

**INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN
PROMOTING GRASSROOT SPORTS**

BY

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MAT NO: EDU1804179

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN KINETICS AND SPORTS SCIENCE

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
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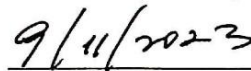
CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by AGHAEGBUNEM EZIAFA TERRY in the Department of Human Kinetic and Sport Science, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin city. It is adequate in scope and quality for the partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the Bachelor of Science (Ed).

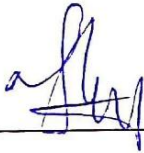


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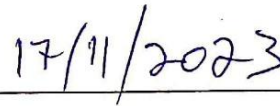


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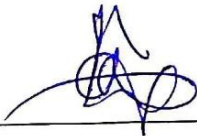


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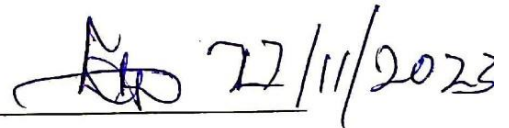


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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty for His mercies and support all through my stay in the University of Benin.

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My sincere gratitude goes to Almighty God inn spirit and in Truth for his faith, hope, love , wisdom, and strength that never ceases, for helping me through all this years of my academic pursuit, who has given me strength go through this ‘time’ of my life.

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ABSTRACT

Grassroots sports development is a crucial component of a nation's sporting ecosystem, serving as the breeding ground for future athletes and a source of community well-being. In Nigeria, where sports have historically held a special place in the hearts of its people, understanding the role of government in fostering grassroots sports is of paramount importance. This study delves into the state of grassroots sports development in Oredo Local Government and assesses the influence of government policies and interventions.

The research methodology involved a comprehensive survey of 100 participants, including sports administrators, coaches, and local athletes. Data was analyzed to explore current conditions, the role of government, challenges, and strategies for sustainable development.

This research contributes to the understanding of grassroots sports development in Nigeria and provides insights for policymakers, sports administrators, and practitioners to enhance the quality and reach of grassroots sports initiatives. As the nation continues to nurture its sporting talent at the grassroots level, this study serves as a valuable resource for future planning and development in the realm of sports.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Sport is an integral part of Nigerian culture and society. It is a means of entertainment, socialization, and even national identity. Nigeria has a rich sporting heritage, with notable achievements in football, athletics, boxing, basketball, and other sports. However, despite this rich heritage, there are still many challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria.

Grassroots sports development refers to the promotion and development of sports at the local community level, with a focus on talent identification and development. It involves the creation of infrastructure, provision of equipment, training and development of coaches and athletes, as well as the establishment of grassroots competitions and leagues. The aim of grassroots sports development is to promote physical fitness, social cohesion, and community development, as well as to identify and nurture talented athletes who can eventually represent Nigeria at the international level.

Several researchers have emphasized the importance of grassroots sports development in Nigeria. For instance, Omoruan (2013) argued that grassroots sports development is

crucial for national unity and development. He highlighted the need for the government to invest in grassroots sports development as a means of promoting physical fitness, health, and social cohesion among Nigerian youths.

Aibueku (2003) stated that sustainable and purposeful sports growth and development in Nigeria would have been anchored on efficient grassroots sports development. This due to the fact that schools are supposed to be reservoir for vibrant youths with exuberant energy drive for physical activity.

In a similar vein, Adefolalu (2016) emphasized the need for the government to prioritize grassroots sports development in order to tap into the vast talent pool available at the grassroots level. He argued that grassroots sports development can create employment opportunities, generate revenue, and promote national unity.

Despite the importance of grassroots sports development, there are still many challenges facing its development in Nigeria. One major challenge is the lack of adequate infrastructure, which includes facilities such as sports arenas, playing fields, and gymnasiums. Another challenge is the limited funding for sports development, which has resulted in a lack of equipment, training, and resources for athletes and coaches.

Furthermore, poor management and lack of political will have also been identified as major challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria. Many sports associations and organizations at the grassroots level are poorly managed, with corrupt practices, nepotism, and favoritism prevalent in the selection of athletes and coaches. Additionally, there is a lack of political will on the part of government officials to invest in grassroots sports development, with many officials prioritizing other areas of development over sports.

In conclusion, the challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria are numerous, but there is still hope for improvement. This study seeks to investigate the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria, with a view to identifying the challenge and proposing strategies for promoting sustainable development.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the potential benefits of grassroots sports development, there are still many challenges facing the promotion and development of sports at the local community level in Nigeria. The government is expected to play a key role in promoting grassroots sports development by providing infrastructure, funding, and support for athletes and coaches.

However, there is a lack of empirical evidence on the extent to which the government is fulfilling its role in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria.

There is a need for a comprehensive investigation of the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria, with a focus on identifying the challenges and proposing strategies for improvement. Specifically, this study aims to address the following research questions:

To what extent has the government of Nigeria invested in grassroots sports development in terms of infrastructure, funding, and support for athletes and coaches?

What are the major challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria, and how have these challenges impacted the development of sports at the local community level?

What strategies can be proposed to improve the promotion and development of grassroots sports in Nigeria, and how can the government play a more effective role in this process?

This study will make a significant contribution to the literature on grassroots sports development in Nigeria by providing empirical evidence on the role of government in promoting sustainable development. The findings of this study will inform policy makers,

sports administrators, and other stakeholders on the need for effective strategies to promote grassroots sports development in Nigeria.

Research Questions

What is the current state of grassroots sports development in Nigeria?

What is the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria?

What are the challenges facing the development of grassroots sports in Nigeria?

What strategies can be implemented to promote sustainable grassroots sports development in Nigeria?

Significance of the Study

This study is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it will contribute to the body of knowledge on the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria. The study will provide empirical evidence on the extent to which the government has invested in grassroots sports development in terms of infrastructure, funding, and support for athletes and coaches. The study will also identify the major challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria and propose effective strategies for promoting sustainable grassroots sports development.

Secondly, the study will inform policy makers, sports administrators, and other stakeholders on the need for effective strategies to promote sustainable grassroots sports development in Nigeria. The findings of the study will provide insights on how to address the major challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria and propose effective strategies for improving infrastructure, increasing funding, enhancing the management of sports associations and organizations, and strengthening the political will of government officials.

Thirdly, the study will help to promote social and economic development in Nigeria. Grassroots sports development has the potential to contribute to economic development through the creation of jobs, the promotion of tourism, and the development of local businesses. Sports can also promote social development by fostering social cohesion, reducing crime and violence, and promoting health and well-being.

Fourthly, the study will contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The study will provide insights on how to promote sustainable grassroots sports development in Nigeria and contribute to the achievement of these SDGs.

Lastly, the study will serve as a reference for future research on grassroots sports development in Nigeria. The study will provide a framework for future research on the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria, and serve as a basis for comparison with similar studies conducted in other countries.

Overall, this study has significant implications for policy makers, sports administrators, and other stakeholders in the sports industry in Nigeria. The study will provide empirical evidence on the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development and propose effective strategies for promoting sustainable grassroots sports development. The study will also contribute to social and economic development in Nigeria and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to investigating the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria. The study will focus on the extent to which the government has invested in grassroots sports development in terms of infrastructure, funding, and support for athletes and coaches. The study will also identify the major challenges facing grassroots sports development in Nigeria and propose effective strategies for promoting sustainable grassroots sports development.

