

**ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN
INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
ABAKALIKI EDUCATION ZONES OF EBONYI STATE**

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Abstract

The study focused on administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zones of Ebonyi State. Three specific purpose and three corresponding research questions guided the study. Three hypotheses were tested. A descriptive survey research design was employed in this study. The population for the study was 192 sports administrators in 72 public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education zone. All the population for the study were used for the study, there was no sampling method adopted. The instrument for data collection for this study was a self-structured questionnaire. The instrument was validated by two experts in Human kinetics and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation in Science Education Department all from Ebonyi State University. The reliability of the instrument was tested using Cronbach Alpha which had a coefficient of 0.77. Mean scores and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions. ANOVA was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the study revealed that sports facilities and equipment provision are a strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State. The result from the study further revealed that there is no significant difference in administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender, age and educational qualification. It is based on the findings that the study recommended that Ebonyi State government and school authorities in Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State should ensure that sports activities are funded in schools, procurement of sports facilities and tools/equipment should be provided to improve students' sports participation in intramural sports programmes in secondary schools in study area. The

implications of these findings are that provision of adequate funding, facilities and equipment as well as scheduling in addition with adequate scheduling would help to improve students' participation in promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State.

Introduction

Sports is very popular all over the world because of the diverse purposes it serves. Sports as a social institution teaches and reinforces societal beliefs, norms and values, thereby assisting in socializing citizen into major cultural and social behaviour patterns in various societies (Onifade, 2001). Sport is an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment, maintenance and improvement of physical ability and skills. Azubuike (2015) maintained that sports is all forms of physical activities which through casual or organized participation aim at improving physical fitness and mental wellbeing, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels. the European Sports Charter (2022) saw sports as all forms of usually competitive physical activities or games which through casual or organised participation aim to use, maintain or improve physical ability and skills while providing enjoyment to participants and in some cases, entertainment for spectators. In the context of the study, sport is any contest or game that involves physical activity, physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment and price.

The importance of sports can never be over stressed. According to Bucher and Krotee (2002), sports contribute to character building, discipline, economy, ideology, patriotism, education, mental development, human communication, physical fitness, and health. Sports competitions, seminars, conferences and meetings of various types provide the opportunity for individuals from different countries to exchange ideas and knowledge which in turn would be of immense benefit in educating the citizens of their countries. Morakinyo (2002) observed that sports as a social phenomenon has grown from its humble beginning of being an entertainment and recreation pastime to become a visible and prominent business phenomenon that could no longer be ignored in the social, political and economic environment of any nation. Many great nations and societies of the world have realized that participation in sports is the key to a healthy development of their citizens, and have used it to develop their young ones, attaining a success that science, religions or politics has failed to achieve. Sporting activities have as well permeated the Nigerian society just as many other societies worldwide and also all aspects of societal life such as politics and religion. Awosika (2013) saw sports as a symbol that has become a unifying factor in Nigeria and views it as an essential ingredient for nation building, which cuts across all barriers such as ethnic, religious or social, and has served as a medium for the development of youths. At the sports ground, it fosters cultural integration, socialization and it cements ethnic relationships. From the foregoing, it can be univocally stated that sports are playing vital sole in the national development. This could be the reason for the introduction of intramural sports in educational institutions globally including Nigeria. Sports activities organized in educational institution is known as intramural sports.

Intramural sports are recreational activities such as games organized within a particular institution, usually an educational institution. According to Anjulo (2014), intramural sports are recreational activities organized within school, college and university settings involving club teams that compete regularly. In line with this, Adelabu (2019) defined intramural sports

program as recreational games organised within a particular educational institution or within institutions located in a particular geographical area which is aimed at fostering socialization and healthy lifestyle among participants. In the context of this study, intramural sports are sporting activities organized and carried out within four-wall of an educational institutions (such as primary, secondary, tertiary and other formal educational institution). The competition is opened to all registered students in such institution or establishment. Examples of intramural sports competition includes inter-house sports; athletics competition, inter class, inter halls/interdormitory, inter departmental among others.

There are many types of intramural sports programmes. They include; Soccer, Basketball (5v5 indoor, 3v3 outdoor), volleyball, sand volleyball, flag football, dodge ball, ping pong, tennis (singles and doubles), corn hole, tick-ball, tennis, field and track events among others. There may be other types of intramural sports in schools. Some may be conventional while others are non-conventional as well as indoor and outdoor activities that may be part of intramural sports. Globally, intramural tournaments are still organized within a specific community or municipal area, between teams of equivalent age or athletic ability.

