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# Assessment of Bureacracy as An Administrative Constraint to The Development of Sports Among The Operators of The National Sports Commission of Nigeria



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## ABSTRACT

The study examined bureaucracy as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria. One (1) research question and one (1) null hypothesis were formulated to direct the study. The population of the study consisted of 800 personnel of the national sports commission using multi-stage and simple random sampling techniques of sample size Of 200 subjects for the study. four points Likert scale format questionnaire was developed and validated by three experts from the department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Prince Abubakar Audu University, Anyigba, Kogi State Nigeria. A reliability coefficient of 0.80 was obtained through test retest of 18 students who were not part of the main work. The instrument was administered by the researcher and research assistant to the selected subjects for the study. The data collated was analyzed using inferential statistical of three chi-squares ( $X^2$ ) statistical method The outcome of the study revealed that Bureaucracy is a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria, it was recommended that Unnecessary administrative bureaucratic structures in the management of sports in Nigeria should be removed and avoided. It was further recommended that seminars, conferences and workshops should be organized periodically for the staff of the National sports commission on the dangers poises by bureaucratic administrative constrain for sports development in Nigeria.



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## INTRODUCTION

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2005) defined sport as “any physical activity which has the character of play and which involves a struggle with oneself or with others, or a confrontation with Natural Elements in a sport”. If this activity involves competition it must be performed with a spirit of sportsmanship. Bucknor, (2015) explained that sports is a game or contest involving individuals and group of individual skills or physical powers on which money or reward is at stake and is also done for personal and natural love. He also stated that sport is important to the societies and that it is a medium that permeates every aspect of life. Thus physical educators are therefore interested in studying the influence of sports and the socio-cultural complex of the society. Ajisafe (2005) stated that sports are such activities that grant amusement whether competitive or recreational, and it includes: hunting, fishing, mountaineering and a host of others. According to Ekpenyong (2008) sports is human activity that involves specific administrative organization and historical background of rules and regulations.

According to Obiyemi(2013) Bureaucracy refers to the administrative system governing any large institution. Hernandez (2015) maintained that the word ‘bureaucracy’ has developed negative connotations. Bureaucracies are criticized for their complexity, their inefficiency, and their inflexibility The dehumanizing effects of excessive bureaucracy were a major theme in the work of Franz Kafka and were central to his masterpiece *The Trial* The elimination of unnecessary bureaucracy is a key concept in modern managerial theory, and has been a central issue in numerous political campaigns. The German sociologist Max Weber argued that bureaucracy constitutes the most efficient and rational way in which human activity can be organized and that systematic processes and organized hierarchies were necessary to maintain order, maximize efficiency and eliminate favoritism. But even Weber saw bureaucracy as a threat to individual freedom, in which the increasing bureaucratization of human life traps individuals in an "iron cage" of rule-based, rational control. In Ancient China, the scholar Confucius established a complex system of rigorous procedures governing relationships in family, religion and politics. Confucius sought to construct an organized state free from corruption, (Jeffrey, 2012). In Imperial China, the bureaucratic government was headed by a Chief Counselor, (Frederick W. (2007) and the positions were of a “graded civil service” and

competitive exams were held to determine who held positions, (Kettle, 2016) The upper levels of the system held nine grades, and the officials wore distinctive clothing, (McKnight, 2015). The Confucian Classics codified a set of values held by the officials. By the early 19th century, bureaucratic forms of administration were firmly in place across continental Europe, North America and much of Asia. Thinkers like John Stuart Mill and Karl Marx began to theorize about the economic functions and power structures of bureaucracy in contemporary life. Max Weber was the first to endorse bureaucracy as a necessary feature of modernity and by the late 19th century bureaucratic forms had begun their spread from government to other large-scale institutions. The trend toward increased bureaucratization continued in the 20th century and in the modern era practically all organized institutions rely on bureaucracy to organize tasks. They do this by processing and controlling records and information ("the files"), and administer complex systems of rules. It is not strange therefore that bureaucracy has become so rooted in the administrative practices of the national sports commission of Nigeria Based on the above reason the researcher interest is to assess the bureaucracy as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria (Kelth & Fessler 2016).

