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PERCEPTION OF STAKEHOLDERS ON SPORTS FACILITIES PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE IN SELECTED UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH WEST NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This paper examines the provision of sports facilities, and maintenance in selected universities in South-Western Nigeria. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire which was administered on sports men and women. Personnel responsible for maintenance of sports facilities in the universities were also sampled. The study incorporated all the fifteen sports featured at the Nigeria University Games Association (NUGA) competitions. Three federal universities were purposively selected because these have facilities for all the fifteen sports and have hosted national and international sporting events. Data obtained were analysed using frequency distribution, percentages and mean response analysis. The findings revealed that facilities for the physically challenged to access and make use of the facilities were inadequate. A reasonable number of respondents (60%) were not satisfied with the number of sanitary facilities. Most of the respondents (70%) were not satisfied with the quality of the locker rooms. The study found the mean downtime of sports facilities to be 264 hours, with the main reason being insufficient funds. The study therefore recommended adequate funding as a key factor for improving the response rate to maintenance requests which in turn would reduce maintenance downtime.*

KEYWORDS: Sports Facilities, Maintenance, Provision, Downtime.

INTRODUCTION

Nigerian universities should provide students and staff the opportunity to participate in sporting activities. Most universities offer Physical and Health Education programmes and need sports facilities to be able to carry out their educational requirements. The merits of participation in school-based sports activities have long been established globally [1; 2; 3; 4; 5]. Sports facilities promote leisure time and therefore require timely and adequate maintenance services [6]. In the view of Chan *et. al*. [7] these types of facilities have sensitive user requirements which are related to the environmental factors. Jagemann [8] placed premium on sports environment and noted the environmental criterion to be one of the influential factors affecting the usage. Adequate provision of sports facilities and their effective maintenance will provide the structure within which to strategically carry out optimization of the life cycle of such university assets in accordance with the business needs of a university as well as service delivery requirements.

The past decade has seen the rapid development of sports in many countries like England, Spain, Italy, United States of America and Germany. However, in developing countries (like Nigeria), there is increasing concern on the quality of the athletes not being at par with those in developed nations. This is probably because much attention has not been given by government to the provision and maintenance of sports facilities in Nigeria, particularly in the intellectual centres such as the universities [9]. Quality games need quality players and mental toughness plays a key role in achieving success in every game played [10]. It is believed that one major reason why Nigeria has not been doing well in international sporting competitions

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is that much attention has not being given to sporting activities in the Nigerian universities. Therefore, if developing countries such as Nigeria wish to achieve success at international sporting events, there is need for all concerned in the field of sports to develop and maintain sports facilities in the universities. Universities are places with a pool of young and talented sports men and women with the necessary mental skills to cope with performance requirements at national and international games.

Talabi [11] noted that the attainment of a world class status in sports is a reflection of the provision and availability of top standard sport facilities. He added that most developing countries and Nigeria in particular, wish to arrive at the level of the developed countries sports-wise overnight. However developing countries seem to lag behind in the provision of the necessary sport facilities, while the few provided are either obsolete, not functional or substandard [11; 12].University stadium or sport complex is an important indicators to measure universities physical education, its function not only is required to meet school sports education, sports events undertaking, but also it should provide social services for mass sports activities development [13]. One of the ways of attracting students to participate in sport activities is by providing standard sport facilities. The provision of these facilities will promote a strong sporting culture in the university community since students spend large amount of time in schools [14].

Existing works relating to the provision and use of sports facilities include [15]. Bartlett [16] studied assessment of performance quality standards of 25 football pitches in 2004 and 2005. Bhukar [17] studied the relationship between performance in sports and the quality of facilities provided to the athletes. Londhe [18] and Singh and patel [19], focused on sports facilities provision and the performance of athletes. Adeniran and Ikpo [20] only examined the major attributes of sports buildings, which distinguish them from other building types. Akinsola *et. al*., [21] investigated the state of sports stadium facilities. Oseghale [9] studied maintenance strategies for sports for sports facilities in selected universities in southwetern Nigeria.

Previous studies focused on various maintenance practices in other sectors. Researchers that have examined the level of sports facilities provision in universities and the maintenance of sports facilities and are scanty and limited, hence this study. This paper therefore examines provision of sports facilities, and the level maintenance in selected universities in South West, Nigeria.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study population comprised sportsmen and women and staff of maintenance department in selected universities in south west Nigeria. The sample frame covered all the universities in Southwestern Nigeria accredited by the National University Commission (NUC). Seven Federal universities, nine State universities and sixteen private universities, totalling thirty two (32) universities have been identified in South west Nigeria based on information on the web site of NUC. The sample frame also covered all 15 games featured by the Nigeria University Games Association (NUGA) namely: badminton, basketball, chess, cricket, football, handball, hockey, judo, squash racket, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, track and field and volleyball.

