

# Impact of corrupt practices on sports Development in Ekiti State, Nigeria

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Received: December 01, 2019

Accepted: January 08, 2020

**ABSTRACT:** The paper examined the impact of corrupt practices on sports Development in Ekiti State, Nigeria. The Ex-post facto research design was used for this study. The target population for the study comprised of all athletes, coaches, organizing secretaries and management staff, sports council in Ekiti State. The local government sports councils in Ekiti State were grouped according to the political zones of which two sports council were selected from each of political zones. Thus a total of twelve (12) towns' sports councils with a sample size of 510 personnel were selected. Out of this total, three hundred (300) respondents representing 1.7% of the sample size were thus selected for the study as follows Ten (10) athletes, five (5) coaches; two (2) organizing secretaries and three (3) from management staff, making total twenty (20) respondents from each of the twelve sports councils. A simple random sampling technique was also used in the selection of the respondents for the study; however both the technical and administrative staff were further split into two groups each from the technical section; coaches and athletes were sampled separately while from the administrative staff; organizing secretaries and management staff were sampled separately. The research instrument for this study was a self-design questionnaire. The face and content validation of the instrument was established through validity and reliability mechanism. The reliability coefficient of the instrument at 0.05 level of significant was 0.87. The instrument was thereafter administered. The data gathered were analysed with Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistical analysis. The analysis of the data revealed that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant effect on personnel staff of the states sport councils in Ekiti State, that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant impact on sports facilities/equipment of the states sports councils in Ekiti State, that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant impact on the sports associations in the state sports council in Ekiti State and that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant impact on states sports councils in Ekiti State. Based on the findings, appropriate recommendations were made.

**Key Words:** Impact, corruption, practices, sports, development.

## Introduction

There has been a debate as to why sports has become such a lucrative global industry in sports management literature, it is the uncertainty of sports that gives its unpredictable joy and their characteristics intensity it is this uncertainty and unpredictability that make sports such an exciting opportunity for businesses around the world to take advantage. Corruption is an incomplete term, since its precise meaning depends upon some specification of what it is that has been corrupted. We shall suggest that, in the case of modern sport, what has been corrupted is the integrity of sport. Elsewhere (Gardiner, Parry & Robinson, 2017). But what happens if this uncertainty and unpredictability is taken away? In recent years there have been an increase in the number of reports detailing corrupt behavior by individuals at all levels of sports and those associated with it both on and off the field of play, in the pursuit of financial success usually reserved for those who are winning global championships (Chadwick & Gorse, 2013).

Corruption in sport was initially meant to refer to any action that aims at and succeeds in earning money with distorting the outcome of sport contests by means of bribing and throwing a game for money or non-monetary economic compensation. Nowadays, corrupt sport has extended to other unethical behavior such as distorting the allocation of mega-sporting events, biasing some decisions made by sport governing bodies and fixing bet-related matches. Corrupt sport dates back to the earliest centuries when sporting events emerged.

Maennig (2006) reports documented cases of bribing competitors at the Olympic Games in 388, 332 and 12 B.C. Revealed corruption scandals increased in modern sports, namely in boxing, US college basketball, South Korean, Swedish and Turkish basketball, English, Indian, Kenyan and South African cricket, French handball, Australian and English rugby, African, Asian, European and Latin American football, Japanese sumo wrestling, Austrian, Russian and Serbian tennis, South Korean volleyball, and

Chinese and English snooker. With growing money inflows attracted into sport and globalisation of the sports economy (Andreff, 2012), nowadays corruption can plague, up to some point, anyone and all the facets of sport business. Corrupt sport has become such significant criminal economic activity that it should – and would have to – deserve a deeper focus on the most global opportunity for corruption which lies in sport betting scandals related to match fixing. With the emergence of on-line betting the latter is the spearhead of borderline economic behaviour and, in many occurrences, of naked criminality, which is out of reach for both national governmental regulation and sanctions designed by national and international sport governing bodies.

