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# Availability and Utilization of Sporting Facilities for Fitness and Health Improvement of Staff of Federal College of Education, Kano, Nigeria.

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#### **Abstract:**

**Aim:** The development of motor skills, fitness knowledge and attitude conducive to a life-time of active lifestyle is cultivated early in life to build 'mens sana in corpore sano'; meaning sound mind in a healthy body. For a successful participation in sporting activities, facilities and equipment must be available for us; hence, this study assessed the availability and utilization of sporting facilities for fitness and health improvements of staff of Federal College of Education, Kano, Nigeria.

**Methods:** The survey research design which was used because it assessed prevalent conditions without manipulating variables. The population consisted the entire academic and non-academic [N=1580; M=985, F=595] staff of Federal College of Education, Kano. Using the stratified and simple random sampling techniques, ten percent [10%=158] were sampled from the six [6] Schools of Secondary Education; and for representativeness, thirty percent [30%; F=47] were females. Consent form containing the explained procedure were completed and returned. The instrument used was a self-constructed questionnaire on 'Assessment of Availability and Utilization of sporting facilities [AAUSF] for fitness and health improvements'; validated and administered to the sampled subjects who utilized the various College sporting facilities. Data collected was analyzed using SPSS V.26 [IBM] using the descriptive [%] and inferential [Chisquare] statistics to test raised hypotheses with significance set at 0.05.

**Results:** Results obtained revealed that subjects across all ages regularly used the sporting facilities, but the younger subjects [<35years; 101], and males [94; 59.49%] are credited with more frequent use hence the significance [p>0.05] and the stated null hypothesis rejected. The results, by work status however, revealed no significant difference [p<0.05] in the use of facilities, hence the null hypothesis was accepted.

**Recommendations:** This study recommended that the establishment of sports associations within the College; organization of low-organized sporting competitions of intramural nature among all staff members whether active or sedentary and finally, the upgrading of the College sporting facilities and infrastructures to accommodate diverse interest of staff and students will go a long way to improving staff participation across the divide of age, gender and status and increase level of socialization for sustained fitness and health improvements.

**Keywords:** Facilities, Fitness, Infrastructures, Low-Organized, Sedentary

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# 1. Introduction

Sport is an indispensable part of education; and at all levels of studies, it is a part of the life experiences for both students and staff for most of the last century [Bucher, 2001]. In the early years, sport was purely recreational or associated with training physical education teachers and the uniformed personnel [Olajide, 2004], however, in academic use, it is the only subject area devoted in the study of human movement, the acquisition of motor skills, and the promotion of fitness [Adeyanju, 2009]. Thus, sporting activities are concerned with the total development of the individual; encompassing developments in the psychomotor, cognitive and affective domains. The development of motor skills, fitness, knowledge, and attitude conducive to a life-time of participation is a commonly acknowledged goal of any physical activity program [Onyejiemezie, 2002].

Sporting activities that are organized and administered in the school system in Nigeria is not limited to students' participation alone [Olajide, 2004]. The aim of such activities at this level is to build in the participant's 'mens sana in corpore sano'; meaning, sound mind in a healthy body [Bucher, 2001]. Specifically, this is to meet the physical, emotional, social, physiological and intellectual needs of both learners and their supervisors; thus, starting the young ones early in life to health and fitness; and to the adults, maintenance of high health and fitness status for life. This view is equally buttressed by Omoruan (1996), when he asserts that institutional sports is aimed at meeting health needs, and the promotion of optimum development of students and staff. In addition, participating in sports at this level is for fun, play and recreation, hence amateurish in its entirety, the objectives of which include social interaction, physical fitness, skill acquisition and health maintenance with a possible carry over value for the future.

For a successful participation in sporting activities, the needed equipment must be available and capable of being stored for safety and prevention from damage [Omoruan, 1996]; because equipment is a critical component of a quality physical education and sporting program, not only because tools needed to be in sufficient number so that there is free will participation, but also because equipment differentiate quality of participation, increase in the levels of free will participation and in building an individual's self-confidence and self-efficiency [Igbanugo, 1983; Fishbein, 2000]. The same goes for sports facilities which include surfaces, natural or artificial on which sporting and other fitness-related activities done. They may be located indoors or outdoors, the most important thing is their effective utilization [Adeyanju, 2009]. Sports facilities can be utilised in two major ways that allow participants and other fitness enthusiasts to participate and stay healthy while doing so [Thomas, 2005]. They can also play vital roles in preventing injury or treat injuries. For instance, if a fitness enthusiast sprains an ankle, the training room, an important facility, can support the performance of physical therapy on the injured ankle after which icing treatment can take place [McChung, 2016]. This is the role of an essential sports facility during training.