Intramural sports encourage school-wide involvement of all students in physical activity during non-instructional times that occur during the school day (Nweke, 2014). Participation in intramural sports is beneficial to students in many ways; make students to adequately make use of their leisure time, as a tool for socialization and for building self-esteem among students (Ngwoke, 2017). Nwigbo (2018), Offor and Ikeh, (2022) and Oti (2022) suggest that participants in intramural sports are likely to experience social outcomes as evidenced by improved communication skills, respectful behaviour, and expanding social networks (Cooper, 2012; Phipps, 2015; Sturts & Ross, 2013). Umedum, Okafor and Azubike (2020) stated that the objectives of intramural sports are acquisition of sports skills, knowledge, development of physical fitness, character training, social interaction and proper use of leisure time. Stein (2013) noted that the purpose of intramural sports is not to win or lose, but to participate, it should therefore, have mass participation as its main objectives. Students' attitude to intramural sports should not be winning or losing, but the benefits accrued through its participation.

Participation in intramural sport has also been associated with intellectual benefits (Lower, Sue, Lih and Opah, 2013), increased grade point averages (Vasold, Sturts & Ross, 2021), and improved soft skills (e.g., critical thinking, cooperation) (Sturts & Ross, 2013; Williams, Carl and Malvin 2018). Together, existing research points to the various health and wellness, and learning outcomes that have been attributed to participation in intramural sport, while highlighting the importance of intramural programming across educational institutions. Asagba in Oyeniyi (2012) and Aluko and Adodo (2013) observed that the specific aim of sports in educational institutions is to help all students (participant) to take part in most physical education programmes and recreation according to their needs and wholesome interests. This means that students' participation in sports is very important to their wellbeing.

Participation is the action or state of taking part in an event, programme or activities such as association with others in a relationship (as a partnership) or an enterprise usually on a formal basis with specified rights and obligations. Ebeh (2019) opined that participation is an act of getting involved in different group activities and pursuits to achieve a goal. Operationally, participation is the act of taking part in an intramural sports programme in secondary schools. There are four major types of participation. They include nominal participation; instrumental participation; representative participation and transformative participation. Nominal participation is often used by more administrators to give legitimacy to development plans of intramural programmes. Junior administrators become involved in it through a desire for

inclusion. But it is little more than a display, and does not result in change. Instrumental participation on the other hand sees students' participation being used as a means towards a stated end – often the efficient use of the skills and knowledge of community members in project implementation. Furthermore, representative participation involves giving students a voice in the decision-making and implementation process of intramural sports programme or policies that affect them. Transformative participation results in the empowerment of those involved, and as a result alters the structures and institutions that lead to marginalisation and exclusion (Ezekwem, 2018, Osondu, 2019).

Participation in intramurals help students to develop their social skills, co-operation, teamwork, physical literacy, and overall health. Most importantly, intramural sports provide much-needed opportunities for students who do not have the opportunity to participate in organized sport or physical activities within the school community (Hull, 2014). Intramural sports provide opportunities for students to compete against their classmates in various sports. Intramural sports programmes provide fun, safe and structured play experiences that promote the physical, mental and social development of every student. It gives students opportunities for individual self-development regardless of ability to participate in sport activities that will develop skill and interest in a friendly, recreation-centered environment. Nzeribe (2021) further stated that social benefits of intramural sports include to improved self-confidence, social relation, interaction, physical ability and fitness among others. However, the most important aspect of the intramural program lies in its educational objectives. Some of the objectives are primarily social and are designed for wholesome fun, to develop teamwork, loyalty, reward and achievement, friendship and good fellowship, while other objectives are primarily physical and psychological such as improvement of health, personality development, ability to meet effectively the mental, emotional stresses and acquisition of lifelong leisure-time skills. The realisation of these benefits of intramural sports participation among secondary schools can only be possible if there is active sports administrators for effective sports administration.

