

ATHLETES' LEVEL OF EDUCATION AS PREDICTOR OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT EXPERIENCES IN SOUTHERN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES: LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Ifeanyichukwu Christian Elendu & Agburuga Obi

Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education
University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, **NIGERIA**

E-mail: dricelendu@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The study investigated athletes' level of education as predictor of sexual harassment experiences in southern Nigerian universities, with highlights of its legal implications. The study was guided with three research questions and three null hypotheses tested at .05 alpha level. A descriptive survey design was adopted, and a structured questionnaire with overall reliability co-efficient of .8735, and subscales $\alpha = .7627$ (gender harassment); $\alpha = .8520$ (unwanted sexual attention), and $\alpha = .9071$ (sexual coercion) was used to collect data from the athletes (N=1,214). Descriptive statistics of percentage and inferential statistics of simple regression were employed to analyze the data. The result showed that undergraduate athletes mostly experienced gender harassment, unwanted sexual attention and sexual coercion than postgraduate athletes. Athletes' level of education had significant relationship with sexual harassment experiences. The legal implication is that as long as there is an incidence of sexual harassment among athletes irrespective of their level of education, there may continuously be cases of sexual harassment in the law court. It was recommended among others that sports organizers or managers should pay more attention to undergraduate athletes with technological surveillance equipment such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera in and around sports arena. Victims (i.e. sportspersons especially athletes) of sexual harassment should lodge official complaints to appropriate authorities or take a legal action against the perpetrators in the court of law.

Keywords: Sexual harassment, level of education, athletes, legal implications.