) opined that sports volunteerism as those participating in roles undertaken to support and arrange activities also noted that it is obvious that employed staff of sports clubs, sports associations, sports agencies and sports ministries may never be adequate for effective and efficient administration and development of sports events especially mega sports events. Sports volunteers are very important in the successful implementation of sports developmental programme at local, national and international levels. Sports volunteering involve individuals helping without any remuneration in a sport setting via a formal setting (Gratton, 1997).

Contributions of sports volunteers to sports development have become essential to the delivery of sports and recreational services adding several hundred dollars of value per capital to the contribution that sports and recreation make to gross domestic product (Green & Chalip, 2004). It is also opined that, in sports volunteering, the level of sports and the identification with sports may stimulate people to volunteer in sports-related activities (Daily, 2004). It stated also that volunteers contribute their time, or efforts without coercion or any financial reward. Henderson (1994), described sports volunteering as one of the most important types of volunteering activities. Hwang (2010), has also said that involvement of sports volunteers is the key to the success and long term sustainability of sports clubs, sports organization and sports event. He further noted that without volunteers, the sports system could not operate and there is growing cognizance of the need to better manage and nurture volunteers. Sports volunteers participate in a wide variety of formally and informally designed roles and position to support, arrange and/or run organized sports and physical activities. Australian Bureau Statistics (2002) opined that the roles include serving as coach, instructor or teacher, referee or umpire, committee member or administrator, scorer or timekeeper, and medical support. Volunteering is not substitute for paid job.

### Research Hypotheses

1. Volunteered sports coaches will not significantly influence sports administration and development among selected secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis
2. Volunteered sports administrators will not significantly influence sports administration and development among secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis

### Methodology

Descriptive research design of survey type was adopted. Using multi-stage sampling techniques, 300 respondents from five secondary out of 334 secondary schools are in Ilorin metropolis were selected. Simple random sampling technique was used to select five schools which are: Government High School Adeta, Ilorin, Government Day Secondary School Adewole, Ilorin, Mount Camel College Oloje, Ilorin, Ansaru-deen Secondary School Ogidi, Ilorin and Federal Government College, Ilorin. Proportionate sampling technique was used to select sixty respondents from each of the schools within the sample frame. The instrument that was used for the data was researchers' designed questionnaire of the close-ended type designed in line with the modified Likert (4 scales) of Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree and was validated with correlation coefficient of 0.72 reliability. The questionnaire sought information on the sports volunteerism as tool for effective sports administration and development among selected secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis. The information obtained through the administered questionnaire was analysed with the use of descriptive statistics involving frequency count and percentage for demographic information of the respondents while inferential statistic of chi-square ( $X^2$ ) was used to test the hypotheses that were generated at 0.05 alpha level.

### Results

**Hypothesis 1:** Volunteered sports coaches will not significantly influence sports administration and development among selected secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis

**Table 1:** Chi-square Analysis of Volunteered Sports Coaches and Sports Administration and Development

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	ROW TOTAL	DF	CAL VALUE	TABLE VALUE	REMARK
1	Enough coaches are provided for the school sports	35 (11.7%)	210 (70%)	45 (15%)	10 (3.3%)	300				
2	The school sports team are managed by voluntary sports personnel	37 (12.3%)	197 (65.7%)	66 (22%)	0 (0%)	300				
3	Experienced coaches assist in the planning of sports programme	26 (8.7%)	176 (58.6%)	48 (16%)	50 (16.7%)	300	9	288.65	16.92	Ho Rejected
4	Some external sports personnel gives free services to my school	42 (14%)	178 (59.3%)	60 (20%)	20 (6.7%)	300				
<b>Column Total</b>		<b>140</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1200</b>				

@0.05 alpha level

Table 1 shows that the calculated chi-square value is 288.65 and the table value is 16.92 with the degree of freedom 9 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value of 288.65 is greater than the table value of 16.92 at 9 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. Volunteered sports coaches will significantly influence sports administration and development among selected secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis.

**Hypothesis 2:** Volunteered sports administrators will not significantly influence sports administration and development among secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis.

**Table 2:** Chi-square Analysis on Volunteered Sports Administrators and Sports Administration and Development.

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	ROW TOTAL	DF	CAL VALUE	TABLE VALUE	REMARK
1	Volunteer organization always sponsored our intramural sports programme	35 (11.6%)	189 (63%)	74 (24.7%)	2 (0.7%)	300				
2	The school sports facilities are provided by volunteer body	15 (5%)	224 (74.7%)	60 (20%)	1 (0.3%)	300				
3	Some volunteered organizations used to donate sports equipment to support the school sports	66 (22%)	180 (60%)	47 (15.7%)	7 (2.3%)	300				
4	My school sports' facility(s) is always renovated by voluntary organization	26 (8.7%)	225 (75%)	49 (16.3%)	0 (0%)	300	9	331.30	16.92	Ho Rejected
<b>ColumnTotal</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1200</b>				

@0.05 alpha level

Table 2 shows that the calculated chi-square value is 331.30 and the table value is 16.92 with the degree of freedom 9 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value of 331.30 is greater than the table value of 16.92 at 9 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis is therefore rejected. This implies volunteered sports administrators will significantly influence sports administration and development among secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis

### Discussion

Hypothesis I: Volunteered sports coaches will not significantly influence sports administration and development among selected secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis. The hypothesis which was tested at 9 degree of freedom of 0.05 alpha level of significance was rejected because the calculated value (288.65) is greater than the table value (16.92). The result revealed that volunteered sports coaches will significantly influence sports administration and development among selected secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis. The finding is in accordance with the findings of Shuyler (2008), who opined that sports volunteerism as those participating in roles undertaken to support and arrange activities, also noted that it is obvious that employed staff of sports clubs, sports associations, sports agencies and sports ministries may never be adequate for effective and efficient administration and development of sports events especially mega sports events. Some ex-internationals can engage in volunteer work by ensuring sports development at grass root and secondary schools. At the grass root level, sports professionals or experts such as coaches, administrators and athletes can volunteer to organize novice athletes or play and coach them without any financial reward.

Hypothesis II: Volunteered sports administrators will not significantly influence sports administration and development among secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis. The result of the computed data

showed that the calculated chi-square value (331.30) is greater than the table value (16.92) at 9 degree of freedom of 0.05 alpha level. Based on the result of the tested hypothesis two, the null hypothesis above was rejected which, therefore, implies that sports philanthropy will significantly influence sports administration and development among secondary school students in Ilorin Metropolis. The result was in line with the findings of Alegi (2000) who asserted that volunteerism is, therefore, one of the main determinants of sport sector capacity and, without volunteers, sports as we know them would be non-existent. Volunteers are fundamental feature of sports system in a multitude of ways and are relied upon heavily at every level, whether grassroots or elite international competitions. Volunteer administrators, coaches, judges and referees are integral to young children as they learn about and participate in community recreational leagues. Highly skilled officials, medical clinicians and sport scientists are also crucial volunteers who ensure the success of sports high performance athletes and conduct the delivery of elite sports in the strength and future of sports in any nation depend substantially on its grassroots' sports developmental plans, strategies and programmes. These are many avenues for sports volunteers to contribute to sports development in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis.

In the contest of this paper, school sports and recreational or competitive sports events or programmes organized at the secondary school for its members or inhabitants, serving and retired coaches, administrators and athletes especially elite athletes can volunteer their time, skills, and resources to form sports clubs that will serve as spring boards for students in secondary schools, thereby ensuring school sports development. Sports experts and elite athletes with good and sound educational background can establish sports academy as part of volunteer service. The former footballer, Chief Segun Odegbami inaugurated multi-sports senior secondary school, an international sports academy in Wasimi Ogun State which is an exemplary of sports volunteerism. The aim of the academy is to take sports to the greater height where youth in secondary schools can combine sports and other academic work. Salami (2009) opined that youths can register and attend the academy to develop and improve their sports skills. Sports talents can be identified and nurtured in secondary schools for the interest of sports development in Ilorin metropolis.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that volunteerism is a global social phenomenon that involves voluntary service-delivery without financial reward, volunteers have been associated with effective and efficient administration and development of sports competition at secondary school levels and at local, national and international levels. Sports volunteer render essential services and contribute to the success of sports competition in our secondary schools in Ilorin Metropolis

### **Recommendations**

In order to ensure efficient service delivery of sports volunteers in subsequent competitions, the following recommendation were made:

1. Sports volunteers with good knowledge and understanding of terrain of sports venues and road network should be used for competitions. The sports volunteers should be well integrated into sports programmes by the sport organizers for them to have a sense of belonging. The school hosting the competition should ensure good rapport between sports volunteers, school sports administrators and other sports participants.
2. The youths especially unemployed youths should be well informed and educated on the concept of sports volunteerism. This will help to avert some questions and misunderstanding between the school sports organizers and volunteers on the issue of financial reward for services rendered during or after competitions.
3. Sports volunteers clubs, centres, agencies and foundations should be established by sports enthusiasts at schools, local government, state and national levels with coordinators to create awareness of the need for volunteerism in sports.

### **References**

- Australian Bureau Statistics (2002). *Involvement in organized sports and physical activity*. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australian.
- Gratton. C. (1997). *Valuing volunteers in U.K sport*. England: sports council.

- Green, B.C. & Caliph, L.(2004). *Paths to volunteer Olympic Games*. In R.A. Stebbins & M. Graham (Eds.) *Volunteering as leisure, Leisure as volunteering: An International Assessment* (pp.49-67), Wallingford: ABI publishing.
- Henderson, K.A. (1994). Issues and trends in Volunteerism. *Journal of Physical Education. Recreation, and Dance*, 56: 30-32
- Hwang, J. (2010). *Does sports really matter to volunteers? Implication from an Empirical comparison between sportsvolunteers and non-sports volunteers*. Ph.D Thesis, the Florida State University
- Parker, S. R. (200). Volunteering-altruism, markets, causes and leisure. *World leisure and Recreation*, 39(3); 4-5.
- Taylor, P. (2003). *Sports volunteering in England 2002*. A report for sport England from the leisure industries research centre, Sheffield.