Sports administrators are professionals such as coaches, physical educators, trainers, among others who carry out administrative assignments to improve sports programmes. Ndekwe (2020) noted that sports administrators manage administrative tasks for sports clubs or school sports departments by managing budgets, organizing practice schedules, and hiring staff. Nweke (2018) noted that sport administrators plan, organise and direct sport and recreation programs and services in accordance with policies set by management, owners, board of directors or executive committees. Sports administrators are also involved in promoting participation in sport and have a mandate to promote the image of sport by maintaining a good example as a management body. Administration is a decision-making body that ensures the smooth running of an organization. Uba (2019) defined administration as the systematic ordering of affairs and the calculated use of resources aimed at actualizing a particular goal. Operationally, administration refers to various strategies and planning aimed at actualizing intramural sports programme in secondary schools. In secondary schools, sports administrator are personnels and professionals who are responsible for organizing intramural sports. For these personnels to promote participation in intramural sports programme in schools, it must be effectively organised using material and human resources. This means that material and human resources are very important in promoting participation in intramural sports programmes in secondary schools. It is therefore imperative to examine administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zones of Ebonyi State

A strategy is a general plan or set of plans intended to achieve a set of goal/goals, especially

over a long period. Nwigbo (2022) defined strategy as a plan of action designed to achieve a long-term or overall aim. It can also be seen general(s) plan to achieve one or more long-term or overall goals under conditions of uncertainty. In the context of the study a strategy refers plans and action involved in organising and promoting in participation in intramural sports programme. Adoption of effective Strategy is important because the resources available to achieve intramural sports objectives are usually limited. Strategy generally involves setting goals and priorities, determining actions to achieve the goals, and mobilizing resources to execute the actions. Thus, a strategy describes how the ends (goals) will be achieved by the means (resources) (Luca, 2020). Thus, there is need for strategizing ways of promoting sports participation among secondary school students in intramural sports. Therefore, strategies for promoting intramural sports participation in secondary schools might include; fund management, scheduling and provision of facilities

Funding is the act of providing resources to support in the actualization of a particular goal. According to Azubuike (2018) funding refers to the act of providing finance for a project. Julia (2022) also stated that funding is a pool of money that is allocated for a specific purpose. In the context of this study, funding is an act of providing and allocating monies and other resources for organizing intramural sports in secondary schools. In schools, there is also need for fund management. Fund management is the act of overseeing and handling of a financial institution's cash flow. The fund manager ensures that the maturity schedules of the deposits coincide with the demand for loans. To do this, the manager looks at both the liabilities and the assets that influence the bank's ability to issue credit. Funding is a lubricant that is deployed enhance the organisation of sports. In line with this, Nwigbo (2020) reported that funding is the hallmark and one of the major strategy every school activity; from academics to of other programmes including sports. Funding is very important in the provision of school facilities, for motivation of both athletes, deployment of sports personnels, for training athletes, provision of tools for sports and even entertainment of the spectators (Nwigbo and Nebechi, 2020). In the organisation of intramural sports in schools, there are different sources of funds. These include; school levy, government and private sponsorships as well as internally generated revenue from educational institutions. However, observations from Izuchukwu, Ejike and Obidiche (2019); Okorie, Ogbonnaya and Ibeh (2020) have indicated that most schools lack funds for organising intramural sports for children/students. The quantity of funding in organising intramural sports affects scheduling of sports programmes, provision of facilities and equipment, personnel (administrators) motivation, and motivation of athletes.

Furthermore, provision of sports facilities and equipment has been seen as a strategy for promoting intramural sports participation. Facilities are fixed non-moveable, static, permanent long-life span materials used in sports. Anyanwu (2022) stated that sports facilities are the play grounding for hosting different activities, tournaments, and training sessions. While in specific term, facilities include volleyball court, running tracks, basketball court, swimming pool, handball court, badminton court, long jump pitch etc. For effective intramural sports programme in schools, there is need for adequate sports facilities. Facilities occupy such available place in all the ramifications of sports administration. Many research works on facilities, equipment, personnel and maintenance show that the areas are deficient and that sports management in the state and the country at large cannot function adequately (Awosika, 2016). The availability of adequate 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 facilities in good conditions (Aluko,2019). Ojeme (2019) 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. In line with this, Izuchukwu (2019) reported that having the right quality and quantity sports facilities is an integral part of sports development especially at the grassroots level. Based on this, it can be said that provision of sports facilities in secondary schools is a sine qua non to intramural sports activities.

