



SPORT FACILITIES AS PREDICTOR OF SPORT DEVELOPMENT IN ALLAHABAD, UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to examine if sports facilities are a predictor of sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The study aimed to examine how facilities/equipment would be a predictor of sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. Two hundred subjects were selected for this study. The ex post-factor design was adopted for the study, and the main research instrument used was a modified closed-ended Likert-type questionnaire, which was validated. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentage for the research question. The finding was that facilities/equipment was significantly predicting sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. Based on the finding, it was recommended among others that the development of sports facilities should be planned and taken in phases having in view the various sports and the cultural interest of the people, while also, provision of sports equipment should be enhanced through planned annual targets. Government should solicit and encourage interest in private individuals for the development of sports in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

KEYWORDS

Sports Facilities, Likert Type Questionnaire.

Introduction:

It is common knowledge today that the attainment of World class status in sports is a reflection of development objective of a country. Government of India launched Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) for development of sports in country. The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) was launched by the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government in February 2014 to replace Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA). When Bharatiya Janata Party came to power the government has merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), launched by the previous UPA government, with the Khelo India programme for development of sports. Two other sport projects launched by the previous regime, that is, Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and National Sports Talent Search Scheme, have also been merged under Khelo India for better development of sports. Sports policies changed with the government but one thing is common that is development of sports. If the sports facilities are properly developed with the view of sports performance in future then there is no need to change the name of Policy because sports performance directly depends on equipments and sports infrastructure. Having the right quality and quantity sports facilities and equipments is an integral part of sports development. To a large extent, this is partly what makes the difference between the sports culture of developed and developing nations. In the developed world, sports facilities and equipment of the appropriate standard are available to promote the athletes performance (Ojeme, 2000). In support of this view, Talabi (1998) opined that most developing countries wish to arrive at the level of developed countries overnight. While developed countries are putting so much into providing excellent facilities, equipment and conducive environment for athletes, developing countries seem to lag behind in the provision of these amenities and expect their players or athletes to excel in the international arena. Development countries are not paying enough attention to starting well so, ending up finishing badly or poorly. Ekpe (2011) opined that, it is difficult to separate the standard of sports in a particular country from the standard of facilities available for the training of athletes. The availability of adequate equipment and facilities play a major role in sports development. It would not be important to achieve satisfactory results from athletes, whose training facilities are inadequate or substandard which in actual fact will not compliment the work of the coach. Good sports programmes can function at full effectiveness only when they are supported with effective equipment in good conditions (Aluko, 1999). Athletes have come to realize that improved performances and development of special skills which can earn them better

incentives can be enhanced through better sports facilities and modern equipment. Ojeme (2000) opined that the realization or actualization of our nation's sports development objectives for becoming a world class sporting nation warrants the availability of enabling or facilitating input of various categories. He further defined these inputs as the intrinsic and extrinsic technology of sports as the inherent requirement for the conduct of sports such as the physical skills and material equipment required for sports experience. Training facilities as well as frequent and great numbers of competitions are those major factors which place the United State Based athletes in better standard than the home based. Availability of facilities and equipment determine the standard and the success of a sports programme. Dankadai (2011) stated that many of our playgrounds have disappeared and most schools have no sporting facilities and equipment as was the case before. Over the years, sports grounds were converted into residential purposes and the few ones that still exist especially in educational institutions are not properly maintained. Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to investigate if facilities/equipment would predict sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Methodology:

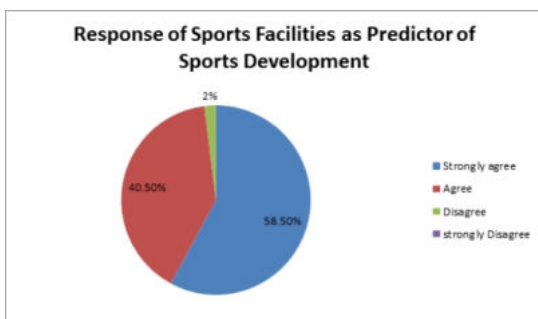
The Population of this study is fifty (50) which comprise fifty (50) administrative cadres, fifty (50) coaches, fifty (50) athletes and fifty (50) sports official. The instrument for data collection is a self-developed modified Likert-type questionnaire named facilities/equipment as predictor of sports development item which sought information on predictor of sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The scoring mode of the questionnaire is a closed-ended questionnaire on a four-point modified Likert scale type in positive form score thus; strongly Agree 4, points, Agree 3 points, strongly disagree, 2 point, disagree, 1 point and the adopted questionnaire was given to experts in the area of study through the supervision for content validity. Their comments, criticisms and suggestions are incorporated in the final copy of the questionnaire that was approved by the supervisor before administering it to the respondents. Two hundred (200) copies of the questionnaire forms were produced and admitted to the participant used for the study. In order to reach the participants, four trained research assistants were deployed to various associations in the sports council to administer the questionnaire forms by hand. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentage for the research question was used to assess if there was a significant difference in facilities/equipment as predictor of sports

development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. 0.05 level of significance was used for the statistical test of significance

Results and Discussion:

Response	Strongly agree	Agree	Strong Disagree	Disagree	Total
Sports Manager	25 50%	24 48%	00 0%	1 2%	50 100%
Coaches	34 68%	16 32%	00 0%	0 0%	50 100%
Athletes	32 64%	17 34%	00 0%	1 2%	50 100%
Sports official	26 52%	24 48%	00 0%	0 0%	50 100%
Total	117 58.5%	81 40.5%	00 0%	2 1%	200 100%

The results displayed on table 1 indicate the percentage responses of respondents on the research question of this study. The result revealed that 117(58.5%) of the respondents strongly agree while, 81 (40.5%) agree from the respondents facilities/equipment predict sports development while 2(1%) disagree that facilities/equipment did not predict sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.



Discussion:

It is common knowledge today that the attainment of world class status in sport is a reflection of development objectives of a country. In support of this view, Talabi (1998) opined that most developing countries wish to arrive at the level of developed countries over night. While developed countries are putting so much into providing excellent facilities, equipment and conducive environment for athlete's developing countries seems to lag behind in these amenities and expect their players or athletes to excel in the international arena. He further stated that one area of poor start is in the provision of facilities. Facilities are virtually not in existence and when available they are grossly poor or substandard. However, Asagba (2001) opined that, often time we refer to our sportsmen who were no bodies while here at home but not sooner they step out of our shores, than they become household names. There is no magic abroad, it is only as a result of the availability of modern equipment and facilities, back up with scientific training plans. Many research works on facilities, equipment personnel and maintenance shows that these area are deficient, and that sports management in the state and the country at large cannot function adequately some of the other problems are lack of qualified personnel, misuse of the funds, substandard qualities among others (Awosika, 1996). The findings in the study further revealed that in table one indicated that 58.5% strongly agree and 40.5% agree respectively that availability of sports facilities could predict sports development in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Conclusion and Recommendation:

The findings of this study confirmed that Sports facilities/equipment is a predictor of sports development. Abhin Shyam Gupta played in 2004 summer Olympics in Badminton and recived Arjun Award, Mohammad Kaif cricketer, Danish Mujtaba hockey Player, Ashish Kumar Gymnasts Arjun Awardi, Yogita Kumari Soft Tennish player Rani Laxmi Bai Award many more player who belongs from Allahabad gave performance at International level

because they got proper sports facilities in Allahabad. So we can say that sports facilities are necessary for better performance in games and sports. The development of sports facilities be planned and taken in phases having in view the various sports and the cultural interest of the people through planned annual target, while also private interested individual should be solicited and encouraged.

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