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Selected Institutional Factors Influencing Non-Participation in Sports and Physical Activities Among University Students

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to examine selected institutional factors influencing the nonparticipation of students in sports at the university. The study targeted 500 students; 100 students were sampled. Cross-sectional survey design and self-administered questionnaire were employed to get information from the participants. The data collected was coded and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 22. Finally, the data was analyzed by the use of descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies, standard deviation and means. Chi-Square was used to ascertain the relationship between variables at a significant level of 0.05. A majority, (78%), of the respondents indicated that lack of time due to study obligations was the reason they never participated in sports in the university. Up to 46% indicated that the reason why they did not participate in sports in the university was because the sport they loved was not being offered in the university. About the same number, 46%, of the students showed that lack of modern sports equipment in the university was the reason they did not participate in sports. Some (32%) of the students indicated that they did not participate in university sports because they felt that university athletes are not adequately rewarded. Half (50%) of the students showed that lack of coaches was one of the reasons they did not participate in sports. This study recommended that in order to promote positive attitude towards participation in sports among students, universities should have adequate and quality sports infrastructure and equipment and other needed resources including manpower like coaches; create more time for sports to increase the number of students participating in sports; and establish programs that enlightens students on the importance of physical activities and career opportunities that are available in physical education.

Keywords

Institutional factors, Sports, University students, Influencing, nonparticipation

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Introduction

Evidence exists that bear out the important role of regular physical activity and sport in the maintenance of good health and prevention of illnesses caused by sedentary lifestyle. For example, World Health Organization (WHO) (2015) noted lack of adequate physical activities is among the top ten leading risk factors for mortality globally. This is due to the fact that sedentary lifestyle is the genesis of a myriad of lifestyle ailments. According to WHO (2015), one of the greatest instruments for dealing with obesity epidemic and other sicknesses that are associated with sedentary lifestyle is a physically active lifestyle. Besides having healthful benefits, Buneman (2014) indicated that regular participation in sports and physical activities is associated with good academic grades, reduced dropout rates and improved students' uptake in coursework that is mentally demanding since sports activities are associated with reduction in unhealthful behaviors including but not limited to addictions, depression, stress and anxiety.

Higher institutions of learning are important settings for helping young people acquire the physiological, psychological and social benefits of engaging in sports (Gail & Radder, 2015). However, Aysha *et al.*, (2019) reports that physical activity starts declining as people reach early adulthood with higher level of inactivity among university students. A study by Zoran (2013) conducted on the students in university indicated that majority, 57% do not participate in physical activities and sport. Aysha *et al.*, (2019) reports that though most students in the university appreciate the benefits of PA and sport, majority do not engage at a level that is adequate enough to improve their health. As cited by Aysha *et al.*, (2019), the American College Health Association (2016) showed that only 38% of college and university students met the required physical activity and exercise recommendations of at least 30 minutes for 5 or more days a week for moderate-intensity or at least 20 minutes for 3 or more days in a week for vigorous-intensity exercise.

Various studies have reported factors leading to nonparticipation in sports by students. Zoran (2013) revealed that academic pressure made many students in the university to embrace a sedentary lifestyle. Correspondingly, a survey of University of Free State students in South Africa by Bloemhoff (2010) showed only 33% of the undergraduate students participated actively in organized sport. The study reported that majority of students in the university use most of their time for studying, watching movies and television, gaming, surfing, sitting, talking and hanging out with friends. This lifestyle of inactivity tends to become dangerous to their health.

Similarly, Hoden (2010) stated that insufficiency of time, overcrowding of facilities, broken equipment, and lack of money are major hindrances to participation in physical activities and sports. Yusof and Shah (2007) in a study that aimed at understanding the factors that affected the level of participation in sport by Malaysian university students showed that lack of information on the available sporting activities and facilities was what significantly affected the participation in sporting activities by the students.

Battikhi (2008), Adna and Ibraheem (2017) reports that students at Jordan University rarely engaged in physical and sports activities because of the unavailability and unsuitability of sports activities and academic pressure. Moreover, Adna and Ibraheem (2017) citing the study by Al-Khalid (2001) indicated that the students at King Saudi university in South Arabia were reluctant to participate in sport due to the distance between the students' housing and sports facilities, lack of appropriate and usable facilities, shortage of sports trainers and lack of incentives for the students who participate in competitive sports.