Apart from sports facilities, there is need for sports equipment. Availability of sports equipment has also been acknowledged to be one of the strategies of intramural sports. Sports equipment are the tools, materials, apparel, and gear used to compete in a sport and varies depending on the sport. The equipment ranges from balls, nets, and protective gear like helmets (Azubuike, 2019). Sporting equipment can be used as protective gear or a tool used to help the athletes play the sport. Over time, sporting equipment has evolved because sports have started to require more protective gear to prevent injuries. Sports equipment are movable tools for used in performing sports activities.

Despite the above mentioned administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in secondary schools, in public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zones of Ebonyi State, it appears that there is low participation of students in intramural sports programme in the public secondary schools. Observations has shown that sports administrators in Abakaliki Education Zone are not adopting effective administrative strategies to correct this anomaly. It is based on this that the study examines administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zones of Ebonyi State

Statement of Problem

Secondary school sports, no doubt, provide appropriate environment to get and groom budding athletes. Purposeful and sustainable sports growth and development in Nigeria would have to be anchored on efficient and grassroots sports development. This is because, the schools are supposed to be the reservoir of vibrant youths with exuberant energy drives for physical activity. It would apparently be difficult to actualize the “catch them young” approach in the isolation of school sports especially at the lower levels of the educational system. At the secondary school level, sports promote an awareness of the need for general fitness, encourage mass participation in physical activities, provide personnel for training in physical activities and sports, adequately provide and maintain facilities and equipment as well as fund and organize sporting activities.

Available records with the Ebonyi State Sports Council (2021) and the Secondary School Sports in Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State (2021) revealed that, secondary schools in Ebonyi State have students who are ready to participate in intramural sports competition, but it appears that there are low participation of students in sports (intramural sports programme) in the area. This low sports participation have always been attributed to poor sports administration in secondary schools in the zone (Abakaliki Education Zone) and at state level especially in the public secondary schools (Onwe, 2023).

Some of the problems which often confront sports administrators in secondary school with regards to administration of intra-mural sports programme are related to fund management, sports facilities, sports equipment among others. From personal observation of the researcher, students in secondary school in Abakaliki Education zone are reluctant to participate in the various sporting activities. Students are usually being forced out with cane to come out for

school sport practice or training. This is against the objective or what should be the nature of intra-mural sports programme which should encourage mass participation and ought to be engaged voluntarily. Most students and parents see sports activities as waste of time. Based on this students do not see anything good in participating in sport activities. However, if this ugly situation is allowed to persist, it will discourage sports development in Abakaliki Education zone in particular and in Ebonyi State as a whole.

Presently, Ebonyi State is lagging behind in sports which is evident from 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023 National sports festivals which was 16th, 18th, 19th and 15th respectively. From this, the average position of Ebonyi state is 16.3 in sports ranking in Nigeria which indicates poor sports development at the grassroots level (intramural sports) in Ebonyi State. This poor position of Ebonyi State in the sports ranking in Nigeria might be attributed to poor promotion of sports at the grass root level. Hence, the problem of the study put in question is what are the administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?

Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study was to examine administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State. Specifically, this study examined the extent:

1. Fund management is a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State.
2. Sports facilities' provision is a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zones of Ebonyi State.
3. Sports equipment provision is a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State.

Research question

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study

1. To what extent is fund management a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?
2. To what extent is Sports facilities provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?
3. To what extent is sports equipment provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses formulated will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant difference in administrative strategies for promoting participation

in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender.

2. There is no significant differences administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on location.
3. There is no significant differences administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on age.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was employed in this study. The area of the study is Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State. The population and sample size of the study was 192 comprising of all sports administrators (such as games masters/mistresses; fitness trainers and coaches) in all the public secondary that made up Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State. The instrument for data collection for this study was a self-structured questionnaire titled: Administrative Strategies for Promoting Participation in Intramural Sports Programme Questionnaire (ASPPISPQ). The questionnaire was presented to three experts; two experts in the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education and one expert in the Measurement and Evaluation unit of the Department of Science Education. Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions, while ANOVA was used to test the formulated hypotheses at 0.05 significant level.

Research Question 1: To what extent is fund management a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?