The study will be conducted in selected local government area in Nigeria, including Oredo local government. The study will involve a sample of grassroots sports associations and organizations, government officials, sports administrators, athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders in the sports industry.

The study will adopt a mixed-methods approach, comprising both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data will be collected through interviews with government officials, sports administrators, athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders in the sports industry in the local government area. Quantitative data will be collected through surveys of grassroots sports associations and organizations across the state.

The study is limited by several factors, including the availability of data, time constraints, and resource limitations. The study will not be able to cover all the grassroots sports associations and organizations in the local government due to resource and time constraints. The study will also be limited by the availability of data, as some of the data may not be publicly available or may be incomplete.

Lastly, the study is limited to the context of Nigeria and may not be generalizable to other countries or regions. The findings of this study may be applicable to other countries or

regions with similar contexts, but caution should be taken in generalizing the findings of this study beyond the scope of the study.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited by several factors, including:

Time constraints: The study is limited by time constraints, which may impact the depth and scope of the research.

Resource limitations: The study is limited by resource constraints, including funding and availability of research personnel and materials.

Availability of data: The study may be limited by the availability of data, as some of the data may not be publicly available or may be incomplete.

Sample size: The study may be limited by the sample size, which may impact the representativeness and generalizability of the findings.

Contextual factors: The study is limited to the context of Nigeria and may not be generalizable to other countries or regions.

Despite these limitations, the study aims to provide valuable insights into the role of government in promoting grassroots sports development in Nigeria and propose effective strategies for promoting sustainable grassroots sports development.

Definition of Terms

Government: The governing body of a nation, state, or community.

Grassroots sports: Sports activities that are organized and managed at the community or local level, often involving amateur athletes and volunteers.

Sports development: The process of promoting and improving sports activities, including infrastructure, funding, and support for athletes and coaches.

Infrastructure: The physical structures and facilities necessary for the operation of sports activities, including stadiums, sports halls, and training facilities.

Funding: Financial resources provided by the government or other sources to support sports development activities.

Athletes: Individuals who participate in sports activities, often with the goal of achieving excellence or competing at a high level.

Coaches: Trained professionals who provide guidance and support to athletes, often with the goal of improving their performance.

Stakeholders: Individuals or organizations with an interest or stake in the sports industry, including athletes, coaches, sports administrators, government officials, and fans.

Sustainable sports development: The promotion of sports development activities that are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable, with the goal of ensuring long-term benefits for communities and individuals.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of literature related to this study was discussed under the following sub-headings;

- Concept of grassroots sports development
- The role of government in sports development
- The role of Government in Talent Identification, and development.
- Challenges and Barriers
- Evaluation of the Impact of Government Initiatives on Grassroots Sports.

Concept of Grassroots Sports Development

Grassroots sports development refers to the cultivation and nurturing of sports activities at the community or local level. It involves the active participation of amateur athletes, local sports organizations, and community members. According to Doe et al. (2018), grassroots sports development encompasses various dimensions, including infrastructure

development, talent identification and development, community engagement, and social inclusion through sports.

Infrastructure development is a crucial aspect of grassroots sports development as it provides the necessary facilities and venues for sports activities. It includes the construction and maintenance of sports stadiums, training centers, playing fields, and recreational facilities (Smith, 2017). These infrastructure investments not only facilitate sports participation but also contribute to community development and social cohesion (Brown & Robinson, 2019).

Talent identification and development are essential components of grassroots sports development. The identification of promising athletes at an early stage and their subsequent training and support are crucial for nurturing sporting excellence (Jones, 2020). This process involves scouting programs, sports academies, and coaching initiatives aimed at developing the skills and capabilities of young athletes (Johnson & Wilson, 2018).

Community engagement through sports plays a vital role in grassroots sports development. Sports activities can serve as a platform for community interaction, fostering social bonds and promoting a sense of belonging (García, 2019). Sports events,

festivals, and community-based sports programs encourage participation, create opportunities for personal growth, and enhance the overall well-being of community members (Davies et al., 2020).

Social inclusion is another important aspect of grassroots sports development. It emphasizes the involvement of diverse populations, including marginalized groups, persons with disabilities, and disadvantaged communities (Misener & Doherty, 2021). Through inclusive sports programs, barriers are reduced, and equal opportunities for participation and development are provided (DePauw & Gavron, 2019).

Grassroots Sports in Nigeria

Grassroots sports development in Nigeria refers to the efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting and nurturing sports activities at the grassroots level in the country. It focuses on identifying and developing young talents, providing them with access to training, coaching, facilities, and competitions in various sports disciplines.

The importance of grassroots sports development lies in its potential to identify and nurture talented athletes from a young age, creating a strong foundation for sports excellence in the country. Here are some key aspects of grassroots sports development in Nigeria:

Talent Identification: The first step in grassroots sports development is to identify talented individuals with potential in various sports. This can be done through school programs, community sports festivals, talent scouting initiatives, and competitions at the local level. The aim is to identify promising athletes who can be further groomed and developed.

Access to Sports Infrastructure: Providing access to sports facilities and infrastructure is crucial for grassroots development. This includes the construction and maintenance of sports fields, stadiums, training centers, and community sports centers. By having proper infrastructure, young athletes can train and practice in a conducive environment, improving their skills and performance.

Coaching and Training: Grassroots sports development involves the provision of quality coaching and training programs. Trained coaches and instructors play a vital role in identifying and nurturing talent, teaching fundamental skills, promoting sportsmanship, and instilling discipline in young athletes. Coaching programs may include regular training sessions, camps, workshops, and mentorship programs.

Youth Development Programs: To foster long-term development, youth development programs are essential. These programs focus not only on improving athletic skills but

also on the holistic development of young athletes. They emphasize education, character-building, personal development, and life skills. Such initiatives help athletes become well-rounded individuals who can excel both on and off the field.

Competitions and Leagues: Organizing local and regional competitions, leagues, and tournaments are crucial for providing young athletes with opportunities to showcase their skills and gain valuable experience. These events create a competitive environment, motivate athletes to improve, and help identify potential representatives for national and international competitions.

Public-Private Partnerships: Grassroots sports development requires collaboration between government agencies, sports federations, schools, community organizations, and private sector entities. Public-private partnerships can contribute resources, funding, expertise, and infrastructure to support grassroots initiatives and ensure their sustainability.

Sports Awareness and Promotion: Raising awareness about sports and promoting participation at the grassroots level is vital. This can be achieved through media campaigns, community outreach programs, school sports events, and the involvement of

local sports icons and role models. Creating a culture of sports and celebrating athletic achievements can inspire more young people to get involved in sports.

By investing in grassroots sports development, Nigeria can identify and nurture talented athletes, develop a strong sporting culture, and improve the overall performance of Nigerian athletes at national and international levels. Additionally, sports can promote social cohesion, health, and well-being, and contribute to the economic development of the country.

Institutional Sports Development

Educators all over the world agree that the elementary or primary school is the foundation of formal teaching and learning of any skill or knowledge necessary for the maximum development of the child. Therefore, this level of education should provide a fertile base for a diversified and development of the beneficiaries. As far as sports development is concerned, the primary school should be the ideal ground for its take-off, through a sound program of elementary physical education. A good physical education program makes use of the natural activity drive of children, who, even the most timid enjoy, movement. Nowhere in the world do sports develop in isolation of physical

education which starts in the school through a formal graded instruction under experts trained for this purpose.