Bucher [2001] describes sports facilities in terms of material infrastructures such as track and field ground and pitches, football field, the swimming pool, all sports and game pitches and courts and the gymnasium; which are required for sports experience. Facilities, Bucher, [2001] emphasize further, play a major role in the organization and administration of sports because they not only facilitate the ease with which a task of training is done; they arouse the interest of the participant, irrespective of their age or gender. Bragaru, et al. (2013) then concluded that facilities serve as morale boosters in performing sport among fitness enthusiasts, thus enhancing to a great extent their happiness and fulfillment of their goals. A successful utilization of sports equipment and facility has a role to play in advancing individual performance status and consequently, health and fitness promotion [Rintaugu, 2011; Azjen, 2014].

Gender and body composition constitute no barrier to participating in physical exercises, even when work schedule is a hindrance. However, when a person is not physically fit due to sedentary lifestyle arising from work schedule, there is that tendency to continue with that lifestyle of inactivity [Walid, et al.; 2014; Venkateswarlu, 2015]. It is, therefore, pertinent that no matter the skill level of the participant, the best way out of the negative effects of inactivity is to create time and begin an activity [Genin, et al.; 2018]. This is borne out of the fact that inactivity begets many degenerative afflictions that will eventually hinder health and fitness status in the chosen vocation [Venkateswarlu, 2015].

Academic and non-academic staff of Federal College of Education, Kano, usually engages in teaching, research and administrative duties; conduct and mark examination in different Nigeria Certificate in Education programmes, thus burdening their supposed free hours with official duties. In spite of these official engagements, it is expected that they create time for sports participation [Lemieux and Godin, 2009]; because it helps in moulding behavioral patterns, which are usually carried over to the society. There is no gainsaying that virtues like high sense of judgment, development of a sound mind and capacity to concentrate are gains imbibed through sports participation with a concomitant improved quality of life [Bruks and Fereira, 2014]. To achieve these goals there must be adequate provision of facilities and equipment; and they must be utilized for the purposes for which they are provided [Olajide, 2004]. It is against this background that this study intends to assess the availability and utilization of sporting facilities for fitness and health improvement of staff of Federal College in Education, Kano – Nigeria.

### 2. METHODS AND MATERIALS

**Research Design:** This study assessed availability and utilization of sporting facilities for fitness and health improvements of staff of Federal College of Education, Kano. To achieve the stated objectives, the survey research design was used because it assessed conditions that are prevalent and variables are not manipulated; rather it assisted in obtaining quantitative description of the general characteristics of the group being studied.

**Population and sample of the Study:** The population consisted of the entire academic and non-academic, male and female [N=1580; M=985, F=595] staff of Federal College of Education, Kano Using the stratified and simple random sampling techniques, ten percent [10%=158] were sampled from the six [6] Schools of Secondary Education [Teaching staff =66; Non teaching = 92] and to further ensure representativeness, thirty percent [30%] were females [F=47] [Patel, Doku and Tennakoon, 2003] and the rest, males [M= 111]. This sample size is adequate and representative [McChung, 2016]. Consent form, in which all the instructions and procedure of the research work are explained for easy understanding was completed by the subjects.

**Instrument for Data Collection:** The instrument used for data collection was self-constructed questionnaire on 'Availability and Utilization of sporting facilities [AUSF] for fitness and health improvements was validated and administered to the sampled subjects who were observed for eight [8] weeks to assess their utilization of the various College sporting facilities. The questionnaire was divided into three sections A: [demographic information], B: [opinion on sport facility available], C: [self-assessment on utilization] and D: [perceived benefits in sport facility utilization].

**Validity of the Instrument:** Three [3] sports management professionals were involved in the validation of the instrument. Their observations were effected before administration of instrument

**Reliability of the instrument:** Reliability coefficient of 0.77 was obtained after applying the test-retest reliability technique on the validated instrument.