### **Purpose of the study;**

The main purpose of this study was to assess Bureaucrat as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria.

### **Research Questions;**

For the purpose of this study one (1) research question was formulated to direct the study,

**RQ1:** Will bureaucracy a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission in Nigeria?

### **Hypothesis Testing;**

For the purpose of this study one (1) null hypothesis was formulated to direct the study

**HQ1:** Bureaucracy will not be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operator of national sport commission in Nigeria.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The information required to assess bureaucracy as an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria was already available without manipulation of variable, Therefore, Ex-post facto research design method was used for the study. The sample for this study consisted of three hundred and eighty-five(385) subjects from the population of two thousand (2000)of the national sports commission. The subjects were selected at random from directorate cadre staff of the National sport commission, presidents and board members of the national sports federations and commissioners and directors of the state sports councils in the 36 states and the federal capital territory the main instrument used was a well-structured and validated questionnaire to elicit appropriate information from the respondents. The designed questionnaire was presented to the experts in sports management in the department of Human Kinetics and Health Education Prince Abubakar Audu University Anyigba, Kogi State Nigeria, for their input and necessary comments. Their suggestions and corrections were adopted in the final printout of the questionnaire which was personally distributed to the selected subjects of the national sports commission for the study. The filled and returned questionnaire were however collated and chi-square statistics was used to analysis the data collated at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**RESULTS**

**The result of the study is presented below;**

Table 1; Summary on t-test on Bureaucracy will not be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operator of national sport commission in Nigeria.

Variable	Mean	STD	SE	DF	t-value	P.	t-critical	Decision
Assessment of bureaucracy	4.1135	0.372	0.024	499	14.710	0.002	1.96	0.000 rejected
Fixed mean	3.500	0.000	0.000					

**T (499)=1.96<0.05**

The result of the above table one (1) revealed that the mean score test was 4.1135 with a standard deviation of 0.372 while the calculated T-value of 14.710 was obtained and higher than the critical value of 1.96 and the degree of freedom was 499. Hence the null hypothesis which states that bureaucracy will not be a significant administrative constraint to sports development among the operators of the national sports commission in Nigeria was rejected.

### **Findings of the study:**

1. The study revealed that bureaucracy is an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of national sports commission of Nigeria

### **Discussion of findings:**

Administrative bureaucracy as a constraint to the development of sports in Nigeria was tested. From the result obtained in the test, the respondents agreed that administrative bureaucracy is a significant constraint to the development of sports in the country. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. The problems of bureaucracy are associated with unnecessary bottleneck and red-tapism which result in most program not being executed on time and in most cases not completed while some policies are known to be wrongly implemented. This finding is consistent with the report of Kelth and Fessler(2009), who stated that bureaucracy is an 'administrative constraints that often lead to either poor implementation of sports blue prints or impose a negative impact on the development of the sport particularly in Nigeria. In the National Sports Commission, process of work is still in line with the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which, if applied to the letter, does not encourage taking decision when faced with an emergency situation without recourse to approval from the overall boss. In some instances, before a directive are given by superior authorities, it would have been too late to control and safe situation. A case in point, was during the 2003 All African Games, in Abuja Nigeria, when Team Nigeria Athletes needed extra training equipment and the equipment is in the store but approval had to come from the Director of Sports who was not available to give directive for the release of the equipment. in line with the above, Ladani (2016) concluded that the athletes refused to go for training sessions for two days, the Director eventually gave approval and the equipment were released, but the athletes have already missed some days of training period The result of the test revealed that the variable was perceived to be a significant constraint to the development of sports in the country.

The null hypothesis which stated that Bureaucracy will not be a significant administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operator of the national sports commission in Nigeria. was therefore rejected.

## **CONCLUSION;**

Based on the findings from the study, it was concluded that;

1. Bureaucracy is an administrative constraint to the development of sports among the operators of the national sports commission of Nigeria.

## **Recommendations;**

In the light of this finding of this study, the following suggestions were made;

1. Unnecessary administrative bureaucratic structures in the management of sports among the operators of national sports commission should be remove henceforth.
2. Seminars, conferences and workshops should be organized periodically for the operators of national sports commission on the dangers poises by bureaucratic administration for the development of sports in Nigeria.

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