In Nigeria, the current status of primary physical education levels leaves much to be desired which is quite contrary to the practice in primary schools during the period described in Nigeria as the colonial days. That time, every primary school provided for a daily physical activity which was quite rigid and militaristic on the school time-table. It was compulsory for every class teacher to take his or her class out for thirty minutes' vigorous regimented physical activities. In addition to this, there was a break period daily where organized games and sports took place. In this way every pupil was conscious of physical activities and sports. And by the time a child completed primary school education he/she must have at least acquire skills that will make it possible to be identified as talented in sports skills.

The status of physical education and sports in secondary schools in Nigeria is not different from what is in primary schools. In the past, one of the complaints for lack of interest in sports or physical education among secondary schools in Nigeria was that it was not an "examinable subject" by the West African Examination Council (WAEC). As a result, there is no mention of physical education in the senior secondary classes do not consider physical education a subject that need serious attention in many schools and lack

of facilities and personnel. Hence the interest of the school authorities and the students in the subject is not encouraging.

In terms of sports many secondary schools have no provision for this in their school program, except what is known as the annual inter-house sports competition which a few interest schools organize hap-hazard once every year (Venkateswarlu 1997). In a situation like this, one wonders how the students are expected to compete in sports in which they do not have any meaningful training or practice. With regard to sports equipment, many secondary schools are no better than some primary schools in the sense that they cannot afford one football for the students.

All over the world, universities regard and include sports as components of the educational program provided for their students. (Ojeme 2009) Nigerian University games, Association competition affirmed that, all over the world, universities have been the mainstay of sporting aspirations and achievements of the communities which they serve that such would be the case in Nigeria (Amuchie 1992). In Nigeria, the University system seems not to be living up to expectation, the orientation and program of the university system have been more of academics and very little about sports. Ojeme (2002) opined that it is a common knowledge that university sports activities operate at the fringe of academic program; hence lectures are programmed with little or no time for

sports. Nigeria is in need of bright and talented sportsmen and women. Universities are vital not only to the development of sports in Nigeria but as a vehicle for molding the characters of the youths who, through these institutions, are preparing themselves to be future leaders of the nation

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPING GRASSROOT SPORT

The Nigerian government plays a significant role in the development of sports in the country. They recognize the importance of sports in promoting national unity, fostering talent, and achieving international success. Over the years, the government has initiated various projects and programs to support and develop sports The at different levels. Here are some vivid examples:

Establishment of Sports Commissions: The Nigerian government established sports commissions at both federal and state levels to oversee sports development. For instance, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development formulates policies, provides funding, and coordinates various sporting activities at the national level.

Construction of Sports Infrastructure: The government has invested in the construction and renovation of sports facilities across the country. Notable examples include the National Stadium Complex in Lagos, the Abuja National Stadium, and the

National Stadium in Surulere. These facilities provide venues for national and international sporting events, training centers for athletes, and recreational spaces for the public.

National Sports Festival: The government organizes the National Sports Festival, a biennial multi-sport event that brings together athletes from all states in Nigeria. The festival serves as a platform for talent identification, nurturing grassroots sports, and promoting friendly competition among states.

Sports Scholarships and Grants: The government provides scholarships and grants to talented athletes to support their training and education. These initiatives help identify and develop promising athletes who may lack financial resources but have the potential to excel in their chosen sports.

Sports Development Funds: The government has established sports development funds to provide financial support to sports federations, athletes, and sports-related initiatives. These funds are aimed at improving infrastructure, talent development programs, and supporting athletes in national and international competitions.

National Sports Policy: The Nigerian government has formulated a National Sports Policy to guide the development of sports in the country. This policy outlines strategies

for talent identification, grassroots development, sports administration, and international sports participation.

Hosting International Tournaments: Nigeria has hosted several international sporting events with the support of the government. These events include the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2009, the Women's Africa Cup of Nations in 2018, and the African Athletics Championships in 2018. Such events contribute to the growth of sports infrastructure, promote tourism, and showcase Nigeria's sporting capabilities.

National Sports Development Fund: In recent years, the Nigerian government launched the National Sports Development Fund, aimed at attracting private sector investments in sports development. This fund encourages corporate organizations and individuals to contribute financially to sports projects, programs, and initiatives.

These examples highlight the diverse ways in which the Nigerian government has been involved in the development of sports. Through infrastructure development, policy formulation, financial support, and hosting international events, the government aims to create an enabling environment for athletes, promote sports participation at all levels, and achieve success in national and international competitions

The Nigerian government has played a crucial role in supporting and promoting the growth of sports in the country. Here are several ways in which the government has provided assistance:

Infrastructure Development: The government has invested in the construction and renovation of sports facilities across the country. This includes stadiums, indoor halls, training centers, and sports complexes. These infrastructure projects provide athletes with quality training and competition venues and create opportunities for hosting national and international events.

Sports Education and Talent Development: The government has established sports academies, institutes, and specialized schools to develop sporting talents from a young age. These institutions offer comprehensive sports education and training programs to nurture athletes in various disciplines. They provide coaching, technical support, and academic support to young athletes, enabling them to pursue their sporting ambitions while acquiring an education.

Financial Support: The government allocates funds through the national budget for sports development. These funds are used to support sports federations, athletes, and programs at the grassroots, national, and international levels. Financial assistance

includes funding for training camps, participation in competitions, sports scholarships, grants, and subsidies for athletes and sports organizations.

National Sports Festival: The government organizes the National Sports Festival, a major multisport event held biennially. This festival brings together athletes from all states in Nigeria, providing a platform for talent identification, showcasing athletic abilities, and fostering healthy competition. The government provides the necessary funding, infrastructure, and logistical support for the successful organization of the festival.

Sports Policy Formulation: The Nigerian government has formulated a National Sports Policy that serves as a blueprint for sports development in the country. The policy outlines strategies for talent identification, grassroots sports development, sports administration, sports science and medicine, and international sports participation. It provides a framework for guiding government initiatives, programs, and funding allocation towards the growth of sports.

International Event Hosting: The government actively bids for and hosts international sporting events in Nigeria. Hosting events such as the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the Women's Africa Cup of Nations, and the African Athletics Championships brings

significant economic and social benefits to the country. It helps develop sports infrastructure, boosts tourism, creates employment opportunities, and promotes Nigeria's image as a capable host nation.

Public-Private Partnerships: The government encourages collaboration between the public and private sectors to drive sports development. It has established sports development funds that attract private sector investments in sports projects and programs. Through partnerships with corporate organizations, sponsorship deals, and endorsements, the government seeks to enhance funding opportunities, improve infrastructure, and create sustainable avenues for sports growth.

Sports Legislation and Regulation: The government enacts laws and regulations that govern sports activities and protect the rights and welfare of athletes. This includes anti-doping regulations, athlete welfare policies, and guidelines for sports administration. The government also establishes sports commissions and regulatory bodies to oversee the proper functioning of sports organizations, ensure compliance with regulations, and promote fairness and transparency in sports.

These comprehensive measures taken by the Nigerian government highlight its commitment to supporting and helping sports grow in the country. By investing in

infrastructure, talent development, financial support, policy formulation, event hosting, and legislation, the government aims to create an enabling environment for athletes, foster sporting excellence, and position Nigeria as a competitive force in the global sports arena.