Andanje and Rintaugu (2009) carried out a survey on leisure sports participation patterns of postgraduate students at Kenyatta University. They found out that the major reason most students did not actively participate in sport at Kenyatta University was due to lack of time. It is noted that few studies have been carried in Kenya and this provides a significant gap. Kenya being a developing country only few of her universities' have well developed sports infrastructure. This study focused on assessing selected institutional factors influencing non-participation in sports activities among university students in Kenya.

Literature Review

Literature has demonstrated that lack of time, facilities, academic pressure among others play a big influential role in the nonparticipation of university students in sports. A survey of female students' perception of the barriers to participate in physical and sports activities by Adna and Ibraheem (2017) was conducted at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University. The study used self-reported questionnaire with five-point likert scale to collect data from a sample of 221 female participants. The reliability of the data collection tools was determined by the use of reliability test-retest procedure. The study findings showed that lack of facilities and academic reasons were the perceived barriers to participation in physical and sport activities by the students. The study recommended that universities should focus

on acquiring more sports equipment and building more sports facilities. Could these be the reasons for low activity levels of university students in Kenya? This study set out to answer this question.

Aysha et al., (2019) carried out a study which focused on examining physical activity, sport participation and perceived barriers to engagement in first year Canadian university students. The researchers sampled 301 participants and collected information from the participants by use of self-reported questionnaires. The study identified class schedule, available free time and overcrowded facilities among others to be the strongest hindrances to participation in physical activities by the students. Further, the researchers noted that as students' academic commitments increase, they become less likely to engage in physical activity and exercise. Gail and Radder (2015), conducted a study aimed at ascertaining the constraints that prevented students from New Generation University from continued participation in sport. The researchers adopted cross-sectional survey design for the study and used structured questionnaire to collect data from a sample of 283 senior undergraduate students which was drawn from a target population of 13,970 students. The findings demonstrated that accessibility of facilities, time and schedule constraints were the most profound reasons for nonparticipation in sport. Manuel and Antonio (2010) carried out a study on perceived barriers by university students in the practice of physical activities. Targeting 1834 students from the University of Almeria, the study sampled 323 students. Standardized questionnaire was used to elicit information from the students. Cronbach's Alpha reliability test was used to ensure reliability of the tools. The students reported that lack of time and study overload were the barriers to participation in physical activities. Arzu, Emine and Levent (2006) did a study on perceived barriers to physical activity among Turkish university students using self-reported questionnaires to collect information from a sample of 303 undergraduate students. Pilot study was done to ensure the validity and reliability of data collection tools. The study findings indicated time constraints due to school work and lack of the sport they loved among the diverse reasons for nonparticipation in sports by the students. Andanje and Rintaugu (2009) carried out a survey on leisure sports participation patterns of postgraduate students at Kenyatta University. They found that the major reason most students didn't actively participate in sport at Kenyatta University was due to lack of time. Similarly, Obondo (2020) conducted a study aimed at understanding the determinants of non-participation in organized sport activities by public secondary schools students in Kiambu County. The study employed the use of cross-sectional survey design and self-administered questionnaire to elicit data from 377 form two and four students who were purposively sampled. The researcher didn't indicate how the reliability of the data collection tools was determined. According to the findings of the study, the informants indicated the reasons for nonparticipation in sport as expensive sports equipment (42.7%), lack of modern sports equipment (38.7%), and sport not given adequate time (62.3%). This study focused on secondary school students. Is the situation the same with university students? The current study attempted to answers this question.

Methodology

Cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. Data was collected from One hundred participants randomly sampled respondents using of self-reported questionnaires. Only the participants who signed the consent forms were allowed to participate in the study. To determine the reliability of data collection items Cronbach's Alpha reliability test was used after pre-testing has been carried out using 10 students from one of the campuses who were selected randomly and were not allowed to participate in the actual study. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviation. Chi-Square was used to ascertain the relationship between gender and the participation in sports in secondary school.

Ethical Considerations

Research permit was sort from the university management. The researcher also spelled out the purpose of the study to the study informants. The participants voluntarily chose to participate in the study by signing a consent form and no monetary compensation was done. The researchers were not required to indicate their names on the questionnaire and their responses were kept confidential.

Theoretical Framework

This study was underpinned by the Expectancy-value theory by McLeod (2009). The theory stipulates that the decision to choose and continue engaging in a task is dependent on someone's confidence in their ability to succeed in the task and the perceived importance and usefulness of the task. Particularly, the value placed on a task is a great determinant of the level of engagement and interest. The theory was considered suitable for the current study since it helps the

researcher to understand the factors that influence the non-participation of students in sporting activities in the university.