Corruption is recognized to be one of the world's greatest challenge, and a major hindrance to sustainable development, with a disproportionate impact on poor communities and is corrosive on every fabric of society. Corruption involves a deliberate use of one's position to get illegitimate benefits and undue advantage which could be financial or in other forms (Amuwo 2005 and Obayelu, 2007). It is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon with multiple causes and effects, as it takes on various forms and functions in different context (United Nation Committee against Corruption (UNCAC, 2013). Corruption has become an issue of major political and economic significance, and this has led to a resurgence of interest in analyzing the phenomenon and the diverse forms that it assumes in developing countries, with an expectation that democratization and economic liberalization offer potential routes to dealing with the problem. An Anti-corruption strategy ranges from institutional reforms through concerted efforts at the international level. The efficacy of these approaches has not been subjected to careful empirical research. The study of corruption has been –multi-disciplinary|| and dispersed, ranging from universal theoretical modeling to detailed descriptions of single corruption scandal. It has been studied as a problem of political, economic, cultural or moral underdevelopment. The complex nature of corruption has made most observers agree that it pervades many societies and that there are no quick-fix solutions to it (UNCAC, 2013).

Corruption in sports involves any illegal, immoral or unethical activity that attempts to deliberately distort the result of a Sports contest for the personal material gain of one or more parties involved in that activity (Chadwick & Gorse, 2010). Organization of large-scale events (such as Sports) involves complex logistics, tight timeframes and substantial public funds, these therefore present opportunities and risk of corruption, since whenever there is money, competition or power involved, corruption is a constant threat, as the organizational structure may not support practices that would be considered accountable and transparent (Maening, 2005). In many instances, excessive responsibility, power and money have been given to individuals, whose main credentials may be their status as former athletes or club leader (Audu, 2009). Although corruption in sports is not a new phenomenon; at the Olympic Games in 388BC Eupolos of Thessalia bribed three of the competitors in a fighting tournament allowing him to win the gold medal (Maening, 2005). However, in recent times Sports have suffered from a dramatic growth in reports of corruption, from bribery to plain cheating (Chadwick & Gorse, 2013). Notable cases in the modern era of sports include the fixing of 1991 World Series by members of Chicago White Sox who took bribe from gamblers; Ben Jonson's infamous failed drugs test in 1980s (Maening, 2005). The most recent of all corruption scandal is the one that erupted among the FIFA executive in which the president and other members were suspended. While in Nigeria the officials of Nigeria Football Federation were indicted for corruption during the world cup in Brazil.

Corruption in sports centers around match fixing or gambling, biased refereeing; and to a similar but different degree the use of performance enhancing drugs. This definition seeks to take into account the role of athletes and officials who manipulate sports contest (Atuono, 2011). Chappelet, (2012) noted that although the Federal Council's report does not explicitly mention the two categories, it divides sports corruption into two main types: corruption on the field of play and corruption off the field of play. These two categories of corruption in sports have been referred by Chadwick & Gorse (2013) as competition and management corruption, these include the rigging of sports s event, bidding procedures or elections to important positions in federations, the payment of kickbacks for the construction of sports facilities or the signing of sponsorship and broadcasting contracts, and the manipulation of competitions or match fixing, whether or not related to betting. Across the sports sector, most deals and decisions take place behind closed doors, allowing corruption to go unchecked and unpunished, thus the actual extent of corruption in sports is greater than reported. This assumption according to him, would seem reasonable particularly because those continents or sub-continents that are regarded in the discussion as the highly corrupt, such as, Africa, South America and Asia, hardly appear in reports on corruption in Sports this has serious consequences on the continent sports development (Chadwick & Gorse, 2013).

Sports development means progressive change in the quality and quantity of manpower that can effectively conduct the management of affairs in Sports organizations, sports federations and associations,

construction, expansion and maintenance of standard Sports facilities and provision of equipment for all games, well organized Sports competitions, where rules, regulations and standards are maintained to enhance high performance by both athletes and officiating officials, and an encouraging public private partnership in the promotion, sponsor and ownership of sports clubs. Sports stand as important societal institution and consider as important in relaying of ideals, norm and values on those who participate or spectate, the concept of fair play is always mentioned here and referred to athlete competing in an honest manner, not seeking to break rules and win by unfair practice. A lack of integrity in the sports industry may endanger sport's most essential elements and core values: fair play, ethics, mutual respect and trust in the rules of the game (Atuona, 2012). Jovanka (2013) noted that corruption, affect sports development in terms of infrastructure, sports organization, administrative efficiency and national image, it also affects equitable allocation of resources among the Sports federations and associations, increasing inequalities, and undermining their effectiveness, efficiency and achievement. This, in turn, may undermine longterm sustainable Sports development.