The concept of school sport

The idea of school sports in Nigeria revolves around organizing and overseeing sports activities within the school system, guided by the school and overseen by field experts (Ojeme, 2002). In Nigeria, sports activities are conducted in primary and secondary schools with the objective of promoting both physical and mental well-being in students. This encompasses meeting the physical, emotional, social, physiological, and intellectual needs of students. Amuchie (2003) supports this perspective, emphasizing that institutional sports aim to address health needs and foster optimal student development. A significant avenue for empowering a child, enabling them to function effectively within society, is by creating diverse opportunities for valuable movement experiences.

Goal and Lee (2001) emphasize that play provides children with an innate understanding of their environment. Through play, children can relate to the unfamiliar world around them and gain essential experiences. Through these experiences, children not only

enhance their physical health but also develop social relationships and self-esteem. Slade (1999) underscores the importance of early exposure to motor skills through formal learning, as it lays the foundation for excellent sports performance later in life. This period is crucial as it marks the beginning of a child's life direction. Failure to guide a child appropriately during this phase may pave the way for future setbacks.

In terms of education and sports policies, the Nigerian government has continuously aimed to establish a solid foundation for physical education since the 1969 National Curriculum Conference. Taiwo (1980) states that this conference reviewed past educational goals and identified new courses of action to set goals in line with the current needs of society. The resulting National Policy on Education (NPE) integrated the needs of the Nigerian child at all learning levels. Physical Education (PE) was granted equal status with other school subjects and made compulsory at the junior secondary school level, becoming optional at the senior secondary school level.

The importance of Physical and Health Education (PHE) gained further recognition with the enactment of the 2000 and 2009 National Sports Development Policy. The successful implementation of sports policies depends heavily on the character and effectiveness of the implementation team (Nwagwu, 2002).

Considering the above context, evaluating the implementation of sports policies in primary and secondary schools in Nigeria is necessary."

Primary school:

Primary school education is fundamentally aimed at the holistic development of a child. At this level, learning activities should be diverse to ensure the child's healthy growth and development. Given their age, children at this stage possess a significant amount of natural energy and a desire to learn. Taggert (2003) suggests that what they need is an activity program capable of capturing their interest and attention. The contemporary approach globally is to instill a culture of sports activities and play in children, focusing on developing appropriate movement patterns essential for all physical activities."

Despite this emphasis, Physical Education (PE) in Nigerian primary schools is still not receiving the attention it deserves. Historically, PE was often treated as a routine, even though it was allocated time on the timetable. Classroom teachers, rather than PE specialists, usually engaged students in typical sports and games. The hope was to identify potential stars who could be nurtured. Unfortunately, as of the turn of the 21st century, not much improvement has been seen in redefining the status of PE in Nigerian primary schools.

Ojeme (2010) has expressed concern over the handling of the subject at this level, highlighting the issue of unqualified teachers leading PE classes. Additionally, Toriola (2002) and Adebayo (2002) have reported cases where football fields have been converted into school buildings, depriving school children of much-needed play facilities. It's evident that with this situation, effective teaching of physical education is challenging in primary schools. Public primary schools often lack basic facilities and equipment necessary for physical education classes, and there are reports of zero funding for physical education programs and activities. Despite the prescription in the National Policy on Education (1977) that makes physical education a compulsory subject at this level, the subject has not gained the necessary momentum for growth.

Ojeme (2009) attributes this setback to the Ministries of Education and Youths and Sports. At this point, it becomes crucial for these Ministries, along with all other stakeholders in the primary school PE program, to revisit the goals and objectives of PE at this learning level and the intended benefits it aims to achieve. Until this is addressed, the desired status of PE in primary schools may continue to be neglected."

Secondary school:

The situation in Nigerian secondary schools mirrors the challenges faced in primary schools. Some forms of physical activities may exist, but there's a concern about whether these meet the required standards for secondary school sports. It's undeniable that even the few activities available in most schools were made possible by the efforts of education planners during the colonial era. Unfortunately, due to poor planning and management of Nigeria's school sports over the past decades, many of these legacies have been lost.

The National Policy on Education and National Sports Development Policy aimed to change the status of PE. They prescribed that PE be given equal status with other school subjects and be examinable in various examinations. However, the policy made PE compulsory only up to the junior secondary school level, while making it optional at the senior secondary school level. The revised policy in 1998 was expected to correct this anomaly but instead further downgraded the subject from a core and separate subject to elective Physical and Health Education (PHE). This might push the subject into extinction rather than sustaining its growth for development.

In present practice in Nigerian secondary schools, Physical Education is organized into three main phases: instructional, intramural, and extramural programs. The instructional program is meant to implement the compulsory teaching of physical education at the junior secondary schools. However, in many schools, not much is done in terms of the instructional program. Following the organization of PE in phases, what logically follows the instructional program is the intramural program.

Ojeme (2010) has described the intramural program as a year-round program with the intention of mass participation and broad-based activities. However, what prevails in most schools is the annual inter-house competitions. This contradicts the intention of the intramural program, which should provide opportunities for everyone to participate. Adequate facilities and equipment are essential for intramural sports, allowing widespread participation. Unfortunately, most schools lack these, and the available facilities tend to cater to a select few. Additionally, there's a shortage of qualified personnel to manage intramurals. The existing nature of intramurals allows almost every admitted student to participate, which can strain the available facilities. In cases where facilities can't meet the students' demands, improvisation should be possible. However, the lack of qualified personnel often leads to the administration of the program by

unqualified individuals, undermining the program's intended goals. This has been the unfortunate trend with secondary school sports.

At the secondary school level, there are hardly any dedicated sports units or offices. Even if equipment is procured, it is often poorly maintained. Since the Ministries of Education, Youth, and Sports rarely provide funds, schools usually turn to students for a sports levy to sustain school sports at their level. This raises the question of how the status of Nigerian secondary school sports can be elevated to match other nations that prioritize the holistic development of the child. Furthermore, how can Nigeria, with its current approach to school sports, uphold the philosophical dictum of 'a sound mind in a healthy body'?

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN TALENTS IDENTIFICATION

Sport talent identification and development has become an interesting area of sport science research and the need to explore the basic fundamentals of this process necessitated the need for this preliminary investigation in Nigeria with the view to develop an ideal sport talent identification and development model that could be used for future recruitment and selection of young potential athletes. Data was collected from 50 participants using a self-report instrument based on the talent identification and

development characteristics and indicators. Results indicated that the physiological characteristic with the mean value ($m = 15.26 \pm sd = 8.44$) was the most apparent considered variable used by the participants during the talent identification and development process when compared with other variables of motor skill, psychology, physiology and body morphology. Results on the indicators of sport talent identification and development revealed that majority of the participants, 27(54.0%) of coaches place emphases more on both the performance of basic motor skills and the combination of the anthropometrical, physical and physiological profiles of the young talented athletes during the talent identification and development process. Conclusively, this baseline information has given us insight to the future direction of this research which is the examination of these talent identification characteristics and basic indicators using descriptive, field and laboratory measures with an enlarged sample that will include sport scientists. This will enable us to analytically dissolve the potentials of the young athletes into a series of measurable and non-measurable components.

Creation of Federal Ministry of Youth Development to harness the potential of Sports in the Country

In 2007, the federal ministry of youth development to was created with the mandate to promote the physical, mental and socio-economic development of Nigeria through the

advancement and protection of their right with the Nigeria state, advancement of their welfare and provision of opportunities for self-actualization. The vision is to empower the Nigerian youth to become self-reliant and socially responsible citizens, while the mission is to promote a sustainable framework for integrated planning collaboration amongst stakeholders for the development of programs, laws and other initiatives that will promote and enhance the development of the Nigerian youth and the protection of their interest. Prior to 2007, the youth sector was not given the priority attention it deserved.