Table 1: Mean rating of extent is fund management a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State
N = 190

S/N	Item	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Using funds raised from alumni Associations contribution in providing sports gears would improve students participation in intramural sports	3.48	.606	HE
2	Accessing endowment fund by philanthropic Organisations in buying sports tools would improve students participation in intramural sports	3.51	.946	VHE
3	Seeking for support from international bodies such as UNESCO, World Bank would improve student participation in intramural sports	3.61	.806	VHE
4	Regular contribution by the community the college is located would improve students interest in intramural sports	3.42	.735	HE
5	Obtaining of loan by the institutions could be used to improve students participation in intramural sports	3.13	1.01	HE
6	Periodic launching of programme improve students participation in intramural sports	3.64	.597	VHE
7	Grants from federal, states and local government	3.37	1.04	HE
8	Undertake Researches, and Consultancy Services to both public and private organisation improve students participation in intramural sports	3.72	1.22	VHE
9	Academic/Social clubs donations/supports.	3.80	.624	VHE
10	Internally Generated Revenue	3.46	.702	HE
11	Poor funding affects maintenance of sports equipment/facilities discourage students participation	3.41	.617	HE

Grand mean	3.43	.244	HE
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The result from the table revealed that using funds raised from alumni Associations contribution in providing sports gears would improve students participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.48, \pm .606$), accessing endowment fund by philanthropic Organisations in buying sports tools would improve students participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.51, \pm .946$); Seeking for support from international bodies such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank would improve student participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.61 \pm .806$); Regular contribution by the host community where the college is located would improve students interest in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.42. \pm 735$); Obtaining of loan by the institutions could be used to improve students participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.13, \pm 1.01$); periodic launching of programme improve students participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.64, \pm .597$); grants from federal, states and local government ($\bar{x} = 3.37 \pm 1.04$); undertake Researches, and Consultancy Services to both public and private organisation improve students participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.72, \pm 1.22$); academic/Social clubs donations/supports ($\bar{x} = 3.80, \pm .624$), internally Generated Revenue ($\bar{x} = 3.46 \pm .702$) poor funding affects maintenance of sports equipment/facilities discourage students participation ($\bar{x} = 3.41 \pm .617$); poor payment of athletes affects discourage students participation ($\bar{x} = 3.36, \pm 1.06$); adequate remuneration of athletes improve students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 3.02 \pm .812$); poor funding affects prompt payment of bonuses and match allowances to athletes and sports personnel ($\bar{x} = 3.46, \pm .569$) the table also had a grandmean of 3.43 which indicates that adequate fund management is a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State

Research Question 2: To what extent is Sports facilities provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?

Table 2: Mean rating of extent is Sports facilities provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State

		N = 190		
S/N	Provision of Sports Facilities and equipment	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
12	provision of standard football fields will improve intramural sports participation among students	3.44	.638	HE
13	provision of standard screen support and score board encourages students participation in intramural sports	3.51	.640	HE
14	provision of adequate seats for spectators promotes students sports participation	3.41	.796	HE
15	Provision of iron goal post promotes students sports participation	2.93	.897	HE
16	Provision of handball court promotes students sports participation	3.31	.686	HE
17	provision of hand ball court promotes students sports participation	3.14	.724	HE
18	Provision of lawn tennis promotes students sports participation	2.93	.923	HE
19	Provision accommodation centres for athletes would improve students sports participation	3.07	1.02	HE
20	Provision of Volleyball courts would help to improve intramural participation	2.78	.828	HE
	Grand mean	3.09	.460	HE

Table 2 showed the mean rating of extent sports facilities provision is a strategy for promoting

participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State. The result from the table revealed that provision of standard football fields will improve intramural sports participation among students ($\bar{x} = 3.44, \pm.638$); provision of standard screen support and score board encourages students participation in intramural sports ($\bar{x} = 3.51, \pm.640$); provision of adequate seats for spectators promotes students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 3.4, \pm.796$); provision of iron goal post promotes students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 2.93, \pm.897$); provision of handball court promotes students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 3.31, \pm.686$); provision of hand ball court promotes students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 3.14, \pm.724$); provision of lawn tennis promotes students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 2.93, \pm.923$), provision accommodation centres for athletes would improve students sports participation ($\bar{x} = 3.07, \pm 1.02$); provision of Volleyball courts would help to improve intramural participation ($\bar{x} = 2.78, \pm.828$); provision of swimming pool, would help to improve intramural participation in swimming among students ($\bar{x} = 2.74, \pm 1.02$); The table also had the grand mean of 3.09 which indicates that sports facilities provision is a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State to a high extent.

