

## **CORRELATE OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE AND MODE OF DRESSING ON STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY SPORTS IN SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study investigated correlate of parental influence and mode of dressing on students' participation in university sports in South-South, Nigeria. Two research questions and two hypotheses were formulated for the study. The descriptive survey design method was used in this study. The population of this study comprised of all the 330 student-athletes and sports administrators of selected South-South, universities. The simple random sampling procedures was used to arrive at the sample size of 302. An instrument tagged "Parental Influence and Mode of Dressing Questionnaire (PIMDQ)" was used for data collection. Face and content validities were ensured. The reliability is 0.79. Mean and Rank Order Statistics were used to answer the research questions. The inferential statistics of simple linear regression was used to test the two hypotheses at 0.05 alpha levels. It was found out among others, that parental influence correlates with students' participation in sports among universities in South-South, Nigeria. The findings also reveal that mode of dressing among the different religious sect influenced students' participation in university sports. It was recommended among others that parents should allow their children to make choice in activities based on their interest despite the fact that they solely depend on them for their survival in life.

**Keywords:** Parental Influence, Mode of Dressing, Sports, Participation, University.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Parental influence is quite indispensable to students at all levels, especially, new comers of higher institutions. The need for parental influence becomes more profound as one moves from a post primary school to tertiary institution. This is because in the higher institutions, the child has to depend on the family as the child cannot meet his/her demands of life. The child has to seek approval and has to avoid disapproval in his/her day to day behaviour in learning the various skills, attainment of knowledge, development of attitude and introduction to competitive and recreation sports (Sohi in Deemua, 2015).

In every society, parents attempt to socialize their children are determined by what they think they ought to be, and these attempts are in turn influenced by the social settings within which the family lives. The parents influence everything that child does because the child initially is totally dependent upon his parents. Then obviously influence the child's early development of motor competencies, interest in physical activities and sports (Martens in Deemua 2015).

In some foreign studies, Kenyon and Mepherston (1973), claimed that college Tennis and IceHocke players were plainly influenced by their fathers. Sohi and Yusuf (1987) concluded that the interactional influences of both-parents had considerably contributed in socializing athletes into competitive sports. They explained further that parents' effective reinforcement

will motivate the athletes to continue to participation in sports. Their study shows that parental influence is crucial in socializing male and female adolescents and adults into sports.

Fadoju (1999), mentioned that socio-economic background of the parents is one of the strongest variables contributing to children's participation in sports. He again re-affirmed, that participating father in sports is more likely to influence the children to take part, whereas, a non-participated one is more likely to discourage them. Moreover a participating father may influence the children in their choice of sports and he may buy equipment too. On the other hand, if a father plays Hockey and was once injured, he may as well discourage his kids from participating.

It is usually believed that Nigerian culture forbids indecent dressing particularly by women who are barred from wearing some types of dresses, that expose their bodies. It might only be said that influence of culture is felt most in female participation in competitive sports. Some females irrespective of their religion are not prepared to participate in sports for the fear of exposing their laps. Such sports practice was taken to be immoral since it was a practice that attracted men to women for sexual harassment.

In explaining Muslim girls apathy to sports participation, Hasina in Babatunden (2001) stressed that the factors which inhibit Muslims young women involving in physical activities are family responsibilities, cultural values and lack of understanding of and respect for Muslim women's view. The researcher maintained that the problem surrounding participation is the way in which sports and recreational activities are organized and made available to the public. Wearing of shorts by girls in a particular competition discourages them from participation in sports. In support of this assertion, Orunaboka in Deemua (2015), maintained that "the reluctance of women to expose their bodies discourage them from featuring in sporting activities".

Parents play a pivotal role in the socialization process of children. The prevalent body of literature on childhood socialization has strongly emphasized the role of parents. Parents, no doubt in most societies are the only ones assigned the responsibility for child upbringing in desirable directions, by supervising, teaching, encouraging and disciplining children as they go through the maturational stages. No wonder Tella (2003), asserted that parents play an invaluable role in laying the foundation for their children learning and achievement. In line with this assertion, Ryan (2002) opined that adolescents making the right choice in life is positively related to having parents who enforce rules at home.

Currently, there is increasing focus on the role of parents' dispositions and intentions as predicated by their influence on one another. The implication of this is the assumption that parents have a powerful impact based on their educational background on the behaviour children develop and the acquisition of valuable skills in life (Alika & Onomiroro, 2016:141).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Parental influence and mode of dressing have a powerful impact on the upbringing, achievement and on the behaviour children develop later in life. No wonder Tella (2003) asserted that parents play an invaluable role in laying the foundation for their children learning and achievement. It is obvious that student-athletes depend tremendously upon their parents as the child cannot meet his/her demands in life. This makes such students to always seek parental support for whatever they want to do in life particularly in learning various skills, and introduction to competitive and recreational sports. The implication of this is that

if parents are sports antagonists, students from such parents might be requested or instructed not to participate in sports and because such children are dependent on the parents for their needs they have no option than to obey the instruction of their parents thereby affecting their participation and interest in sports. So there is need to ascertain the relationship between parental influence and mode of dressing during sports competition on students' participation in university sports in south, south, Nigeria.

### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The study aims at correlating parental influence and mode of dressing on students participation in university sports in South-South Nigeria. Specifically, the objective of the study is to:

1. Find out whether there is relationship between parental influence and students' participation in university sports in South-South, Nigeria.
2. Determine whether there is relationship between mode of dressing and students' participation in university sports in South-South, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the relationship between parental influence and students' participation in sports in university sports in South-South, Nigeria?
2. What is the relationship between mode of dressing and students' participating in university sports in university sports in South-South, Nigeria.?

### **Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant relationship between parental influence and students' participation in university sports, in south-south, Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relationship between mode of dressing and students' participation in university sports, in south-south, Nigeria.

### **Methodology**

The design of the study is correlational survey. The population of the study consisted of 330 student-athletes and sports administrators in selected universities in south-south, Nigeria. The sample consists of 302 respondents from these institutions who have been identified to actively involved in competitive and recreational sports. The simple random sampling techniques were used to select six (6) universities out of the existing Federal and State Universities in South-South, Nigeria.

The instrument used was a questionnaire tagged "Parental Influence and Mode of Dressing Questionnaire (PIMDQ)" developed by the researcher. The questionnaire was validated by experts. Using the test re-test method, the reliability calculated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation yielded an index of 0.79. Administration of the instrument to a period of two weeks, and 302 copies were completely filled and returned for data analysis. Mean scores and standard Deviation were used to answer the research questions, while simple linear regression was employed to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

## **RESULTS**

### **Answer to the Research Questions**

#### **Research Question 1**

Does parental influence correlate with intercollegiate sports participation among Universities in South-South States of Nigeria?

**Table 1: Parental Influence as correlate of Intercollegiate Sports Participation among Universities in the South-South States of Nigeria?**

| S/N | Items   | Sample size | $\bar{X}$   | SD          | Decision         |
|-----|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Students from parents with initial sports orientation participate in sporting activities more | 302         | 3.36        | .62         | Correlate        |
| 2.  | Fathers influence their wards into sports participation than the mothers                      | 302         | 3.28        | .72         | Correlate        |
| 3   | The socio-economic background of my parents socializes me into competitive sports             | 302         | 3.20        | .69         | Correlate        |
|     | <b>Grand Mean</b>   | <b>302</b>  | <b>3.28</b> | <b>0.67</b> | <b>Correlate</b> |

By the statistical analysis of the above table, the respondents agree that students with initial sports orientation from parents ( $\bar{X} = 3.36$ ,; SD = .62) fathers influencing their ward to participate in sports ( $\bar{X} = 3.28$ , SD = .72) and the socio-economic background of parents ( $\bar{X} = 3.20$ ; SD = .69) socialize the athletes more into competitive sports among Universities in South-South States of Nigeria. With the grand mean of 3.28 parental influence encourages students and wards to participate in sports among Universities in the South-South States of Nigeria.

### Research Question 2

Does mode of dressing correlate with intercollegiate sports participation among Universities in the South-South States of Nigeria?

**Table 2: Mode of Dressing as Correlate of Intercollegiate Sports participation among Universities in the South-South States of Nigeria.**

| S/N | Items   | Sample size | $\bar{X}$   | SD          | Decision         |
|-----|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Wearing of shorts by girls in particular religious sect did not discourage them from intercollegiate sports | 302         | 3.38        | .66         | Correlate        |
| 2.  | Fear of exposing laps by female accounts for their lack of interest in sports                               | 302         | 3.21        | .69         | Correlate        |
| 3   | The reluctance of women to expose their bodies influences female participation in competitive sports.       | 302         | 3.36        | 1.27        | Correlate        |
|     | <b>Grand Mean</b>   | <b>302</b>  | <b>3.31</b> | <b>0.87</b> | <b>Correlate</b> |

Table 2 shows that respondents agree that wearing of shorts by girls in a particular religious sect ( $\bar{X} = 3.38$ ; SD = .66), fear of exposing laps by females during sports competition ( $\bar{X} = 3.21$ ; SD = .69), and the reluctance of women to exposed their bodies during sports competition ( $\bar{X} = 3.36$ ; SD = 1.27) do not hinder females participation in sports competition. With the grand mean of 3.31, mode of dressing does not stop females participation in intercollegiate sports among Universities in South-South states of Nigeria.

**Hypothesis 1**

There is no significant correlation between parental influence and students' participation in sports among Universities in South-South, Nigeria.