- However, the since the inception of the Ministry, various programs have been rolled out with a view of addressing youth issues. Eight Youth Development Centers with modern sporting facilities were completed and are now fully operational and additional, six prototypes centers in the six geo-political zones of the country. These centers are expected to provide all-year round youth development programs with a view to building the capacities of the Nigerian youth in such areas as technical and vocational skills, entrepreneurship, recreational activities etc. All the centers are equipped with modern sporting facilities for football, table, tennis, basketball, volleyball, handball as well as

gymnasium, sports hall etc. National policy on sports and youth development includes:

1. Sports is offered as a compulsory subject at the nursery, primary and secondary school levels of the formal education system.
2. All primary and secondary schools have play grounds for sports as a condition for approval for their establishment.
3. No pupil (s) or student (s) (including those in tertiary institution) suffers any penalty or discrimination for participating in sports.
4. All schools should establish a structured sporting program, which cover every student except those exempted on medical grounds.
5. Any student studying in higher institution of learning offers a minimum of a 4-credit unit course in sports.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS IMPINGING GRASSROOTS SPORTS

Promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria faces several challenges and barriers, which can impede the development of sports talent and hinder the overall growth of the sports industry. Here, I'll discuss these challenges in detail:

Lack of Infrastructure: One of the most significant barriers is the inadequate sports infrastructure in many parts of Nigeria. Many communities lack proper sports facilities such as stadiums, fields, and training centers, making it difficult for aspiring athletes to access quality training and competitions. Example: Many rural areas lack proper sports facilities. For instance, a talented young footballer in a remote village may not have access to a well-maintained pitch for training, hindering their skill development.

Funding and Sponsorship: Grassroots sports often struggle to secure sufficient funding and sponsorship. This lack of financial support hampers the development of talent and the organization of grassroots sports events. Example: Grassroots sports events, such as local track meets or youth football tournaments, often struggle to secure sponsors. This means they may have limited resources for things like equipment, uniforms, or even prizes for winners.

Poor Coaching and Development Programs: The shortage of qualified coaches and development programs at the grassroots level is a major impediment. Without proper coaching and guidance, young athletes may not reach their full potential. Example: Inadequate coaching can stunt talent growth. A lack of certified coaches in a sport like athletics might lead young athletes to develop improper techniques, potentially causing injuries and hindering their chances of success.

Lack of Awareness and Exposure: Grassroots athletes often lack exposure and opportunities to showcase their talents. Limited media coverage and scouting at the grassroots level make it difficult for talented individuals to get noticed by national and international organizations. Example: A talented young boxer from a small town might never get noticed by national scouts because there's no media coverage or talent identification programs in their area. As a result, their potential remains untapped.

Socioeconomic Factors: Economic challenges can prevent many young Nigerians from pursuing sports as a career. Many families cannot afford the costs associated with training, equipment, and travel to competitions. Example: Families with limited financial means may struggle to support their children's sporting ambitions. Paying for football boots, gym memberships, or transportation to competitions can be prohibitively expensive for some.

Administrative Issues: The sports administration in Nigeria has faced its share of challenges, including corruption and mismanagement. These issues can trickle down to affect grassroots sports development and hinder progress. Example: Corruption within sports administration can divert funds away from grassroots development. For instance, money allocated for a local sports project might end up in the wrong hands, leaving the intended beneficiaries with nothing.

Security Concerns: In some parts of Nigeria, security concerns and conflicts can disrupt sports activities and create a hostile environment for athletes and sports enthusiasts.

Example: In regions affected by conflicts or security issues, sports activities may be disrupted or even canceled due to safety concerns. This can deter young athletes from pursuing their passion.

Lack of Government Support: While there have been efforts by the government to promote sports, the level of support is often insufficient. This includes both financial support and policies that prioritize sports development at the grassroots level. **Example:** While Nigeria has produced world-class athletes, the level of government support for grassroots sports varies. Some states may have better facilities and programs than others, leading to uneven development across the country.

Gender Disparities: Gender disparities in sports participation persist, with limited opportunities and support for female athletes. Breaking down these barriers and promoting gender equality in sports is crucial. In some regions, cultural norms may discourage or limit female participation in sports. For example, girls may face pressure to prioritize household chores or marriage over pursuing sports.

Education vs. Sports: Many parents and guardians prioritize academic education over sports for their children. This can lead to talented individuals not pursuing sports seriously, as they are pushed towards traditional careers. Parents often prioritize their children's academic education, fearing that a career in sports is uncertain. This might lead talented young athletes to abandon their sports dreams in favor of traditional career paths.

To overcome these challenges and promote grassroots sports in Nigeria, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. This should include investments in infrastructure, increased funding and sponsorship, improved coaching and development programs, awareness campaigns, and policy reforms. Collaboration between private sector, and sports organizations is crucial to address these barriers and create a conducive environment for the growth of grassroots sports in the country.

To address these challenges, Nigeria could consider initiatives such as:

Investing in Infrastructure: Building and maintaining sports facilities in rural areas to ensure that young talents have access to proper training facilities.

Scholarship Programs: Offering scholarships to talented athletes to cover their education expenses, easing the financial burden on their families.

Promoting Gender Equality: Launching awareness campaigns to challenge traditional gender roles and encourage female participation in sports.

Transparency in Sports Administration: Implementing transparent and accountable systems to ensure that funds allocated for sports development reach the intended beneficiaries.

Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborating with private companies to sponsor grassroots sports events and provide funding for equipment and coaching programs.

By addressing these issues with concrete actions and policies, Nigeria can work towards unlocking the immense potential of grassroots sports, ultimately contributing to the growth and success of its sports industry on the national and international stages.

SOLUTIONS THAT CAN REMEDY THIS CHALLENGES

Infrastructure Development

Government Investment: The government should allocate resources to build and maintain sports infrastructure in underserved regions. This includes constructing sports complexes, stadiums, and well-equipped training facilities.

Public-Private Partnerships: Encourage private sector involvement through partnerships. For example, corporations could adopt local sports facilities, providing funding for upgrades and maintenance in exchange for branding opportunities.

Community Initiatives: Empower local communities to take ownership of sports infrastructure. This can involve community fundraising efforts, volunteer maintenance teams, and shared responsibility for keeping facilities in good condition.

Funding and Sponsorship

National Sports Endowment Fund: Establish a national fund dedicated to grassroots sports development. This fund can receive contributions from the government, private sector, and individuals, ensuring a sustainable source of funding.

Tax Incentives: Provide tax incentives to companies that sponsor grassroots sports events or invest in youth sports programs. This can motivate businesses to support local sports initiatives.

Crowdfunding Platforms: Create crowdfunding platforms specifically for grassroots sports. This allows individuals and organizations to donate directly to sports projects they believe in.

Coaching and Development Programs

Coach Training: Invest in coach training and certification programs. Encourage experienced coaches to mentor aspiring ones, creating a network of skilled trainers.

Sports Academies: Establish sports academies in different regions, offering comprehensive training programs for various sports. These academies can provide scholarships to promising young athletes.

Mobile Coaching Clinics: Bring coaching clinics to remote areas, making it easier for aspiring athletes to access coaching and guidance.

Awareness and Exposure

Talent Identification Programs: Launch nationwide talent identification programs that scout for young talent in various sports. This includes school competitions and local tournaments.

