HOFFNUNG SCHOOL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Sports have been seen as essential for the total development of a child/youth. No wonder why sporting activities have been included in the school curriculum of countless schools around the world. Unlike a time when youths were discouraged when they choose to become sports men, youths in Nigeria are now being encouraged because sports has been seen as a tool to further facilitate healthy growth in the youths.

In addition, sports have also been seen as a potent tool in high performance of children in schools. Research shows that several children who participate in sports regularly scored really high in subjects they offered. Sporting activities was really a tool that stirred their learning capabilities positively.

Countless obstacles have been noted in sports development in Nigeria. The Nigerian youth and child are faced with enormous social challenges. As the most populous country in sub-Sahara Africa, according to a UN report, close to 35% of children and youths in the continent are Nigerians. Examples of the social challenges are: lack of quality education, lack of access to qualitative health services, deep involvement in criminal activities, high level of joblessness and underemployment and general disconnection from the mainstream of the society and many more.

By identifying the advantage of sports to youth/children and also considering the constraints faced by Nigerian children/youths face, the Hoffnung (Hope) School Sports Development Project was established to encourage sports development among the students in both primary and secondary schools which form a foundation in which solid development of sports can be laid on. The Hoffnung School Sport Development Project (HSSDP) was propounded for the development of school sports in line with academic curriculum. We use sport as a tool for learning and students engagement.

HSSDP also aim to increase participation and involvement in sport and Physical Education in schools whereby benefitting schools, students and other community participants. Our vision is to spread the gospel of effective, reliable, meaningful and long lasting school sports development all over Ogun State and Nigeria in due time to come.

HSSDP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Hoffnung School Sports Development Project (HSSDP) established clear roles and responsibilities for the Management team and the project schools.

The Project Management team of HSSDP performs a lot of up building activities such as:

- Coordination of data collection logistics and budgetary allocations.
- Promotion of a positive and effective relationship between the project management, the project management team, the schools and the project Partners.
- Establishment of an inter agency advisory group to provide specific experience and strategic advices to schools.
Organizing regular workshops, planning meetings and school visit to provide background and on-going information to schools project leaders.

The Project also team aims at enriching schools with training equipments and to improve the delivery of physical education and sports programs in Primary and Secondary Schools and to engage communities organizations, such as sport clubs ,in supporting teachers and students involved in sports in schools.

HSSDP Initiatives include:

- Creating changes and exciting ways to engage and inspire students so that they can have a chance to take part in high quality physical education and meaningful school sport and enjoy being active.
- Developing activities through ball games and other sources using innovative approaches to educational and sporting strategies, working with range of sport and academic professionals who will positively influence the students’ experience of physical education and school sport.
- Developing teaching and assessment resources in PE, English and mathematics and other learning areas using sport as a content to engage students in learning.
- Resourcing a dedicated PE leader within the school to provide professional development and help with the introduction of new teaching practices.
- Linking secondary schools and primary school, where Secondary PE expert teachers can provide professional development and support t primary school teachers.
- Delivering student leadership program in secondary schools, focusing on coaching, and utilizing these leaders/caches in primary schools.
- Incorporating values and characteristics of sport into the school environment, for example, teamwork, rules, respect and leadership.
- Enhancing links to the wider school community, including families, to improve facility utilization and access, and establish school/community/club/ and sports councils.

Schools that the HSSDP have touched are:

- Abeokuta Girls Grammar School, Onikolobo, Abeokuta
- Ijemo Titun High School, Ibara, Abeokuta
- Leverage College, Abeokuta.
- Folarin Dalley College, Abeokuta.
- Navy Boys Secondary School, Onikoko, Abeokuta
- Samuel Wilson Dalley College, Abeokuta.
- Ifeoluwa College, Abeokuta.
- Abeokuta Grammar School, Idi Aba, Abeokuta.

Pleasant and positive results were achieved in the participating schools that they had the following testimony to give:

A Teacher from Ife-Oluwa College, Orile Imo said “HSSDP Offered sport led educational training. Our students now think of team work, trust, hope and their future”. Head Teacher, Abeokuta Girls Grammar
School, Abeokuta had this to say “engagement of the students gave them an understanding of their rights and a sense of empowerment”. The HSSDP project has indeed being yielding fabulous results.

The project is emulating the success of the developed nations by using sport as a tool of learning and engagement in line with school curriculum. It also aims at enriching the schools and the engaged students with facilities. The HSSDP project is determined to see that the whole nation Nigeria and Africa as a whole is a better place by using sports to motivate the youths who are the leaders of tomorrow to be disciplined, healthy and bright.