Similarly, Maleeva (2013) said that the beautiful games that attract fans over the world have in the recent past seen players and top officials involved in antisocial activities that have made Sports more like a film than an actual game. Sports fans around the world have been left disappointed by the recent doping, match fixing and corruption that have been rampant in many games.

In her early good days, Nigeria was regarded as the giant of Africa, because the country was leading the African nations in terms of development in many areas of human endeavor. With vast land, large population and abundant natural resources, the future of the country seemed promising. Nigeria was at the forefront of sports development, and the country had achieved greater successes in many sports and games such as football, basketball, and Athletics to mention but a few. Governments at all levels have made several efforts, toward ensuring effective and efficient sports development by expending substantial part of their annual budget. In order to actualized the mission of the National Sports Policy of Nigeria, 2009. Which is to, "develop the Sports sector to a 6 world class level where it would provide continuous improvement of quality of life for the entire citizenry, to the extent that Nigeria would be recognized as one of the leading sporting countries in the world (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2009).

Despite these successes of yesteryears and those of recent times, Nigeria is at the verge of being extinct in the sports world as some of the sports that saw the country emerged as a force to be reckoned with in the past are now threatened and on the verge of extinction (Idris, 2014). Nigeria, a giant of Africa, was at the bottom of medal table in the just concluded Olympic Games in Brazil having only worn one bronze medal in football. Whereas less fancied Sports nations such as Uganda, Gabon, Botswana, Grenada, India, Dominican Republic, South Africa and Afghanistan were on the medal table at the end of the biggest sports event in the world. Nigeria has continued to slide both in global and local rating in stature to such a point that everybody is ostensibly confused about the way round the problem. Why have things suddenly gone awry, when the whole world was looking up to Nigeria for quality performance in Sports? It looks as if nobody has any answer to the sad development. Even the government has continued to experiment with different ideas to arrest the unfortunate development (Idris, 2014).

In an attempt to expedite sports development the Federal Government of Nigeria (2000) issued out guideline for the implementation of sports development policy which provides detailed alternative ways of solving the envisage and existing problems that impeded Sports development in the country. The policy clearly defined the roles of each level of government and private corporations, as well as all necessary favorable conditions for sports development in terms of manpower training and development, facilities/ equipment and funding of sports competitions. While these were assumed to be basic requirements; corruption was never seen as a threat to sports development. The policy emphasized that, sports administrators; coaches, and referees are to observe all applicable laws and regulations governing sports (Federal Government of Nigeria, 1998). Unfortunately these sections of the policy have not received the light of the day.

The complexities of modern governance and a proliferation of corruption scandals have corresponded with a proliferation of complex corruption legislation (United Nation Convention against Corruption 2013).

The Remote Gambling Association's report into Sports betting integrity, for example, classified corruption in terms of doping, financial irregularities, cheating, match-fixing (none betting) and match-fixing (betting). In order to avoid the linguistic confusion created from conceptual definition, UNCC (2013) does not include the definition of corruption as such. It includes, however, the number of acts, which should be punishable according to this convention. These include: bribery of national public officials, bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations, embezzlement, misappropriation

or other. Corruptions in sports have been categorized into 18 competition corruption and management corruption (Systemic corruption).

