INVESTIGATING GENDER DISTRIBUTION IN SCHOOLS’ SPORTS ADMINISTRATION AND COACHING ROLES: HARARE NORTHERN-CENTRAL DISTRICT

BY

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B1232526

A research project submitted to Bindura University of Science Education in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Bachelor of Science in Sports Administration

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BINDURA, ZIMBABWE

JUNE 2015
ABSTRACT

The lack of female participation in sport administration positions is prevalent not only in Zimbabwe but across the globe. Locally there are few Zimbabwean women who have gained access to senior sport management positions in organizations such as schools. The main objective of the research study was to investigate how gender is distributed in schools’ sports administration and coaching in Harare where as the specific objectives were to find out the hindrances and motivation to the taking-up of sports administrative and coaching roles by female and male teachers as well as to compare between female and male teachers in the levels of holding these sports administrative and coaching roles.

The research focused on the Northern-Central District of Harare and different sampling methods were triangulated for the different groups making up the sample. Stratified sampling was used to divide the sample into teachers, school heads and sports directors. The total sample size was 100, and purposive sampling was used to select the sub sample of 80 teachers. On the other hand the sub sample of school heads was 10 while that of the sports directors was also 10. Simple random sampling was used for selecting the school heads and the sports directors. Using interviews, questionnaires and discussion as research instruments, the study found that women have not been able to fare at par with their male counterparts when it comes to sport administration. It was found that marriage and having more children were some of the factors that limit female participation in sport administration. The results of the study revealed that the lack of incentives, lack of motivation or passion for sport, poor sport infrastructure, interference by school authorities and the lack of financial and other forms of support were key barriers affecting female participation. Findings from the study also exposed that both female and male teachers were motivated the most to the taking up of sports administration and coaching roles by the prospect of health benefits they stand to gain.
from physical activities and exercises. The study therefore recommends that the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education should be more supportive and that there has to be awareness initiatives so that spouses can be more supportive. Women were also encouraged to increase their passion for sport through following soccer or basketball for example to also increase their understanding of sport.