**Data Analysis:** Data collected was analyzed using SPSS V.26 [IBM]. The descriptive statistics of frequency [F] and percentages [%] was used to analyse demographic information and inferential [Chi square] statistics was used to test raised hypotheses with significance level set at 0.05.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study assessed the availability and utilization of sporting facilities that could contribute to fitness and health promotion of staff of Federal College of Education, Kano – Nigeria.

# 3.1. Results

Results of demographic information of subjects sampled for the study are presented in tables below.

**Table1.** Distribution of subjects by demographic information and work status

Variable	Options	Frequency [%]
Age	<25yrs	62 [39.24]
	26 - 35yrs	47 [29.75]
	36 - 45yrs	28 [17.72]
	≥46yrs	21 [13.92]
Total		158 [100]
Gender	Male	111 [70.25]
	Female	47 [29.75]
Total		158 [100]
Work Status	Teaching	66 [41.77]
	Non teaching	92 [58.23]
Total		158 [100]

A cursory look at Table 1 revealed that participation in the study declined by age with the highest 62 [39.24%] being <25 years and the lowest 21[13.92%] being above ≥46years of age; while 111 male subjects representing 70.25% and 47 females [29.75%] took part in the study. However, there were more non teaching 92 [58.23%] than teaching 66 [41.77%] staff that took part in the study.

**Table2.** Perception of respondents on adequacy of available sporting facilities on checklist

A 11-1-1 - C C 11/411-11/-4	A 1	NI-4 A 14- [0/]	T-4-1-0/
Available Games facilities checklist	Adequate [%]	Not Adequate [%]	Total %
Ball games [05]: Soccer Volleyball,	82 [51.9]	76 [48.1]	158 [100]
Handball, Basketball, Hockey	. ,		
400m Athletics Track [01]	72 [45.57]	86 [54.43]	158 [100]
Racket games [03]: Tennis, T/Tennis,	33 [20.89]	125 [79.11]	158 [100]
Badminton			
Indoor sports [01]	146 [92.41]	12 [7.59]	158 [100]
Gymnasium [01] - Fitness	153 [96.84]	05 [3.16]	158 [100]

Careful observation of Table 2 revealed the perception of subjects on adequacy or otherwise of sporting facilities available in the college. Results showed that perception on adequacy of racket games facilities was lowest 33 [20.89%] and highest with gymnasium 153 [96.84%] and indoor sports hall 146 [92.41%]; whereas the participants had almost equal perception on adequacy of ball games facilities 82 [51.9%] and inadequacy of 400m athletics track 86 [54.43%]. Their perception is probably based on interest of sports they take part in.

Table3. Cross tabulation and Chi square analysis on regular use of facilities by age

VARIABLE	Age [years]				
Facilities use	<25yrs	26 - 35yrs	36 - 45yrs	≥46yrs	Total
Regular use					
O =	59	42	18	05	124
E= %	59.3	41.3	19.3	6.4	126.3
within age	37.3%	26.6%	11.4%	3.16%	78.5%
Not regular: O=	03	05	10	16	34
E=	3.09	6.4	9.58	12.63	31.7
% within age	1.9%	3.16%	6.3%	10.1%	21.5%
Total: O=	62	47	28	21	158
E=	62.39	47.7	28.88	19.03	158.0
% within age	39.2%	29.8%	17.7%	13.3%	100%

 $X^{2}_{[3]} = 7.815 > 0.05$  \*Significant

Examination of Table 3 revealed the frequency of sporting facilities use for fitness and health promotions. Results showed variable response based on level of participation. While all subjects across all ages [124; 78.5%] used the sporting facilities regularly, the young subjects [<25yrs, 59; 26-35yrs, 42] are credited with more frequent use. Few of the older subjects [≥36yrs: 26; 16.4%] are more implicated for less frequent use of facilities.

However, when these results are subjected to Chi square statistic, results showed that there is significant difference between the different age groups  $[X^2]_{[3]}=7.815>0.05$  ] in regular use [78.5%] and non-regular use [21.5%] of sporting facilities for fitness and health. Thus, the null hypothesis of no significant difference in the use of sporting facilities was not accepted.