Research Question 3: To what extent is sports equipment provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State?

Table 3: Mean rating of the extent is sports equipment provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State
N = 190

S/N	Sports Equipment	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
21	Provision of Balls would help to improve intramural participation among students	2.83	.778	HE
22	Provision of Flying discs would help to improve intramural participation among students	3.14	.755	HE
23	Provision of net would help to improve intramural participation among students	3.17	.755	HE
24	Provision of shin guards would help to improve intramural participation among students	3.41	.666	HE
25	Provision of Racquets would help to improve intramural participation among students	3.32	.782	HE
26	Provision of rods and tackle would help to improve intramural participation among students	3.32	.801	HE
27	Provision of sticks, bats and clubs would help to improve intramural participation among students	3.01	.822	HE
28	Provision of wickets and bases would help to improve intramural participation among students	2.94	.855	HE
29	Provision of knee pads would help to improve intramural participation	3.25	.897	HE
	Grand mean	3.08	.385	HE

Table 3 showed the mean rating of the extent sports equipment provision is sssa strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State. The result from the table revealed that Provision of Balls would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x} = 2.83, \pm .778$) provision of Flying discs would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x} = 3.14, \pm .755$) provision of net would help to

improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x}$ =3.17, $\pm$.755), provision of shin guards would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x}$ =3.41, $\pm$.666); provision of Racquets would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x}$ =3.32 , $\pm$.782); provision of rods and tackle would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x}$ =3.32, $\pm$.801); provision of sticks, bats and clubs would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x}$ =3.01, $\pm$.822); provision of wickets and bases would help to improve intramural participation among students ($\bar{x}$ = 2.94, $\pm$.855); provision of bags, and shoes would help to improve intramural participation ($\bar{x}$ =2.77, $\pm$.929); provision of knee pads would help to improve intramural participation ($\bar{x}$ = 3.25, $\pm$.897); provision of helmets, mouth guards, shin guards, eye- protection etc would help to improve intramural participation ($\bar{x}$ =3.04, $\pm$.898). The table also had the grand mean of 3.08 which indicates that sports equipment provision a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State to a high extent.

Hypothesis I

There is no significant difference in administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender.

Table 11: ANOVA Result on the Respondents' Opinion on the administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender.

S/N	Item variables		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Dec
	Fund management	Between Groups	.014	3	.005	.079	.971	Not significant
		Within Groups	11.302	186	.61			
		Total	11.316	189				
	Facilities	Between Groups	.593	3	.198	.935	.425	Not significant
		Within Groups	39.466	186	.212			
		Total	40.061	189				
	Equipment	Between Groups	.130	3		.287	.834	Not significant
		Within Groups	27.991	186	.043			
		Total	28.121	189	.150			
	Scheduling	Between Groups	.240	3		.466	.706	Not significant
		Within Groups	31.953	186	.080			
		Total	32.193	189	.172			
S	Motivation	Between Groups	.024	3		.063	.979	Not significant
		Within Groups	23.685	186	.008			
		Total	23.709	189	.127			

Note: level of sig = 0.05

The data presented in table 11 showed that all the identified 5 items of administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender with their f-values above than 0.05 level of significance. This indicated that there was no significant difference in the mean ratings of the response from both male and female respondents on the administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender. Thus, the hypothesis of no significant was not rejected

Hypothesis II

There is no significant differences administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on location.

Table 12: ANOVA Result on the Respondents' Opinion on the administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on location.

	Sum of	Mean	Dec
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S/N	Item variables		Squares	Df	Square	F	Sig.	
Fund management	Between Groups		.006	3	.002	.035	.991	Significant
	Within Groups		11.310	186	.061			
	Total		11.316	189				
Facilities	Between Groups		.050	3	.	.077	.972	Not significant
	Within Groups		40.011	186	.017			
	Total		40.061	189	.215			
Equipment	Between Groups		.019	3		.043	.988	Significant
	Within Groups		28.102	186	.006			
	Total		28.121	189	.151			
Scheduling	Between Groups		.063	3		.121	.948	Not significant
	Within Groups		32.131	186	.021			
	Total		32.193	189	.173			
Motivation	Between Groups		.028	3		.074	.974	Not significant
	Within Groups		23.681	186	.009			
	Total		23.709	189	.127			