Conceptual Framework

Independent variables

Figure 1 exhibits that the decision by university students to participate in sports in the university is influenced by lack of time, lack of enough facilities, overcrowded facilities, time and schedule constraints, lack of time and study overload, lack of the sport they love, too expensive sports equipment and lack of modern sports equipment.

Time factors Sufficient time Insufficient time Availability of facilities & equipment Sufficient facilities Insufficient facilities Insufficient facilities The types of sport offered Lack of sports variety Varied sports offered.

Figure 1 Conceptual framework

Data Analysis

Demographic Data of the Respondents

The current study went out to find the distribution of the respondents by gender, age, level of study and previous exposure to sports in secondary schools. The total number of participants was 100, out of which 34% were male and 66% were female. This shows that there were more females who participated in the study compared to male participants. Majority (60%) of the participants were aged 21-24 years, 22% were between the age of 18 to 20 years and only 18% were 25 years and above. This is an indication that the respondents were mature enough to participate in the study. From the study, majority of the students were fourth years (66%), then third years (22%), second years (8%) and first years (4%). Finally, majority (68%) of the respondents indicated that they used to play sports in secondary school, while 32% indicated that they did not.

Reasons the students were not active participants in sports at the university.

A number of factors contribute to the level of participation in physical activities in the university by students. The study went out to ascertain the reasons why most students do not participate in physical activities.

Table 1: The reason I am not an active participant in sport is because the sport I love is not offered in the university.

Cumulative

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	false	54	54.0	54.0	54.0
	true	46	46.0	46.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

As indicated in Table 1, of the students who were polled, a good number of students (46%) indicated that the reason why they did not participate in sports in the university was because the sport they loved was not being offered in the university. However, majority (54%) declined that that was not the reason why they were inactive in sports. This study is consistent with a study by Arzu, Emine and Levent (2006) which indicated time constraints due to school work and sport they love not offered among the diverse reasons for nonparticipation in sports by the students in Turkey. When universities offer a variety of sports, they increase the number of students who participate in sports.

Table 2: I do not like participating in sport because there is lack of modern sports equipment in the university.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	false	54	54.0	54.0	54.0
	true	46	46.0	46.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Up to 46% of the informants showed that lack of modern sports equipment in the university was the reason they didn't participate in sports. Contrarily, 54% of the students stated that lack of modern sports equipment was not a barrier to their participation in sport. Similarly, Andanje and Rintaugu (2009) indicated the reasons for nonparticipation in sport by students in Kenya schools as too expensive sports equipment, lack of modern sports equipment, and sport not given adequate time. Universities should keep themselves abreast with the new changes in sports industry including acquisition of latest sports equipment.

Table 3: I do not like participating in sport because at the university the athletes are never rewarded.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	False	68	68.0	68.0	68.0
	True	32	32.0	32.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

As shown in table 3, 32% didn't participate in university sports because they felt that university athletes are not adequately rewarded. One of the reasons why people participate in sports is the desire for rewards. Rewards are some of the greatest motivating factors.

Table 4: Since there are no coaches, I do not participate in sport

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	false	50	50.0	50.0	Valid
	true	50	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From the table 4, 50% of the students showed that lack of coaches was one of the reasons they didn't participate in sports. However, 50% did not see the lack of coaches as the reason behind their embracing of sedentary lifestyle. Besides training of athletes, coaches motivate athletes to continue participating in sports. Lack of skills and techniques for certain sports can demotivates students from participating in sports. Coaches play a very significant role in equipping players with necessary skills and techniques for certain sports. If students have no one to train them, they may decide not to participate in sports.

Table 5: Lack of time due to my study obligations is the reason I do not actively participate in sports.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	False	22	22.0	22.0	22.0
	True	78	78.0	78.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

As demonstrated in table 5, majority (78%) of students indicated that lack of time due to study obligations was the reason they never participated in sports in the university. Only 22% showed that lack of time was not the reason they didn't participate in sports. The findings are in tandem with Andanje and Rintaugu (2009) results of a survey on leisure sports participation patterns of postgraduate students at Kenyatta University where found the major reason most students didn't actively participate in sport was due to lack of time. Moreover, Manuel and Antonio (2010) study of students reported that lack of time and study overload were the barriers to participation in physical activities among the students.