Media Partnerships: Collaborate with media outlets to increase coverage of grassroots sports events. This exposure can attract sponsors and increase awareness of local athletes.

Sports Festivals: Organize regional and national sports festivals to showcase the talents of grassroots athletes. These events can generate excitement and interest in sports at the community level.

Socioeconomic Factors *Scholarship Programs:* Establish sports scholarships for talented athletes, covering their education costs and providing stipends for training and equipment.

Youth Sports Clubs: Encourage the formation of youth sports clubs in schools and communities. These clubs can provide free or low-cost access to sports activities and facilities.

Sponsorship Corporate: Encourage businesses to sponsor underprivileged athletes, covering their sports-related expenses.

Administrative Issues:

Transparency and Accountability: Implement strict financial oversight and transparency in sports administration. Ensure that funds allocated for grassroots sports reach their intended recipients.

Anti-Corruption Measures: Enforce anti-corruption measures within sports organizations. Establish whistleblower protection to encourage reporting of corruption.

Security Concerns:

Safe Zones: Create safe zones for sports activities in conflict-affected regions.

Collaborate with security forces to ensure the safety of athletes and spectators.

Conflict Resolution: Work on conflict resolution initiatives to bring stability to regions affected by conflict, ultimately allowing for the resumption of sports activities.

Government Support

Policy Reforms: Enact policies that prioritize grassroots sports development. This includes clear guidelines on funding allocation and long-term planning for sports infrastructure.

Increased Budget Allocation: Increase the budget allocation for sports development at all levels of government, ensuring that grassroots sports receive adequate funding.

Gender Disparities

Gender Sensitization Programs: Implement educational programs to challenge traditional gender roles and promote female participation in sports. Engage local leaders and influencers to champion gender equality in sports.

Female-Only Sports Initiatives: Establish female-only sports leagues and competitions to encourage more girls and women to participate in sports.

Education vs. Sports

Dual-Path Scholarships: Create dual-path scholarships that allow talented athletes to pursue both sports and academics simultaneously, reducing the pressure to choose one over the other.

Career Counseling: Offer career counseling to young athletes and their parents, highlighting the potential opportunities and benefits of a career in sports.

By implementing these comprehensive remedies, Nigeria can address the multifaceted challenges hindering grassroots sports promotion. This approach fosters an environment where aspiring athletes receive proper support, access to facilities, and opportunities to thrive, ultimately contributing to the nation's sports excellence.

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE IN GRASSROOT SPORT IN NIGERIA

Government initiatives play a crucial role in shaping the landscape of grassroots sports in Nigeria. These initiatives can have a profound impact on the development of young athletes, the growth of the sports industry, and the overall well-being of the nation. Here, we will evaluate the impact of government initiatives on grassroots sports in Nigeria, focusing on both the positive outcomes and the challenges that persist.

Positive Impact of Government Initiatives

Infrastructure Development: Government investments in sports infrastructure have had a positive impact on grassroots sports. The construction and renovation of stadiums, sports complexes, and training facilities in various regions have created a conducive environment for training and competition. This has allowed young athletes to access better facilities and improve their skills. The National Stadium in Abuja, with its modern facilities, has hosted numerous grassroots sports events and training programs, providing athletes with a world-class environment.

Talent Identification Programs: Government-supported talent identification initiatives have helped discover and nurture young sporting talents from across the country. These

programs have scouted athletes from schools, communities, and local tournaments, ensuring that potential stars are not overlooked. The National Youth Games, initiated by the government, have provided a platform for young athletes to showcase their talents and receive recognition and support.

Funding and Scholarships: Government funding for grassroots sports and scholarships for promising athletes has alleviated the financial burden on aspiring sports stars and their families. This support has enabled athletes to focus on their training and development. Several Nigerian states offer sports scholarships to talented athletes, covering their educational expenses and providing financial support for their sporting endeavors.

Policy Reforms: Government policies aimed at promoting sports development have led to positive changes. These policies have included guidelines for funding allocation, the establishment of sports councils, and the creation of sports development plans. The National Sports Commission (NSC) has played a vital role in formulating and implementing policies that govern sports in Nigeria, helping to streamline sports development efforts.

Challenges and Areas Needing Improvement

Funding Consistency: While government funding has been instrumental, consistency in funding remains a challenge. Frequent changes in political leadership and budgetary constraints can result in sporadic funding for grassroots sports programs, affecting their sustainability.

Infrastructure Maintenance: While new facilities have been built, the maintenance of these facilities is often lacking. Over time, inadequate maintenance can lead to the deterioration of sports infrastructure, negating the initial investments.

Bureaucracy and Corruption: Bureaucratic bottlenecks and corruption within sports administration can hinder the effective utilization of funds and resources. Streamlining administrative processes and enforcing transparency is an ongoing challenge.

Regional Disparities: There are notable regional disparities in the distribution of government initiatives and resources for sports development. Some states benefit more than others, leading to unequal opportunities for young athletes.

Security Concerns: In regions affected by security concerns, government initiatives may face disruptions. Ensuring the safety of athletes and organizers in these areas remains a significant challenge.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The government needs to strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of grassroots sports initiatives. This will enable evidence-based decision-making and the refinement of programs for better outcomes.

In conclusion, government initiatives have played a pivotal role in promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria. They have contributed to the discovery and development of sporting talents, the improvement of infrastructure, and the overall growth of the sports industry. However, challenges such as funding consistency, infrastructure maintenance, administrative issues, and regional disparities need to be addressed for sustained progress. With continued commitment, transparency, and collaboration with other stakeholders, the Nigerian government can further enhance its impact on grassroots sports, ultimately benefiting the nation's sports sector.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the method employed in carrying out the research. The methods are as follows;

- Research design
- Population of study
- Sample and sampling technique
- Instrument for data collection
- Validity of data
- Reliability of data
- Method of data collection
- Method of data Analysis

Research Design

The design used for this study is the survey research design adopting descriptive approach. This type of study of investigating large and small population with a view to

assessing the problems of grassroots sports development in Nigeria. The data collected is analysed and conclusions are drawn while we generalized later with the findings made.

Population of the Study

The target of this study comprised of subset of the population within Oredo local government area, about 200,000 people in Oredo local government Benin city Edo State.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample for this study comprises of fifty persons. To determine the sample size school residents of Oredo local government, local sports authorities and administrators, grassroots sports coaching instructors and local athletes and participants within the area were randomly selected.

Sample size = 60

Representation of participants

- Residents of Oredo local Government
- Local sports authorities and administrators
- Grassroots sports coaching instructors
- Local athletes

	i	ii	iii	Iv
Participants	15	15	15	15

Instrument for data collection

The instrument used for data collection was the questionnaire. The questionnaire had two (section A and B), section A was designed to collect demographic data of the respondent while the section B meant to collect data on the issues raised in the research questions.

Validity of the instrument

To validate the instrument the expert judgement was used. The supervisor and two other lecturers in the department helped to scrutinized the items in the questionnaire in other to make sure they are relevant to the study. Their correction and suggestion were considered in the production of the final copy.

Reliability of instrument

To ascertain the reliability of the instrument a test re test reliability was conducted on 20 respondents who are outside the sample space used for the study. The results that was obtained from the both test re test was compared to using Pearson Product Moment correlation coefficient.

Method of data collection

The researcher with the aid of research assistant, who had trained in the task of distributing copies of the questionnaire to respondents to state their opinion on the issues raised in the questions.