Maennig (2005) distinguished two major types of corrupt practices in Sports. The one involving the Sports officials and governing bodies who are involved in non-competition decisions such as, awarding of host city status for major Sports events, negotiation and allocation of rights (e.g. broadcasting, merchandising) awarding of contracts for construction of Sports venues and the governance of sports). Corrupt practices according to him may arise when they consciously perform their allocated tasks in a manner at variance with the objectives and moral values of the relevant club, association, competitive Sports in general and/or society at large, because they receive or expect pecuniary or non-pecuniary advantage for themselves (or, in case the person in question is acting as an agent: for a principal, e.g. acquaintances, relatives and/or associated Sports institutions) from the person favored by the action (or their acquaintances, relatives and/or associated Sports institutions. He refers to this as management corruption. The second perspectives, which he refers to as competition corruption focused on activities by athletes and/or those officials (i.e. a referee or umpire), who have a direct responsibility for the outcome of a Sports contest. Corrupt practices usually emanate from behavior by athletes who refrain from achieving the levels of performance normally required in the sports in question to win the competition and instead intentionally permit others to win, doping, match fixing, points shaving by officiating official.

Corruption on the field of play, according to Chapple (2012) concerns athletes, their entourage and sometimes judges/referees. It involves cheating with respect to the rules of the sports in order to win (doping), to lose voluntarily (tanking), or to manipulate part of a competition (spotfixing). The Federal Council's report focuses on the manipulation of results in relation to irregular or illegal betting. On this issue, and despite opposition from some States (UK, Scandinavian countries), the report pins its hopes on the Council of Europe Convention that is currently being formulated. a) Manipulation of sports competitions The manipulation of sports competitions is now acknowledged as a serious problem in many Sports and at many levels. This relates both to the fixing of events within matches (spot-fixing) and manipulating the final results to ensure higher gambling pay-outs. Fixing of competitions also relates to the tradition of clubs colluding on end-of-season games to impact how teams are promoted and relegated within leagues. This may be done for prestige or, in the case of the higher leagues, access to millions of dollars in sponsorship and TV monies (Maennig 2005). The recent increase in match-fixing is primarily linked with the rise of global, cross-border betting, via the Internet. Match-fixing can affect all Sports from horseracing and football, to cricket and snooker. Athletes, referees, and other match officials most often are the means by which matchfixing occurs. These individuals abuse their positions to impact results for personal gain, but often under duress. For example, in 2012 the world players' union for football (Federation of International Football Players) published a survey conducted in Eastern Europe on how vulnerable players can be to match-fixing, particularly in leagues where salaries are not paid on time and organised crime syndicates target players(Maennig, 2005).

When you fight corrupt practices you are directly fighting corruption. noted that eradicating corruption has become increasingly important to stakeholders in sports, from governing bodies and federations through to event-owners, clubs and teams. Organisations such as the International Olympic Committee have seriously sought to tackle financial corruption. The World Anti-Doping Agency and others have made great strides in confronting the use of drugs. Yet corruption remains, despite their actions Maennig, 2012; Chadwick ,2013) In recent time several efforts have been put in place in order to fight and eradicate corruption in Sports. Over the past few years, governments and multilateral organizations have joined anticorruption groups and the media in calling for improved governance and regulatory measures to address the corruption challenges which have tainted the image of sports. Problems in the governance of Sports organisations, fixing of matches and staging of major Sports events have spurred action on many fronts. Yet attempts to stop corruption in sports are still at an early stage (Shah, 2007).

According to Idris (2014) the laws have seriously been broken as a result of which corruption is now a major impediment to sports development in Nigeria; Today there is growing concerned and attempts by individuals who are asking why despite the amount of money claimed to have been expended on sports by government at all levels in Nigeria, sports continues to suffer from too many structural and managerial problems, remaining to a large extent in the hands of quacks and nonprofessionals, who are more interested in their personal gains than sports development. The researcher observed with interest that despite the recent global concerns on the impact of corrupt practices such as embezzlement, bribery, nepotism, match fixing, doping, and host of other and the emergence of several reforms directed at addressing the problems of corrupt practices in international Sports, study on corruption in sports have been under explored, and the extent of known cases in Nigeria merely represent the tip of the iceberg (Idris, 2014).

