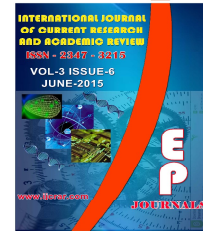




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### Prelude for national security and development socializing the citizenry through sports

Eze, Willy Uwakwem\*

Department of Physical and Health Education, Federal College of Education,  
EHA-Amufu, Enugu State, Nigeria

\*Corresponding author

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#### A B S T R A C T

The changing patterns of behaviour through sports brought about certain fundamental factors leading to modification of behaviour that results in co-operation, togetherness, peace co-existence, security consciousness resolution to conflict and long range of friendship. The paper examined the security, development and socialization in sports. This paper also identified some strategies for empowering and improving socialization through sports for national security. The paper also highlighted sports as a socializing tool for national development. Finally conclusion and recommendations were made accordingly.

### Introduction

Socializing the citizenry through sports requires high attention, especially in this democratization process in addition to over handling the nation's security system socialization is a process employed by a society or an institution for channeling the development of the individual learners involved into a societal acceptable behaviour.

Sports are those activities one engages in for exercise, amusement, and entertainment. Sports practice and participation in competition has become a veritable and positive instrument for positive social integration among people, irrespective of creed, colour, status, gender and religion.

The writer also sees sports as fun, recreation are very inter-wined and referring to analytical aspects of the complex situation that are experienced in highly organized competition sports. The values of sports had for centuries been acknowledged. Eleso and Adegbmigbe (2007)"stated that among the ancient Greeks where the modern Olympic games originated, sports which is synonymous with physical activity was held in very high esteem, so much so that during the games, all warring Greek city states declared a general truce and all hostilities ceased so that the participants in the games could compete in healthy rivalry.

Sports have been a social frame work

connecting people of varied diversifications (Green Bergar, 2004). Social contact between individuals presents the basic necessities for a decent human existence. While every normal person undergoes in the society.

### **Concepts of Sports, Socialization, Security and Development**

**Sports:** Sport is described as activities that have recorded history and tradition. Igbanugo (2003) Stated that sports are an institutionalized competitive activity that involves vigorous physical exertion or the use of complex- physical skills. Similarly, Omotayo (2003) opines that an institutionalized physical activity in which rules are fixed externally and beforehand. Amaefuna (2007) ascertained that sports are playful, competitive, requiring growth and development. He maintained that in Nigeria sports are viewed as an instrument of national policy, which serve as a means of mobilizing the citizenry of the country to national political will and ultimately serve as a vehicle for achieving national cohesion.

**Socialization:** socialization can be seen as a learning process which every normal human being undergoes in the society and be able to adjust to social demands or expectations. Mberu (1999) sees socialization as being synonymous with internalization of culture. The writer of this paper sees socialization as the development of culture and social life of people. Amaefuna (2007) describe socialization as a way of putting young ones through the tenets of their culture. Socialization is life-long in character (Etteng's 1980). Socialization imparts acceptable lines of thinking characteristic of a group and ensures behavioural norms and values. Obiajulu (2001) stated that socialization enables a leader to timely predict and appraise the patterns of roles performance of

the members of his social group with regards to their accepted cultural framework as a people.

**Security and Development:** Security in its philosophical sense implies a stable, predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends without disruption or harm and without fear of such disturbance or injury. Security simply means the elimination and reduction of certain types of risks to which life and property may be exposed. While development is a long term plan for improvement and advancement it includes training as processes of change which are frequently. Ibrahim (2007) asserts that development implies the process in which major clusters of old socio-economic and physical commitment are eroded or broken and people become available for new patterns of socialization and behaviour, in other hand, sports development is seen as a many sided process in which sports facilities, equipment, materials and supplies are the ultimate goal at the level of the individual and society as a whole.

According to Adedeji (2000) sports development is the process of continuous improvement of sports structure, institution and programmes in order, to create a societal condition, conducive to human fitness for all participants and the effective functioning for self-actualization.

### **What is Socialization in Sports?**

Socialization is the process by which we learn the norms and values of our society. The primary agents of socialization are dominated by parents, followed by schools, formal or informal, market places and community setting. Thus as from childhood one acquires the knowledge of social experiences. As a result of sports, they come into contact with many other influences,

cognitive abilities and psychological attributes which are-dramatically expanded.

Woods (1998) opined that sports create a form where individuals acquire certain behaviour as either aggressive in nature or in contrast, easy and well behaved individual. Therefore, sports being a agent of socialization provides the opportunity to interact and inter-related with others hence creating the feelings of inter-personal attraction among people. Through sports, players learned skills, values of society, co-operate with one another and know how to satisfy their needs (Iro, 2007). He continued that, the concept of socialization through sports is to create a sense of belonging, sense of shared purpose or objectives, interact and in some cases, depend on each other, bring about a collective identity on which members view themselves as a unit, have positive feeling towards each other. Hence, there will be no Boko Haram challenge and security collapse in the country, Nigeria.