Note: level of sig = 0.05: NS = Not Significant, S = Significant

The data presented in table 12 showed that all the identified 2 out of 5 items of administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on gender with their f-values below than 0.05 level of significance. These indicated significant difference in the mean responses of the respondents on fund management and equipment based on location. On the other hand, three (3) items indicated that there was no significant difference in the mean ratings of the response of the respondents in the rural and urban areas on the administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State based on location. Thus, the hypothesis of no significant difference was not rejected

Discussion

The findings of Table 1 showed that respondents agreed in all the nineteen items under Fund management as a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State. The table revealed that using funds raised from alumni associations contribution in providing sports gears would improve students participation in intramural sports. In most secondary schools, alumni association play vital role in ensuring provision of facilities and tools (including sports facilities and tools) for the development of their alma-mater. Provision of funds by alumni association play vital role in encouraging students to participate in intramural sports in their schools. This result is in accordance with Adenyinka (2022) who noted that contributions of alumni association play vital role in the provision of sports facilities in schools which helps to encourage students participation in intramural sports programmes in schools. The result from the table also showed that the respondents agreed that accessing endowment fund by philanthropic Organisations in buying sports tools would improve students' participation in intramural sports. Philanthropists and other educational stakeholders have played vital role in encouraging intramural sports participation in secondary schools. In most secondary schools, students are divided into houses, named and sponsored by philanthropists. The contributions and donation from such individuals always encourage students in participating in intramural sports programmes. This result is in supports the result from Ndekwe (2024) who reported that sponsorship from philanthropists encourages and promotes the participation of students in intramural sports programmes. The result from the table further showed that the respondents agreed that seeking for support from international bodies such as The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Bank would improve student participation in intramural sports. International organisations such as World Bank (WB) and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have played vital role in improving sports at the grass-root level. Most times they encourage and sponsor sports programmes for students especially in the rural areas (Nweze, 2019). In line with this, Agbo (2016) reported that sponsorships by international

bodies like World Bank, The United Nations Children's Fund (*UNICEF*), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (*UNESCO*) have played vital role in promoting intramural sports in secondary schools. The researcher also reported that their contribution have also played vital role in encouraging sports participation among students. The respondents also agreed that regular contribution by the community the college is located would improve students interest in intramural sports. In most areas in Nigeria, school host communities usually contribute for the development of their schools especially in sports programmes. This result is in line with Ekwunife (2019) who noted that most host communities usually help their host schools to organise intramural sports programme. This result is in tandem with Maduakor (2018) who reported that host communities usually encourage their children to participate in intramural sports programmes by contributing to develop sports facilities in their host schools.

The results from the table further revealed that respondents also agreed that obtaining of loan by the institutions could be used to improve students participation in intramural sports, periodic launching of programme improve students participation in intramural, grants from federal, states and local government, undertake researches, and consultancy services to both public and private organisation improve students participation in intramural sports, academic/Social clubs donations/supports, internally generated revenue. These results are in accordance with Eke and Onunkwo (2019) who reported that internally generated revenue such as levy donations and research grants can be used to improve students participation in intramural sports programme.

The result from the study indicated that the respondents agreed that staff who show outstanding capabilities should be rewarded, provision funds for purchasing of vehicles for the deserving staff will promote students participation in sports and that increment of coaches' allowances promotes students participation in intramural sports. As indicated earlier, adequate funding and its judicious management would play vital role in encouraging sports organisers such as coaches and referees and consequently encourage intramural sports participation among students in secondary schools (Okpara, 2018; Ekeh and Okereke; 2019; Efeh and Nwude, 2020). Nwogu (2021) also reported that intramural sports participation among students can only be improved if both the athletes (student athletes) and their trainers are adequately motivated (both intrinsically and extrinsically). Furthermore, the result from the study revealed that the respondents agreed that poor funding affects maintenance of sports equipment/facilities discourage students participation, poor payment of athletes affects discourage students participation, adequate remuneration of athletes improve students sports participation, poor funding affects prompt payment of bonuses and match allowances to athletes and sports personnel, poor payment of match bonuses discourages sports participation, poor funding of first aid equipment affects students participation in intramural sports.