The researcher observed that in the past several research studies have been conducted on the constraint to sports development in Nigeria, while very little have been mention about corruption in sports, it seemed that the previous research findings and the recommendations there after did not address the problems to any significant level. Several questions therefore remain unanswered. Why are sports facilities in most of the States in poor conditions and mostly sub- standard? Why are the numbers of professional sports personnel declining in the states sports councils in Nigeria, creating acute shortage of athletes? Why are sports associations'not organizing competitions for their respective Sports and games for long and where they do the standard is very low? the integrity of referees and sports official, have always been put to question due to poor officiating, and there is a looming crisis among Sports associations, all these have serious effect on the performance of our athletes at the national and international competitions. The researcher therefore is interested in the assessment of the perceived impact of corrupt practices on sports development in Nigeria.

It is in the opinion of the researcher that, government through the anti-corruption agencies, is more pre-occupied with the corruption practices that has pervert the non-Sports sectors in Nigerian, and the existing anti-corruption measures (Economic and Financial Crime Commission(EFCC), Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission(JCPC) and Code of conduct be rue ), are inefficient to address the issue of corrupt practices in sports, at both national and State levels, this has resulted in a greater susceptibility to corruption, among organizations and the stakeholders in the States sports councils. The memories of media reports on the recent corruption scandal involving the official of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) after the last world cup in Brazil 2014 is very

### **Research hypotheses**

The following hypotheses are set to be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

- i. Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant effect on personnel staff of the states sport councils in Akure South Local Government
- ii. Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant impact on sports facilities/equipment of the states sports councils in Akure South Local Government
- iii. Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant impact on the sports associations in the state sports council in Akure South Local Government
- iv. Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant impact on states sports councils in Akure South Local Government
- v. Corruption have no significant impact on organization in state sports council in Akure South Local Government.

### **Methodology**

The Ex-post facto research design was used for this study. Because the study is not an experimental research and no variable was manipulated; this design is intended to survey the opinions that are held among the population for the research study on the perceived Impact of Corrupt Practices on Sports Development in Nigeria

The study was carried out in Ekiti State. The target population for this study comprised of all athletes, coaches, organizing secretaries and management staff, sports council in Ekiti State.

The local government sports councils in Ekiti State were grouped according to the political zones of which two sports council were selected from each of political zones. Thus a total of twelve (12) towns sports councils with a sample size of 510 personnel were selected. Out of this total, three hundred (300) respondents representing 1.7% of the sample size were thus selected for the study as follows Ten(10) athletes, five (5) coaches; two (2) organizing secretaries and three (3) from management staff, making total twenty (20) respondents from each of the twelve sports councils. Each town sports councils were selected through a simple randomly sampling technique by dip, pick record and return method. The Sports council's names were written on piece of papers differently and drop in a bag and the research assistants picked one at time, the researcher recorded the name on a paper, the piece of paper was refolded and returned to the bag on each occasion a Sports council was picked until the two sports councils required for each zone are recorded, A simple random sampling technique was also used in the selection of the respondents for the study; however both the technical and administrative staff were further split into two groups each From the technical section; coaches and athletes were sampled separately while from the administrative staff; organizing secretaries and management staff were sampled separately. The justification for the use of

simple random sampling techniques, is to ensure that every state Sports council and member of the population have equal probability of being selected and represented in the study

The research instrument for this study was a self-design questionnaire. The questionnaire was made up of two sections, A and B. Section A was used to collect the demographic data of the respondents which include: designation, gender, age range, qualification and working experience. Section B was used to gather information for data analysis which was tailored towards the research variables of the study and it was of Yes or No.

The face and content validation of the instrument was established through validity and reliability mechanism. The reliability coefficient of the instrument at 0.05 level of significant. The reliability coefficient was 0.87. The instrument was thereafter administered.

The data that were gathered from the administration of the instrument was later analysed with Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistical analysis.

## Results and Discussion

### Hypothesis 1

Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant effect on personnel staff of the states sport councils in Ekiti State.