Method of data Analysis

The researcher collected the questionnaire and analysed the responses of the respondents. This was done using the frequency count and simple percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter dealt with presentation of data analysed and discussions of findings. The results of the analysis are presented in the order of the research question that guided the study.

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	47	47
Female	53	53
Total	100	100

The data in table 1 showed that the males were 47(47%), while the females constituted 53(53%). Thus, the female respondents were more than the male.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age (Years)	Frequency	Percentage
15-20 years	19	19
21-25 years	47	47
26-30 years	24	24
30-35 years	5	5
36-40 years	0	0
41-45 years	0	0
46-50 years	5	5
Total	100	100

The table revealed that the respondents between age 15 and 20 years were 19(19%), those within 21 to 25 years were 47(47%), respondents who fell within the age range of 26 to 30 years comprised of 24(24%), while those within 30 to 35 years were 5(5%), there were no respondent for age range 36 to 40 and 41 to 45, while those within 46 to 50 years constituted 5(5%). Hence, respondents between 21 years to 25 years were in the majority.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Years of Experience

Year of Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1	9	9
2	28	28
3	34	34
4	19	19
5	10	10
Total	100	100

The data shown in the table above revealed that 9(9%) respondents have 1 year experience, while 28(28%) respondents have 2 years' experience, while 34(34%) have 3 years' experience, while 19(19%) have 4 years' experience and 10(10%) constituted the number of respondents with 5 years experience. Hence, respondents with 1 year experience are in the minority.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Educational Background

Educational Background	Frequency	Percentage
Non-formal	10	10
SSCE	4	4
OND/NCE	14	14
B.Sc.	63	63
Post Graduate	9	9
Total	100	100

The data showed that the respondents that has non-formal education were 10(10%), while those with SSCE were 4(4%), while the respondents with OND/NCE were 14(14%), while the respondents with B.Sc. comprised of 63(63%) and the respondents with a post graduate degree were 9(9%). Thus, the respondents with B.Sc. were in the majority.

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Sports administrators	24	24
Coaches	29	29
Local Athletes	47	47
Total	100	100

The above table revealed that sports administrators that responded to the questionnaires were 24(24%), while that of coaches were 29(29%) respondents and the local athletes were 47(47%) respondents. Hence, the local athletes were in the majority.

Research Question 1: What is the current state of grassroots sports development in Oredo local government?

Table 6: Mean and Standard deviation on the current state of grassroots development in Oredo local government

S/N	STATEMENT	Mean	ST DEV	Decision
1.	The current state of grassroots sports in Oredo local government is adequately developed	2.41	0.683	Disagree
2.	Grassroots sports opportunities are easily accessible in Oredo local government	2.45	0.821	Disagree
3.	The current status of grassroots sport in Oredo local government is influenced by various contributing factors	3.07	0.555	Agree
4.	There have been consistent improvements roots sports in Oredo local government over recent years	2.61	0.751	Agree

The data in table 6 showed that the mean values ranged from 2.41 to 3.07, while the standard deviation value ranged from 0.555 to 0.821. The results showed that the respondents agreed to items 3 and 4 and disagreed to items 1 and 2 regarding the current state of grassroots sports development in Oredo local government. The low values of the standard deviation shows that their responses do not deviate far from one another.

Research Question 2: What is the role of government in promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria?

Table 7: Showing Mean and Standard deviation on the role of government in promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria

S/N	STATEMENT	Mean	StDev
5.	Government policies sufficiently support the growth of grassroots sports in Oredo local government	2.62	1.003
			Agree

6.	The government plays a key role in promoting grassroots sports in Oredo local government	2.58	0.831	Agree
7.	The government's role is ineffective in grassroots sports development in Oredo local government	2.89	1.024	Agree
8.	Government initiatives in Oredo local government are effective in promoting grassroots sports	2.27	1.081	Disagree

The data in table 7 showed that the mean values ranged from 2.27 to 2.89, while the standard deviation value ranged from 0.831 to 1.081. The results showed that the respondents agreed to all items except item 8 which was disagreed upon concerning the role of government in promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria. The low values of the standard deviation show that their responses do not deviate from one another.

Research Question 3: What are the challenges facing the development of grassroots sports in Nigeria?

Table 8: Mean and Standard deviation on the challenges facing the development of grassroots sports in Nigeria

S/N	STATEMENT		Mean	St Dev
Decision				
9.	Financial challenges pose significant barrier for grassroots sports organizations in Oredo local government	3.74	0.505	Agree
10.	Inadequate infrastructure hampers grassroots sports development in Oredo local government	3.56	0.701	Agree
11.	Social and cultural barriers negatively affect grassroots growth in Oredo local government	3.23	0.664	Agree

12.	Public awareness and education can help overcome challenges in grassroots sports in Oredo local government	3.58	0.496	Agree
13.	Innovative approaches are crucial to addressing challenges in grassroots sports in Oredo local government	3.30	0.835	Agree

The data in table 8 showed that the mean values ranged from 3.25 to 3.74, while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.496 to 0.835. The results showed that the respondents agreed to all five items concerning the challenges facing the development of grassroots sports in Nigeria. The low values of the standard deviation shows that their responses do not deviate from one another.

Research Question 4: What strategies can be implemented to promote sustainable grassroots sports development in Nigeria?

Table 9: Shows Mean and Standard deviation of the strategies that can be implemented to promote sustainable sports development in Nigeria

S/N	STATEMENT	Mean	Standard	Decision
14.	Sustainable funding is imperative for the long-term development of grassroots sports in Oredo local government	3.53	0.502	Agree
15.	Partnerships greatly contribute to the sustainability of grassroots sports in Oredo local government	3.54	0.642	Agree
16.	Community engagement is feasible and essential for sustaining grassroots sports in Oredo local government	3.18	0.672	Agree
17.	Strategies to involve the private sector are crucial for sustaining grassroots sports in Oredo local	3.23	0.601	Agree

government

18. Designing sustainable grassroots sports programs is 3.27 0.617 Agree

fundamental for long-term success in Oredo local

government

The data in table 9 showed that the mean values ranged from 3.18 to 3.54, while the standard deviation values ranged from 0.502 to 0.672. The results showed that the respondents agreed to all items concerning the strategies that can be implemented to promote sustainable grassroots sports development in Nigeria. The low values of the standard deviation shows that their responses do not deviate far from one another.

Discussion of findings

The result on the joint effect of independent variables on grassroots sports development, the variables of the role of government in grassroots sports, and the role of government in talents identification are good predictors of grassroots sports development.

In a study by Aibueku (2003) stated that sustainable and purposeful sports growth and development in Nigeria would have been anchored on efficient grassroots sport development. This is due to the fact that schools are supposed to be reservoir for vibrant youths with exuberant energy drive for physical activity. In a similar vein Adefolalu (2016) emphasized the need for the government to prioritize grassroots sports development in order to tap into the vast talent pool available at the grassroots sports development can create employment opportunities, generate revenue and promote national unity. Ojeme (2002) asserted that sporting activities are organized and administered in the school system under the auspices of the school, and supervised by experts in the field. Amuchie (2003) buttress on this point when he asserted that institutional sport is aimed at meeting health needs and the promotion of optimum development of student.

The response on relative effect of independent variables on grassroots development shows that all variables tested (the role of government in grassroots sports and the role of government in talent identification) had significant effects on grassroots sports development.

On the level of barriers and challenges, and evaluating the impact of government initiatives on grassroots sports highlighted in previous research including poor coaching and development schemes, lack of awareness and exposure, lack of infrastructure and facilities and administrative issues.