Table 2 showed the mean rating of sports facilities provision as a strategy for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki education zone of Ebonyi State. Result from the table revealed that the respondents agreed that provision of standard football fields will improve intramural sports participation among students. Provision of standard football pitches is very crucial in improving students' sports participation in intramural sports programme. This result is line with Onyekwere (2022) who found out that availability of standard field encourages students to participate in intramural sports programmes. Okeke (2023) also reported that lack of standard fields in most secondary schools affects intramural sports participation among students in secondary schools. The result from the study also revealed that provision of standard screen support and score board encourages students participation in intramural sports. Standard screen support enable sports officials to officiat without bias. It also helps to standardize sports activities as well as making intramural sports participation very attractive. This result is in line with Nweze (2018) who

reported that provision of screen supports improves sports programmes and activities. The result from the table further revealed that provision of adequate seats for spectators promotes students sports participation. Sports spectators encourage athletes for optimal performance. Provision of adequate seats for intramural sports spectators could play vital role in improving students' participation in intramural sports programmes. This result is in accordance with Uzor and Nwoha (2020) who found that provision of seats for sports spectators is a strategy for improving students intramural sports participation. The result from the study revealed that the respondents agreed that provision of iron goal post promotes students sports participation, provision of handball court promotes students sports participation and that provision of hand ball court promotes students sports participation. These results are in accordance with with Okoro and Ndongye (2022) who found out that provision of handball court and iron goal posts could help in encouraging students in participating in these sports.

The result from the table also revealed that the respondents agreed that provision of lawn tennis promotes students sports participation. Lack of lawn tennis courts in most secondary schools in Nigeria makes secondary school students to be unaware of how lawn tennis is played. Provision of lawn tennis courts would enable students to develop interest in the sports and subsequently participate in the sports (Edeh, 2023). This result is also in line with Eze and Odom (2018) who reported provision of lawn tennis would help to develop students interest in lawn tennis sports. The result from the study also indicated that provision of Volleyball courts would help to improve intramural participation, provision of swimming pool, would help to improve intramural participation in swimming among students, provision of badminton court, would help to improve intramural participation among students and that provision of long jump pitch would help to improve intramural participation among students. These results are in accordance with Offordile and Nwankwo (2017) who noted that provision of long jump pitch and swimming pool would be veritable in improving students sports participation in swimming and long jump competitions. Ekeh and Eloka (2013) noted that one of the reasons students do not compete in swimming in secondary schools include lack of swimming pools and poor knowledge of swimming rules. The author advocated for the provision of swimming pools in secondary schools to improve students' interest and participation in swimming competitions.

The table finally revealed that the respondents agreed that provision of Racquets would help to improve intramural participation among students, provision of rods and tackle would help to improve intramural participation among students, provision of wickets and bases would help to improve intramural participation among students. Most sports activities are not performed in Abakaliki Education zone due to inadequate or lack of supply of some sports equipment and tools. This result is in accordance with Onuchukwu (2010) who revealed that most principals of secondary schools do not care about the availability of some sports equipment and tools in improving students intramural sports participation. In support of the above view, Obi (2001) revealed that student athletes' poor performance in intramural sports competition is as a result of the use of sub-standard equipment and facilities during the preparatory stage.

Conclusion

Organization and administration of intramural sports is one of the numerous ways of developing and improving individual. Intramural sports among other things is expected to also; serve as stress reliever, an avenue for developing new friendship, create leadership opportunity, improve exercise level, making schools more interesting, learning how to win and lose in a sportsman-like manner, creating greater loyalty to the school and making available valuable

information that would not have been received in a regular course. The Nigeria national sport policy recommended grassroot sport as a way to develop sport in Nigeria and school sport is an integral part of it. The activities associated with intramural sporting events provide school students with an outlet when dealing with stress. Intramural sports also give school students a chance to socially interact with peers. For the actualisation of these benefits by need for effective administrative strategies for promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zones of Ebonyi state. From the data collected and analysed, it was discovered that fund management, provision of sports facilities and equipment, adequate scheduling and motivation are very crucial in promoting participation in intramural sports programme in public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zones of Ebonyi State.

Recommendation

On the basis of the findings and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were put forward:

1. Government and school authorities in Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State should ensure that sports activities are funded in schools.
2. Procurement of sports facilities should be carried out by government authorities and philanthropies in Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State to improve students sports participation in intramural sports programmes in secondary schools in study area
3. Procurement of sports equipment should be carried out by government authorities and philanthropies in Abakaliki Education zone of Ebonyi State to improve students sports participation in intramural sports programmes in secondary schools in study area

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