#### Strategies for Empowering and Improving Socialization through Sports for National Security

The people empowered through sports appeared to have a unique critical public sphere due to the reform, thereby establishing fundamental bedrock for enhancing their families' welfare. The national planning commission (2005) revealed that Nigerian has not enjoyed the benefits of professional sports because of the government's domination of sports administration and management and the status given to sports as an extension of social services. The envisaged reason could be the existence of cumber some laws regulating sports administration which has prevented sports from becoming a job

creating industry. To empower people through sports and to socialize them fully, the policy direction in sports demonstration and management must be changed, the private sector must also be changed to take a dominant position in building and construction of sports venues, provision of facilities, sponsorship and organizing sports festivals, (Iro,2007). These, the writer believes that they can increase sports development since Nigeria government identified sports as a national priority and that sports boost the country's image and its socialists construction. Thus, sports can potentially address issues concerning conflict resolution, peace, job creation and security matters.

**To Diffuse Conflict:** Stemming from inter-ethnic rivalry, sports could be used and could be also aimed at the control of the state machinery for private or sectarian interests as a result of pervasive social conflict. Therefore, policy makes and other well-meaning stake holders could undertake deliberate intervention in sports development in the interest of conflict resolution, peace development, social reintegration, unified organization, build large facilities and providing entrepreneur development (Iro, 2007). Sports have played a major role in effectively facilitating social attitude among people and has been consuming, and newspapers allocate tremendous space to its averse, hence sports should for national security.

#### **Sports as a Socializing tool for National Development**

Individual development can be enhanced when one works towards a reality of life. People of various culture age, gender, background, body size, all come together under the same umbrella called sports. Promoting social development has been a

constant challenge to sports professionals, particularly when individuals from diverse backgrounds are involved. Sports provide the opportunity to observe others and to bring about co-operation and reinforcing one another for total development. Sports is an environment in which the values of society are made explicit. It creates an avenue where appropriate humble coexistence, co-operation, sound and meaningful competition, pleasing others and acquiring skills exist. Similarly, social discrimination is relatively reduced among united sports men and women (Iro, 2007).

Sports are concerned with how people behave towards each other in a universal creed with a reinforcing and reunification of people with diverse culture like Nigerians, in this conflict, we need to use sports as a working tool for reintegrating international understanding and co-operation for the creation of a better life for all in a hopefully peaceful world. Sports being a social agent can lead participants to poses different personality types and attitudinal dispositions, services, employment and security. Chung (2006) opined that sports can lead participants or posses occupational alternatives, as well as social, culture and economic empowerment.

### **Sports for National Security and Development**

Sports are a Mirror of the society. It provides a touch stone for understanding how people live, work, think and play, so well as serving as a barometer of nations progress in civilization (Eze, 2012). Consequently, sports has become a big business in our contemporary society. A lot of money is invested in sports by the government, business men and women and the life. Sports has been described as a social institution which has become an important aspect of the Nigerian culture, so

much so that the interest and popularity in them have affected the political, social, educational and economic fabrics of the nation (Amucriie, 1998). While Abubakar and Ajeigbe (2007) saw sports as an employment avenue for athletes, coaches, managers and sports writers in Nigeria, hence the prelude for national security and development. Football, tennis, Basketball, cricket, Golf and marathon race are sporting events that attract sponsorship. Nwabuikwu (1997) described sports marketing as the process of selling the potential of a particular sports event to a sponsor or a corporate body. For him, the sports marketer usually achieves this objective by showing in clear terms, how the potential sponsor stands to gain by making his name, resources or fund for this purpose.

Nigeria, notably has become one of the major exporters of talented footballers (soccer stars) to Europe and other nations of the world. Most of these football players earn huge income which, they enjoy and also generate economic activity and employment which lead to national security and development.

### **Conclusion**

Sports as an important part of culture, has played a major role in effectively facilitating social attitude among people in the democratization process at all levels in different spheres. Sports could be used as an avenue to reduce all forms of violence, conflict and insecurity as well as to improve unity, diffuse tension and create feeling of brother hood, hence the prelude fro national security and development. Nigerians need to use sports as working tool for reunification, remobilizing, redirecting, re-organizing and re-establishing a firm united Nigeria hence sports as a prelude for national security and development.

## Recommendations

1. Society should be encouraged to participate in sporting activities, in order to achieve the inherent values.
2. Enough sporting facilities and equipment should be made available for Nigeria in schools, sports clubs/recreational centers, and parks in order to enhance mass participation in sports activities,
3. Nigeria governments should use sports as a basis of fostering unity among the diverse ethnics and socio-economic groups of the country.

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