Table 6: The reason I'm not an active participant in sport is because the facilities present are crowded.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	False	74	74.0	74.0	74.0
	True	26	26.0	26.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

According to table 6, the majority (74%) reported that overcrowding of the facilities was not one of the reasons why they didn't participate in sports. Although 26% indicated that the reason they were inactive in sports was because the sports facilities in the university were crowded. These findings are consistent with Aysha *et al.*, (2019) who found that class schedule, available free time and overcrowded facilities among others to be the strongest hindrances to participation in physical activities by the students.

Table 7: The reason I'm not an active participant in sports is because sports programs are not given adequate time in the university.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	False	26	26.0	26.0	26.0
	True	74	74.0	74.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Of the students, the majority (74%) indicated that the reason they didn't actively participate in sports was because the sports programs were not given adequate time in the university. These findings are consistent with the findings by Andanje and Rintaugu (2009) who found that one of the reasons students were inactive participants in sports was because sports was not given adequate time.

Table 8: Factors influencing non-participation in sporting activities in the university.

	Statistics													
		The						I dont		The				
		reason						participa	The	reason			The	The
		I'm not	I dont				The	te in	reason	I'm not			reason I	reason I
		an	like			Lack of	reason I	sport	I'm not	an active		The	dont	dont
		active	particip	I dont		time	dont	because	an	participa		reason I	particip	actively
		particip	ating in	like		due to	participate	of	active	nt in		dont	ate in	engage in
		ant in	sport	participa		my	in sport is	inapprop	particip	sports is		particip	sport is	sport is
		sport is	because	ting in		study	because I	riate	ant in	because		ate in	because	because
		because	there is	sport		obligati	was not	behavior	sport is	sports	Sports	sport is	the	the sports
		the	lack of	because	Since	ons is	informed	of	because	program	progra	because	sport I	activities
		sport I	modern	at the	there	the	about the	coaches	the	s are not	ms in	I dont	love is	and
		love is	sports	universit	are no	reason I	sport	and/or	facilitie	given	the	have	not	programs
		not	equipm	y the	coaches	dont	activities	other	S	adequate	universi	sports	being	offered
		offered	ent in	athletes	, I dont	actively	that are	staff in	present	time in	ty are	equipm	offered	are
		in the	the	are never	particip	particip	offered in	sports	are	the	poorly	ent	in the	inappropri
		univers	universi	rewarde	ate in	ate in	the	program	crowde	universit	organiz	and/or	universi	ate for my
		ity.	ty.	d.	sport	sports.	university.	S.	d.	y.	ed	gears	ty.	gender.
N	Valid	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M	ean	.4600	.4600	.3200	.5000	.7800	.4000	.1200	.2600	.7400	.5600	.3800	.4400	.1200

From the table 8, it appears that the major reason why students do not participate in sporting activities in the university is lack of time (average mean=.7800). And the second major reason is that the sporting activities are not given adequate time in the universities (average mean=.7400).

Table 9: Chi-Square test on the relationship between gender and participation in sports in secondary school.

Test Statistics

	Gender	Did you play any sport in secondary school?
Chi-Square	10.240a	12.960ª
df	1	1
Asymp. Sig.	.001	.000

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 50.0.

Using chi-square, the study found a significant relationship between gender of the students and participation in sports in secondary school, X^2 (1, N=100)=12.96, p=.000.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The aim of this study was to ascertain the institutional factors influencing nonparticipation in sports among university students in Kenyan universities. According to reviewed literature, most students do not actively participate in sports in the university due to myriad of reasons including but not limited to lack of enough facilities (26%), lack of time and study overload (78%), the sport they love not offered (46%), too expensive sports equipment, lack of modern sports equipment (46%), lack of coaches (50%), and sport not given adequate time (74%). According to this study, lack of time due to the pressure of class work was the main reason why students failed to be active in sports. The second major reason was because sports programs were not given adequate time. Other reasons why students didn't participate in sports included lack of modern sports equipment, lack of adequate rewards, lack of coaches and lack of a variety of sports to choose from.

The study recommended that:

- In order to promote positive attitude towards participation in sports among students, universities should have adequate and quality sports infrastructure and equipment and other needed resources including manpower like coaches.
- 2. Universities should create more time for sports to increase the number of students participating in sports.
- 3. Universities should increase the number of sports offered to attract many students.

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