**Table 1: Chi- square analysis on staff corrupt practices and its effect on personnel staff of the states sport councils**

S/N	Items	No	Yes	$\chi^2$ -cal	$\chi^2$ -tab	df
1	Lack of due process in staff recruitments, has resulted to appointment of unqualified personnel in State Sports Councils in Nigeria	26	274	205.01*	3.84	1
2	Recruitment of staff is not based on needs, as a result there is over staffed in State Sports Council in Nigeria	52	248	128.05*		
3	Staff recruitment has been politicized, as a result there is gross indiscipline among the staff of State Sports Council in Nigeria	34	266	179.41*		
4	Vacancies meant for athletes are filled in by other cadres, this led to decline in number of athletes in the State Sports Council in Nigeria	80	220	65.33*		

P<0.05; \*S = Significant

The table 1 above shows that  $\chi^2$ -cal= 205.01, 128.05, 179.41 and 65.33 for items No 1,2,3 and 4 respectively were greater than  $\chi^2$ -tab = 3.84 showing that at p< 0.05 and df = 1 (i.e.  $\chi^2$ - cal>  $\chi^2$ - tab ) in all cases. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and the result was significant, and this implies that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant effect on personnel staff of the states sport councils in Ekiti State.

### Hypothesis 2

Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant impact on sports facilities/equipment of the states sports councils in Ekiti State.

**Table 2: Chi- square analysis on staff corrupt practices and its impact on impact on sports facilities/equipment of the states sports councils**

S/N	Items	No	Yes	$\chi^2$ -cal	$\chi^2$ -tab	df
1	Lack of due process in awarding of contracts for sports facilities/equipment development has led to fraud in State Sports Councils in Nigeria	184	116	15.41*	3.84	1
2	Award of contracts for facilities /equipment to political loyalists, has led to payment of projects not executed in State Sports Councils in Nigeria	110	190	31.33*		
3	There is over concentration on sports facilities that involved huge amount of money, in order to maximized kickback in State Sports Councils in Nigeria	54	246	122.88*		
4	Fraud in provision of sports facilities /equipment has led to abandoning of projects in State Sports Councils in Nigeria	76	224	73.01*		

P<0.05; \*S = Significant

The table 2 above shows that  $\chi^2\text{-cal} = 15.41, 21.33, 122.88$  and  $73.01$  for items No 1,2,3 and 4 respectively were greater than  $\chi^2\text{-tab} = 3.84$  showing that at  $p < 0.05$  and  $df = 1$  (i.e.  $\chi^2\text{- cal} > \chi^2\text{- tab}$ ) in all cases. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected; this implies that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant impact on sports facilities/equipment of the states sports councils in Ekiti State.

### Hypothesis 3

Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant impact on the sports associations in the state sports council in Ekiti State.

**Table 3: Chi- square analysis on staff corrupt practices and its impact on the sports associations in the state sports council**

S/N	Items	No	Yes	$\chi^2\text{-cal}$	$\chi^2\text{-tab}$	df
1	Lack of due process in the elections of Sports Associations, has led to bad leadership in State Sports Councils	106	194	25.81*	3.84	1
2	Membership of the Associations is not based on merit, this led to high involvement of nonprofessionals in State Sports Councils	126	174	7.68*		
3	Political loyalty has influenced division which hampered the activities of Sports Associations in State Sports Councils	122	178	10.45*		
4	Members of Sports Associations used all means to retained their positions, without commensurate achievement in State Sports Councils	66	234	94.08*		

P<0.05; \*S = Significant

The table 3 above displays that  $\chi^2\text{-cal} = 25.81, 7.68, 10.45$  and  $94.08$  for items No 1,2,3 and 4 respectively were greater than  $\chi^2\text{-tab} = 3.84$  showing that at  $p < 0.05$  and  $df = 1$  (i.e.  $\chi^2\text{- cal} > \chi^2\text{- tab}$ ) in all cases. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and the result was significant, and this implies that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant impact on the sports associations in the state sports council in Ekiti State.

### Hypothesis 4

Technical and administrative staff corrupt practices does not have significant impact on states sports councils in Ekiti State.