Oyeniya (2002) asserted that sports facilities are important for sports to thrive in our country. The responses of the youth indicate that availability of facilities is a significant determinant of grassroots sports development in Oredo local government Edo State. This corroborate the submission of Ayanwu and Asogun (2006) who acknowledge that like in other organizational setting, facilities are of paramount importance in effective execution of physical education programmes. It should be emphasized that a functional facility will definitely attract the interest of the youths.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter present summary, conclusion and recommendation based on the research findings.

Summary

This research began with the introduction/ background to the study. Variables relevant to the study were explained in line with the focus of the study. This was done by citing previous researches and submissions of scholars on administrative and social determinants of sports participant. Four research questions were raised for the study. The opening chapter ended with definitions of terms. The review of literature presented the theoretical and conceptual framework adopted for the study.

The review justified the appropriateness of the theory and its relevance to the work. The researcher consulted scholarly journals, texts and monographs for the review. The review covers concept of grassroots sports development, the role of government in sports development, the role of government in talent identification and the challenges and barriers that mitigates grassroots sport, The social factors were also discussed i.e young local athletes influence on sports participation, awareness and exposure, lack of

infrastructure, funding and sponsorships and coaching and training development. The review ended with an appraisal.

The mean and standard deviation was adopted for this study. The multi stage sampling procedure was used in selecting the sample for the study. The sample was drawn from among local youths, coaches, sports administrative and the general public in Oredo Local government area Edo state. Self-developed structured questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. The questionnaire forms were designed to elicit responses from coaches, athletes and sport administrators. The demographic information supplied by the respondents include gender and religion. The responses were analyzed using mean and standard deviation and percentages for the demographic data of respondents. The findings which revealed as follows; The independent variables are good predictors of grassroots sports development. The variables accounted for 80% for coaches and 75% for athletes.

The relative effect of independent variables on grassroots sports development shows that for youths all variables tested had significant effects on grassroots sports development.

The analysed data were presented in tables and figures. This was followed by interpretation under each of the tables. The discussion research findings were done at the end of chapter four. The last chapter present the summary, conclusion and recommendations.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of this study, the following conclusion were drawn. Participation in grassroots sport will not grow in Oredo local government area Edo state will not grow without the in the intervention of government and private funding, Grassroots sports opportunities are not easily accessible, The government plays a key role in promoting grassroots sports as initiatives and funding could go a long to create awareness and avenues for the youths to be physically, mentally and socially involved in sporting activities.

Further findings revealed that inadequate facilities and equipment is one the most common challenges that grassroots sport face and is still facing till date, due to the fact that young athletes lose interest in the particular sports they have passion for, some cannot measure their performance. Proper use of funds in imperative for the revamping of old functioning equipment and replacement of bad of ones. Gender and cultural barriers

that affect sports have to be address by means of Innovative approaches which will in turn boost the level of commitment of young athletes. Sports administrators and organizers and school management should make sure sports programmes are well planned and enough qualified personnel are employed for physical education sports programmes. The school should give teachers and trainers free hand so that much can be achieved. Religious beliefs should not influence the participation of students in sports, as this will give room for socialization. The level of participation is very low for gender especially the female, this is because female prefer sports that artistic in nature.

Recommendations

1. Grassroots Sports Development has enhanced the accessibility to grassroots sports opportunities in the state, especially for underserved communities. implementation of programs has also improved the current state of grassroots sports.
2. Government's role of supporting grassroots sports through effective policies and initiatives should be reinforce, Evaluation and addressing of any identified areas where government's role may be ineffective in grassroots sports development is paramount.
3. Development of financial support programs for grassroots sports organizations should be taken revisited at least twice in four years to address financial challenges. Government

should invest in infrastructure to improve the quality of grassroots sports facilities, Raise public awareness about grassroots sports and educate the community to overcome social and cultural barriers.

4.Ensure sustainable funding mechanisms for grassroots sports development to foster partnerships with various stakeholders, including private sectors, to support grassroots sports, Encourage community engagement and participation in grassroots sports programs.

5.Develop strategies for designing and implementing sustainable grassroots sports programs to ensure long-term success and development of young talent.

Contribution to knowledge

This study has focused on sports development and the role of government in promoting young talents as determinates of grassroots sports in Edo state.

This research has shed light on the complex relationship between government involvement and grassroots sports development in Nigeria. Our findings underscore the need for targeted policies, sustainable funding, and community engagement to promote the growth of grassroots sports. While this study has made valuable contributions to the field, there is still much to explore. We hope that this research serves as a catalyst for

further investigations into the dynamic world of grassroots sports development, ultimately leading to enhanced opportunities for athletes at the grassroots level.

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APPENDIX
RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN KINETICS AND SPORTS SCIENCE
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY

Dear Respondent,

I'm a final year student in the above department currently carrying out a research on the topic; Investigating the role of government in promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria.

I'm humbly soliciting your participation as a respondent in this study. Kindly respond to the questionnaire honestly as all information gathered shall be used purely for research purposed and be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you for your time

Yours faithfully,

Agheagbunem Eziafa Terry

SECTION A (Demographic data)

Gender Male () or Female ()

Age :15-20 () 21-25() 26-30 ()30-35 () 36-40 () 40-45 () 45-50 () years of age and others

Years of Experience :1 year () 2 years () 3 years () 4 years () 5 years () and others

Educational background: Non formal Education () SSCE() OND/NCE () B.Sc () Post graduate ()

Occupation: -----

Instruction; answer all question, indicate the extent to which you agree/ disagree with the following statement by ticking ()

The appropriate boxes below

SA- Strongly Agree; A- Agree; D- Disagree; SD- Strongly Disagree

SECTION B

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
	What is the current state of grassroots sport development				

	in Oredo local Government?				
1.	The current state of grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government is adequately developed.				
2.	Grassroots sports opportunities are easily accessible in Oredo Local Government.				
3.	The current status of grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government is influenced by various contributing factors.				
4.	The current state of grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government is adequately developed.				
5.	There have been consistent improvements in grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government over recent years				
	What is the role of government in promoting grassroots sports in Nigeria?				
6.	Government policies sufficiently support the growth of grassroots				

	sports in Oredo Local Government.				
7.	The government plays a key role in promoting grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
8.	The government's role is ineffective in grassroots sports development in Oredo Local Government.				
9.	Government initiatives in Oredo Local Government are effective in promoting grassroots sports.				
	What are the challenges facing the development of grassroots sports in Nigeria?				
10.	Financial challenges pose significant barriers for grassroots sports organizations in Oredo Local Government.				
11.	Inadequate infrastructure hampers grassroots sports development in Oredo Local Government.				
12.	Social and cultural barriers negatively affect grassroots sports growth in Oredo Local Government.				

13.	Public awareness and education can help overcome challenges in grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
14.	Public awareness and education can help overcome challenges in grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
15.	Innovative approaches are crucial to addressing challenges in grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
	What strategies can be implemented to promote sustainable grassroots sports development in Nigeria?				
16.	Sustainable funding is imperative for the long-term development of grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
17.	Partnerships greatly contribute to the sustainability of grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
18.	Community engagement is feasible and essential for sustaining grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				
19.	Strategies to involve the private sector are crucial for sustaining grassroots sports in Oredo Local Government.				

20.	Designing sustainable grassroots sports programs is fundamental for long-term success in Oredo Local Government.				
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