**Table4.** Cross tabulation and Chi square analysis on use of facilities by gender

VARIABLE	Gender	Gender			
Facilities use	Male	Female	Total		
Regular use: O=	94	28	122		
E=	94.0	28.0	122.0		
% within gender	59. 49%	17.72%	77.21%		
Not regular: O=	17	19	36		
E=	17.0	19.0	36.0		
% within gender	10.77%	12.02%	22.79%		
Total: O=	111	47	158		
E=	111.0	47.0	158.0		
% within gender	70.26%	29.74%	100%		

 $X^{2}_{[1]} = 3.841 > 0.05$  \*Significant

Use of sporting facilities by gender, as presented in Table 4 showed that male subjects that regularly use sporting facilities [94;59.49%] is higher than females [28;17.72%]; while across gender 77.21% regularly use sporting facilities while 22.79% do not. Chi square statistic results however revealed

that there is significant difference by gender  $[X^2_{[3]}=7.815>0.05]$  in their regular use of sporting facilities for fitness and health. Thus, the null hypothesis of no significant difference in the use of sporting facilities was not accepted.

**Table5.** Cross tabulation and Chi square analysis on use of facilities by work status

VARIABLE	Work status	Work status			
Facilities use	Teaching	N/teaching	Total		
Regular use: O=	45	68	113		
E=	46.1	57.5	103.6		
% within gender	28.48%	36.71%	65.19%		
Not regular: O=	21	24	45		
E=	33.9	20.5	54.4		
% within gender	22.15%	12.66%	34.81%		
Total: O=	66	92	158		
E=	80.0	78.0	158.0		
% within gender	50.63%	49.37%	100%		

 $X^2_{[1]} = 3.841 < 0.05$ 

Not Significant

A careful observation of Table 5 revealed the role subjects' work status play in their regular use and non-use of sporting facilities in the area of study. Results showed that 45 and 68 teaching and non teaching staff respectively representing 65.19% regularly use sporting facilities. These difference, when subjected to Chi square statistics was not significant  $[X^2_{[1]} = 3.841 < 0.05]$ , thus the stated null hypothesis was not rejected.

**Table6.** Cross tabulation and Chi square analysis on use of facilities on checklist by age, gender and work status

Variable	Checklist of available facilities and their utilization					
Facilities utilization	Ball	Athletics	Racket	Indoor	Gymna-	Total
	games	track	games	sport	sium	
Age [yrs] a: <25yrs	17	17	13	03	12	62 [39.24]
b:26 - 35yrs	20	10	08	01	08	47 [29.75]
c: 36 - 45yrs	07	03	06	02	10	28 [17.72]
d: ≥46yrs	00	01	04	04	12	21 [13.92]
TOTAL	44	31	31	10	42	158 [100]
% use within facility	27.85%	19.62%	19.62%	6.33%	26.58%	100%
Gender: a. Male	37	12	26	11	25	111 [70.25]
b. Female	02	05	04	14	22	47 [29.75]
TOTAL	39	17	30	25	47	158 [100]
% use within facility	24.68%	10.76%	18.99%	15.82	29.75%	100%
Work status: a:Teaching	24	08	18	05	11	66 [41.77]
b. Non teaching	33	20	19	09	11	92 [58.23]
TOTAL	57	28	37	14	22	158 [100]
% use within facility	36.08%	17.72%	23.42%	8.86%	13.92%	100%

A careful examination of Table 6 showed that age and gender [p>0.05] but not work status have significant effects on the subjects' interest in assessing the various games on the facilities presented on the checklist of this study. While the younger the subjects' interest tilted to ball games, athletics track and racket games, the older subjects' preference was for indoor sports and gym workouts. Thus, the null hypothesis of no significant difference was not accepted by age and gender, but was accepted by work status [p<0.05].

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Physical activity is prescribed to reduce adiposity and overweight, and consequently improve on fitness and health status of exercise adherents [Adeyanju, 2009]; but the benefits can only accrue for those who devotedly utilize available sporting facilities for workouts.