**Table 4: Chi- square analysis on staff corrupt practices and its impact on states sports councils**

S/N	Items	No	Yes	$\chi^2\text{-cal}$	$\chi^2\text{-tab}$	df
1	Lack of due process in the elections of Sports Associations, has led to bad leadership in State Sports Councils	108	192	23.52*	3.84	1
2	Membership of the Associations is not based on merit, this led to high involvement of nonprofessionals in State Sports Councils	88	212	51.25*		
3	Political loyalty has influenced division which hampered the activities of Sports Associations in State Sports Councils	102	198	30.72*		
4	Do you think that high birth weight could lead to neonatal mortality?	102	198	30.72*		

P<0.05; \*S = Significant

The table 4 above shows that  $\chi^2\text{-cal} = 23.52, 51.25, 30.72$  and  $30.72$  for items No 1,2,3 and 4 respectively were greater than  $\chi^2\text{-tab} = 3.84$  showing that at  $p < 0.05$  and  $df = 1$  (i.e.  $\chi^2\text{- cal} > \chi^2\text{- tab}$ ) in all cases. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected and the result was significant, and this implies that technical and administrative staff corrupt practices have significant impact on states sports councils in Ekiti State.

### Hypothesis 5

Corruption have no significant impact on organization in state sports council in Ekiti State.

**Table 5: Chi- square analysis on corruption and its impact on organization in state sports council**

S/N	Items	No	Yes	X <sup>2</sup> -cal	X <sup>2</sup> -tab	df
1	Due process is not followed in appointment of referees/umpires for sports competitions in State Sports Councils	126	174	7.68*	3.84	1
2	Lack of consideration for merit, has led to engagement of referees /umpires that are not competent to officiate sports competitions in State Sports Councils	96	204	38.88*		
3	Close relationship between referees/umpires and athletes/clubs, has resulted to favoritism in officiating of sports competitions in State Sports Councils	90	210	48.00*		
4	Referees /umpires often received bribe from athletes /clubs, as a result they are never fair in officiating sports competitions in State Sports Councils	74	226	77.01*		

P<0.05; \*S = Significant

The table 5 above indicates that  $\chi^2\text{-cal} = 7.68, 38.88, 48.00$  and  $77.01$  for items No 1,2,3 and 4 respectively were greater than  $\chi^2\text{-tab} = 3.84$  showing that at  $p < 0.05$  and  $df = 1$  (i.e.  $\chi^2\text{- cal} > \chi^2\text{- tab}$ ) in all cases. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected; this implies that Corruption have significant impact on organization in state sports council in Ekiti State.

### Discussion of results

The primary purpose of this study was to find out the perceived impact of corrupt practices on sports development in Nigeria as perceived by athletes, coaches, organizing secretaries, and management staff in the State Sports Councils in Nigeria. The study was undertaken because of the assumption that corrupt practices have negative impact on sports development in Nigeria. The result of this study shows that the respondents highly perceived corrupt practices as major hindrance to sports development in Nigeria. This might have been as a result of their long experiences and collective judgment as major stakeholders in the sports sector in Nigeria. The finding of this study indicated that no significant difference existed between the categories of the respondents in their perceived impact of corrupt practices on personnel of the States Sports Councils Nigeria. The findings revealed that various forms of corrupt practices are brought to bear in the recruitment and training of personnel, thereby leading to the recruitment of staffs that are not desirable in the State's Sports Councils. This is in agreement with the opinion held by UNCC (2013) that sports event usually requires the recruitment and management of numerous staffs. This not only renders the authority vulnerable to certain forms of corruption, but also to recruiting undesirable or corrupt staff, due to nepotism and conflicts of interest. . The result of this study revealed that vacancies meant for athletes are filled in by other cadres; thus leading to decline in the number of athletes in the State Sports Council. No wonder majority of the athletes used for sports competitions are not employees of the State Sports councils but individuals from various works of life, making sport to look as an open field for everyone. This might help to further explains why sports have been dominated by non-professional in Nigeria, and it does not encourage any motivation and productivity.

The finding is in supports of Audu (2009) who noted that most of the personnel in the State Sports Councils are not in tune with the current technical trends of events. The findings is also in agreement with UNCC (2013), who opined that the availability of professional personnel in good proportion is reciprocal to sports development, this is because whatever the objective of sports development contains and the available resource the absent of effective and efficient man power could be an obstacle to it success. Also, the findings further revealed that lack of effective personnel has retarded the pace of sports development in State Sports Councils. This further confirms the statement accredited to Audu (2009) which stated that, there is no way participation in sports can improve without having well trained sports personnel and coaches, It is in the opinion of researcher that recruiting and retaining of sports personnel including athletes and officials are vital components in maintaining and increasing levels of sports development, however This have not been giving priority attention by Nigeria leaders at federal, states and local Government levels which are vital to Sports development.