**Table 3: Summary of relationship between parental influence and sports participation.**

| Variables          | R    | r <sup>2</sup> | df       | Alpha level | f-cal   | f-crit | p-value | Decision |
|--------------------|------|----------------|----------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| Parental influence | .528 | .279           | 1<br>300 | .05         | 116.210 | 3.84   | .000    | Reject   |

The result shows that  $P < 0.05$  which reveals a significant correlation between parental influence and sports participation among universities in the South-South states of Nigeria. The R-value (.528) going by Ejifugha's (1998) criteria shows a positive moderate relationship between parental influence and level of sports participation. The F-cal (116.210) is greater than the f-critical value (3.84) at degree of freedom of 1-300 and at 0.05 alpha level. The null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, the null hypothesis that parental influence will not significantly correlate with level of sports participation among universities in the South-South state of Nigeria is rejected. The value of regression co-efficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>)(.279) reveal that there is 27.9% variation in level of sports participation which could be accounted for by the parental influence on sports participation.

**Hypothesis 2**

There is no significant correlation between mode of dressing and students' participation in sports among universities in south-south, Nigeria.

**Table 4: Summary of Relationship between Mode of Dressing and Sports Participation**

| Variables        | R    | r <sup>2</sup> | df       | Alpha level | f-cal   | f-crit | p-value | Decision |
|------------------|------|----------------|----------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|----------|
| Mode of dressing | .609 | .371           | 1<br>300 | .05         | 176.808 | 3.84   | .000    | Reject   |

The statistical analysis in Table 4 shows that the r-Value for mode of dressing is .609, which shows a positive high relationship between mode of dressing and level of sports participation. The F-cal (176.808) is greater than the F-critical value (3.84) at df of 1-300 and at 0.05 alpha level. The null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is significant relationship between mode of dressing and level of sports participation. The value of variation in level of sports participation which could be accounted for by the mode of dressing of athletes.

**DISCUSSION OF FINDING**

The findings of the study are discussed under the following sub-headings;

**Parental Influence and Intercollegiate Sport Participation**

Parental influence correlates significantly with sports participation among universities in the South-South of Nigeria. The findings show that parental influence would promote sports participation among athletes in Nigerian universities. It is obvious that student-athletes depend tremendously upon their parents as the child cannot meet his/her demands in life. This makes such students to always seek parental support for whatever they want to do in life particularly in learning various skills, and introduced to competitive and recreational sports.

This finding correspond with Wilbert (1984) who stressed that parental interest in sports and parental encouragement to participate in sports would amount to more students sports participation. The implication of this is that if parents are sports antagonists, the children from such parents might be requested or instructed not to participate in sports and because such children are dependent on the parents for their needs they have no option than to obey the instruction of their parents. This finding is in line with studies like Fadoju (1999) in Babatunde (2001) which established that students' participation in some sport is a function of parents especially fathers being stronger socializing sports agents than mothers. Often as identified by Fadoju (1999), a participating father in sports is more likely to influence the choice of sports through the procurement of sports equipment (relevant to parents desired sports) for his children in order to motivate them to participate.

To get better attitude of students' sports socialization, parents should be given orientation on the role of sports in the wholesome development of their wards and children.

### **Mode of Dressing and Intercollegiate Sports Participation**

The results show that mode of dressing correlates with level of sports participation among universities in the South-South States of Nigeria. From this result, it is imperative to state that mode of dressing influence sports participation among universities athletes in south-south states of Nigeria. It is usually believed that Nigerian culture forbids indecent dressing particularly by women who are barred from wearing some types of dress, that expose their bodies. It might only be said that influence of culture is felt most in female participation in competitive sports. Some females irrespective of their religion are not prepared to participate in sports for the fear of exposing their laps. Such sports practice was taken to be immoral since it was a practice that attracted men to women for sexual harassment.

Orunaboka in Babatunde (2001) in support of this finding upheld the view that the reluctance of women to expose their bodies discouraged them from featuring in sporting activities. The finding of this study shows that men are often involved in sports more than female as nobody cares how men dress during sporting activities. To increase the chances of female participation in sports the university authorities should re-define intercollegiate sports to consider the shared beliefs and values of Muslims and students with other religious background.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings, it is concluded that parental influence correlate significantly with sports participation among universities in South-South, Nigeria. The findings also show that parental influence would promote sports participation among athletes in Nigerian universities. It is obvious that students -athletes depend tremendously upon their parents as the child cannot meet his/her demands in life. This makes such students to always seek parental support for whatever they want to do in life particularly in learning various skills and become introduced to competitive and recreational sports.

The findings also showed that mode of dressing correlate with level of sports participation among universities in south-south, Nigeria. From this result, it is imperative to state that mode of dressing influence sports participation among universities athletes in south-south, Nigeria.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. On the basis of these findings it is recommended that parents should not use their influence as a yardstick to make choice for their children, should they solely depend on them for their survival in life.
2. The public should be properly sensitized stressing the values and importance of female participation in sports for a change of societal attitude that may lead to discouraging, student athletes from involvement in sports.
3. Both Christians and Muslims should incorporate sports into their programme of event in order to sensitize the public and stimulate females' interest in sports.

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