Data on age showed that subjects were not homogenous as there was wide variations from the youngest [<25yrs] to the oldest [≥45yrs] groups thereby giving an insight on ability to engage in certain types of physical exertion [Mohammed, et al.; 2018]. The role of gender and work status on the use of sporting facilities has been discussed [Krieger, et al.; 1997; Stockie, 2009; Walid, et al.; 2014]; however,

individual perception which is based on availability determines the sporting facilities to be utilized. Results of this study on perception revealed adequacy of facilities for ball games [51.9%], indoor sports [92.41%] and gymnasium [96.84%]; but not so for athletics track [45.57%] and racket games [20.89%]. This result supports the assertion of several authorities [Shuaibu, 2009; Bragaru, et al.; 2013] reported that it is difficult to have adequate facilities for effective training in our institutions.

It has been suggested that youths are more mobile and adventurous, and this is reflected in their regular use of sporting facilities as reported in this study [>25yrs; 37.3% and 26–35yrs; 26.6%] compared to the older persons [36–45yrs; 11.4% and  $\geq$ 46yrs; 3.16%]. Statistical analysis was significant [p > 0.05] and the null hypothesis was not accepted on the basis that the younger the better work output [Adeyanju, 2009; Shuaibu, 2009]. There is further suggestion that cultural and societal influences are hindrances on gender participation in sports [Adeyanju, 2009] as reported in this study that male subjects use sports facilities more regularly [59.49%] as against females [17.72%]. The null hypothesis was however, not accepted [p > 0.05] on the basis that gender has significant effects on sports participation.

There are different categories of staff in every establishment and this area of study is not an exemption. Although, data on status of a staff and effects on sports performance is scanty, this study has revealed that 36.71% of non teaching staff engages more in sporting activities than their teaching counterparts [28.48%]. This is probably due to work schedule and related pressures [Landsbergis, et al.; 2003; Genin, et al.; 2018] of teaching, counseling and monitoring assignments of subjects. This assertion supports that found in military set up [Shuaibu, 2009] in which the commissioned officers staff enjoy less physical exertion than their junior counterparts, Government offices like MDAs [Shuaibu, 2009; Mohammed, et al.; 2018] where directors are more sedentary than the junior staff and in super stores [Stockie, 2009] where the managers are not as active as sales boys and girls. This study, however, presented no significant difference in the use of sporting facilities in the area of study despite the percentage margin between teaching and non teaching staff. This result supports Jenum, et al. [2009] and Christopher, et al.; [2020] assertion that as an officer rises in official and economic status, sedentary lifestyle becomes the bane.

The preponderance of sports facilities [checklist] utilization by age, gender and work status revealed that these variables play major roles. For instance, while >25yrs and 26-35yrs utilized ball games, athletics track, racket games and gymnasium facilities that require mobility and power exertion; the older subjects [36-45yrs and ≥46yrs] concentrated more on the use of gymnasium where fitness workouts are carried out at individual pace [Table 6]. When gender was focused upon, the males utilized all the facilities [70.25%] as against the female groups' concentration on indoor sports and gymnasium facilities with social and cultural hindrances as the bane. However, ball games, athletics track, racket games and the gymnasium facilities are more patronized by work status with the non-teaching staff having higher use than their teaching staff counterparts.

#### 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The regular use of sporting facilities has numerous fitness and health improvements which include, but not limited to reduced blood pressure, lower body weight and blood sugar levels, healthy Cadiovascular [CV] system, Cardio respiratory [CR] and muscular endurance and improved breathing rates to every member of staff in the College that uses them. The gains can be experienced by all without restrictions, even though natural phenomenon like age; and artificial restrictions like sociocultural [gender] factors cannot be completely eliminated. Considering that no institution can provide all the sporting facilities required by everyone in the system as interest base differs, staff needs to utilize the limited facilities available for their fitness and health benefits. In view of the foregoing, the following recommendations are put forward:

- ✓ The College sporting facilities and infrastructures need to be expanded to accommodate diverse interest of staff and students for sustained fitness and health improvements
- ✓ There should be low-organized sporting competitions of intramural nature among staff to encourage staff members that are prone to sedentary lifestyles.
- ✓ Staff sports travels should be encouraged as change of environment encourages better outlook to work output.
- ✓ The establishment of sports associations within the College as a way of removing the barriers to participation among different age groups, gender and status. It improves the level of socialization

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