Moreover, the finding of this study revealed no significant difference between the categories of respondents in their perceived impact of corrupt practices on sports facilities/equipment in the States Sports Councils in Nigeria. Although it is generally agreed that the provision of sport facilities and equipment is very vital to the overall success of sports development. The result of this investigation

indicates that various forms of corrupt practices such as lack of respect for due process and consideration of merit in the selection of contractors for construction and maintenance of sports facilities/equipment, has paved ways for misappropriation and misused of fund. The investigation revealed that the respondents were in congruent that there is preference for gigantic projects for sports facilities/equipment that involve huge amount of money, at the detriment of smaller projects, thus leading to distortions of expenditures and disregard to equity in the provision of facilities/equipment among the various sports.

In concurring with the finding of this study, the researcher is of the opinion that corrupt practices in provision and maintenance of standard sports facilities/equipment remain one of the great challenges to effective training by the athletes and a major hindrance to overall sport development in Nigeria. From the result of this research finding a significant difference was not established between the categories of respondents in their perceived impact of corrupt practices on the management of association in Nigeria. This is in agreement with the assertion accredited to Maening (2005) who maintained that corruptions in the election of sports governing bodies are numerous and cannot be neglected. The finding further revealed that there is no adherence to due process in the elections of the executives of sports associations'; this encourages elections based on political loyalty which influenced division and conflicts that affects the smooth running of Sports Associations.

The researcher is equally of the opinion that with emphasis on tribe and ethnicity, unqualified persons may assume sports positions even when it is clear that they are not fit for such position, and the appointment and election of sports leaders based on political loyalty, ethnicity tribe or any other sentiment will have a long lasting negative impact on sports development in Nigeria. The findings further revealed that members of sports associations used' all means' to retain their positions, without commensurate achievement and rather than expending money on sport development programs, much money is used in seminar and overseas trips at the detrimental to sport development. It is in the opinion of the researcher that the revelations of the above findings are counterproductive to sports development in Nigeria. Also, the finding of this investigation revealed no significant differences between the categories of respondents in their perceived impact of corrupt practices on sports competition. The respondent perceived that the absent of a well-organized sports competitions has retarded the pace of sports development in States Sports Councils in Nigeria. The findings in support of the notion that organization of sports competitions are areas that are always prone to corrupt practices.

Furthermore, The finding revealed that the respondents were unanimous in their believe that the appointment of political loyalist as members of sports organizing committee and the selection of players for competitions based on nepotisms and meritocracy have led to poor organization and standard of sports competitions.

## Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study it was concluded that corruption affect athletes, coaches, organizing secretaries and management staff in Ekiti State sports council. Also, it was concluded that:

- technical and administrative staff corrupt practices as significant effect on personnel staff of the states sport councils in Ekiti State.
- technical and administrative staff corrupt practices as significant impact on sports facilities/equipment of the states sports councils in Ekiti State.
- technical and administrative staff corrupt practices as significant impact on the sports associations in the state sports council in Ekiti State.
- technical and administrative staff corrupt practices as significant impact on states sports councils in Ekiti State.
- corruption as significant impact on organization in state sports council in Ekiti State.

## Recommendation

On the basis of the above findings the following recommendations were made:

1. There should be due process in the staff recruitment, training and development to ensure that only those who are qualified are employed and trained to serve in the Sport Councils
2. There should be due process in the award of contract for sports facilities/ equipment to ensure compliance with the specifications and standard.
3. Members of the sports associations should respect the constitutions of the associations, to ensure real democracy, free and fair election that will lead to the emergence of good leadership

4. In, order to restore the integrity and the standard of sports competitions only people with proving integrity and technical knowhow should be allowed to serve as members of the organizing committee of sports competitions
5. There should be training and retraining of our referees umpire and the entire officiating official, so that they can meet up with international standard
6. There should be zero-tolerance approach against corruption with adequate and proportionate responses in all potential cases to show that corruption is not welcome in sports in Nigeria.

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