All NUGA sports and the attendant facilities were considered but purposive sampling was necessary in the case of the number of institutions. For the purpose of this study a purposive

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sampling was used to select the Universities. The choice of Universities selected for this study was dependent on the Universities having facilities in and for taking part in all the 15 NUGA sports and for having hosted National and International sporting events.

A pilot survey conducted for this study revealed that only three federal universities [Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; University of Ibadan and University of Lagos] had taken all the 15 different sports for the study and had hosted National and international sporting events. The respondents comprised four members of NUGA technical committee, two coaches from each of the fifteen games in each university, the Director of Sports, two other members of the Sports Council, and two groundsmen from each University. From each selected University the Director of Works, four maintenance Supervisors, two administrative staff, and eighteen maintenance operatives were selected from the Maintenance Units. From the user's perspective, six sports men and women (4 male, 2 female) were selected from each of the fifteen games in the selected Universities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis is focused on the general particulars of respondents, provision of sports facilities, and operational issues relating to maintenance of sports facilities. The analysis extended to the respondent's level of satisfaction with the sport facilities in relation to compliance with national and international standards.

General Information on Respondents Sampled.

The general information about the respondents is presented in Table 1. Of the four hundred and fifty four (454) copies of the questionnaires administered, three hundred and forty-two copies were retrieved. Of this number, two hundred and sixty one copies (71.7%) were retrieved from sports men and women in the universities sampled. This was lower than the 90% response from the staff of maintenance department, in which 81 copies of the questionnaire were returned out of the 90 copies administered.

Table 1: General information about the respondents in southwest Nigeria

Respondents	Frequency	Percent
OAU	91	34.9
UI	88	33.7
UNILAG	82	31.4
Status of respondents		
Staff	43	16.5
Students	218	83.5
Positions held		
Chairmen	7	2.7
Directors	7	2.7
Coaches	24	9.2
Captains	65	24.9
Members	158	60.5
Gender		
Male	201	77.0
Female	60	23.0

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Total	261	100
Years of experience in sports		
1-5 Yrs	98	37.6
6-10 Yrs	58	22.2
11-15 Yrs	52	19.9
16-20 Yrs	28	10.7
above 20 Yrs	25	9.6
Hours of participation in sports		
1-5 hrs/wk	118	45.2
6-10 hrs/wk	61	23.4
11-15 hrs/wk	48	18.4
≥21 hrs/wk	11	4.2

Level of participation		
University	211	80.8
National	33	12.6
International	17	6.6
Hours spent training		
1-5 hrs/wk	130	49.8
6-10 hrs/wk	66	25.3
11-15hrs/wk	37	14.2
16-20 hrs/wk	17	6.5
21hrs&Above	11	4.2

Hours spent competing on facility per year			
1-5 hrs	171		65.5
6-10 hrs	53	20.3	
11-15 hrs	33	12.6	
16-20 hrs	4	1.1	
21and Above	1	0.4	
Total	261	100	

The highlights of the distribution of the respondents were that 2.7% of the respondents have been chairmen and directors of sports councils at one time in the universities, 9.2% were coaches, 24.9% were captains and 60.5% were members of the universities sport teams. This gives credibility to the responses obtained.

The hours spent weekly on training reflect the availability of the facilities as well as the intensity of use. This therefore calls for regular inspection and maintenance. The levels of participation in sports showed that the respondents had adequate knowledge and experience to rate the physical conditions of the sports facilities and their level of compliance to national and international standard and that the information supplied would be reliable.

Provision of Sports Facilities in Selected Universities in Southwest, Nigeria

In the three universities sampled sports facilities were located within the central campus area. Table 2 gives the details of the analysis to determine the adequacy of sports facilities with

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ancillary services. The three universities sampled had facilities for the fifteen (15) NUGA games.

The result showed that the respondents rated the facilities to be fairly adequate contrary to the findings of the authors in [18] and [19] which showed that sports facilities in universities campus were inadequate. The mean result on the adequacy of entrance and exit into the sports facilities revealed that the entrance and exit into the sports facilities were adequate. The result on the level of restriction on the use of sports facilities was not consistent. However unlimited access into all their sports facilities was only observed in university of Lagos (Table 2).

The result of the rating of the sport facility as regards provision for the physically challenged showed that 21.1% of the respondents indicated not adequate, 15.3% indicated less adequate, 38.7% indicated fairly adequate, while 18.0% indicated adequate and 6.9% indicated very adequate. The mean result put the rating on a fairly adequate scale. It is possible that provision was not adequately made for the physically challenged at the planning and design stage of the sports complex. On the provision of toilets, about 60% of the respondents gave a score below average.

Table 2: Provision of Sports Facilities in Selected Universities in Southwest, Nigeria.

Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Adequacy of sports facility		
Not adequate	10	3.8
Less adequate	13	5.0
Fairly adequate	101	38.7
Adequate	95	36.4
Very adequate	42	16.1
Adequacy of entrance and exit to sport facilities		
Not adequate	12	4.6
Less adequate	14	5.4
Fairly adequate	51	19.5
Adequate	126	48.3
Very adequate	58	22.2
Provision for physically challenge		
Not Adequate	55	21.1
Less Adequate	40	15.3
Fairly Adequate	101	38.7
Adequate	47	18.0
Very Adequate	18	6.9
Adequacy of toilets provided		
Not Adequate	44	16.9
Less Adequate	42	16.1
Fairly Adequate	66	25.3
Adequate	89	34.1
Very Adequate	20	7.6

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Adequacy of locker rooms		
Not Adequate	30	11.5
Less Adequate	36	13.8
Fairly Adequate	68	26.1
Adequate	107	40.9
Very Adequate	20	7.7
Adequacy of car parks		
Not Adequate	7	2.7
Less Adequate	26	10.0
Fairly Adequate	67	25.7
Adequate	124	47.4
Very Adequate	37	14.0
Service by public transport		
Very poorly serviced	16	6.1
Poorly serviced	42	16.1
Adequately serviced	97	37.2
Well serviced	65	24.9
Very well serviced	41	15.7
Adequacy of bus parking space provided		
Not adequate	14	5.4
Less adequate	22	8.4
Fairly adequate	95	36.4
Adequate	88	33.7
Very adequate	42	16.1

The rating of locker rooms ranged between “not adequate” and “fairly adequate”. The implication of this is that the respondents were not satisfied with the locker rooms in their sports complexes.

Analysis of the results on the adequacy of provision of car parks reveals that 61.4% of the respondents rated the provision of car parks as above average. Analysis of the result on the level the sports facility service by public transport in the universities sampled showed that 77.8% of the respondents agree that their sports facility were adequately serviced by public transport. The implication is that all the students on campus can easily access the sports facility. However 50.2% of the respondents rated the bus parking space provided in their sports facilities below average. The implication of this is that during competition when all the universities participating in the competition come with their long bus there would be limited space for parking.

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Response to Maintenance Request

Table 3: Response to maintenance request

Respondents	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Response to maintenance request			
Within 24 hrs	22	8.4	8.4
Within 1-3 days	48	18.4	26.8
Within a week	51	19.5	46.3
Within 1-2 wks	21	8.0	54.3
Within a month	14	5.4	59.7
Within 1-2 months	13	5.0	64.7
More than 2 months	92	35.3	100.0
Total	261	100	
What is responsible for delay?			
Fund	56	69.1	69.1
Accessibility	8	9.9	79
Building shape	2	2.5	81.5
Lack of maintenance manual	6	7.4	88.9
Lack of maintenance personnel	7	8.6	97.5
Lack of appropriate technology	2	2.5	100.0
Total	81	100	

This showed that 67.4% of the respondents rated the frequency of maintenance work below average. This result is unacceptable because sports facilities belonged to the hospitality industry which is required to provide services at all times and therefore should be adequately maintained.

The analysis of response time to maintenance request showed that 53.7% of the respondents rated the rate of response to maintenance request to be over one week. This result would have been suitable for other facilities types but in sport facilities which are required to provide sport at all time is not good enough. The implication is that the facilities means downtime is eleven (11) days i.e. 264 hours. The analysis also revealed that 69.1% of the maintenance staff agreed that the main reason responsible for delay in response to maintenance request was insufficient funds. The finding agreed with [22] which showed that maintenance performance suffers from insufficient allocation of maintenance funds. The implication is that sport facilities maintenance were not adequately funded in the universities sampled.

The study provided information on the availability and adequacy of sports facilities in Nigeria universities. Also the study provides reliable data on the state of sports facilities, and sports facilities maintenance in universities in order to improve their availability and enhance reliability. The finding of this research will enable the university community, university management and the sport council to know the adequacy of sports facilities provision in their universities and their level of maintenance.

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CONCLUSION

This study assessed sports facilities provision, and maintenance in selected universities in Southwestern Nigeria. The three universities sampled have facilities for the fifteen NUGA games. The management of the sports complexes maintained controlled access into the sports facilities to reduce the rate of vandalism. Adequate provision were not made in the design for the physically challenged to access and make use of the facilities. Respondents (60%) were not satisfied with the number of toilets provided. Adequate provision was not made for bus parking spaces in the sports complexes. Respondents (70%) were not satisfied with the changing rooms provided.

The research found the maintenance downtime to be over one week (264 hours). The major reason for the delay in response to maintenance request was unavailability of funds. The research also found that two universities out of the three sampled were not having financial allocation for the maintenance of the sports facilities. The study therefore recommended that adequate fund be made available to maintenance department and the sports council to enable it stock materials and components that fail frequently. This will help in improving response rate to maintenance request and reduce maintenance downtime.

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