SPORTS PARTICIPATION AND ITS INFLUENCE ON ADOLESCENTS PEER RELATIONSHIP IN SCHOOLS IN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA.

EDIM, MOSES. E, ODOK, EDMOND. A, AND NKANG, ROSEMARY.A.

Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education,

University of Calabar, Nigeria.

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the issue of sports participation and its influence on adolescents peer relationship in schools. Three hypotheses were tested in the study. Two hundred students were selected from ten secondary schools in Cross River State using stratified random sampling technique. A questionnaire instrument was designed and used to obtain information from the respondents. Pearson product moment correlation; one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and independent t-test analysis were used in testing the three hypotheses. The result of the findings revealed that the level of sports performance of students can influence their level of peer relationship. The result also showed that the level of peer relationship differs among the three groups of students that were identified as high, average and non-performing athletes. Finally, it was also observed that the levels of sports performance of students who move in cliques are different from those who move in groups. Conclusions were drawn and some recommendations were made.

Keywords: Sports participation, Adolescents peer relationship, Sport performance, Sports facilities and equipment.