

An examination of sport motivation, moral decision-making and attitudes towards doping of secondary school athletes in East Africa

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The performance of middle and long-distance runners from East Africa especially Kenya and Uganda at the global stage has been a phenomenon. However in the recent past there has been many of these athletes who have been charged of anti-doping rule violations (ADRV's) and suffered differentiated sanctions. Some of these athletes are young athletes in secondary schools. A country like Kenya has been placed in category A by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)(AIU,2022) suggesting high prevalence of doping in Kenya. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these athletes are failing anti-doping rule violations due to economic and financial reasons. This presumes that these athletes have low moral decision-making and positive attitudes towards doping. Numerous studies have suggested that attitudes towards doping, intentions to dope and actual doping abuse are significantly influenced by sports motivation (Mudrak et al., 2018). Doping represents an instant of cheating behaviour (Hodge et al., 2013) which is attributed to increased emphasis on competition and winning in youth sports. Therefore the purpose of this study will be to examine the sport motivation, moral decision-making and attitudes towards doping among secondary school athletes in East Africa. The specific objectives will be to find out the possible associations between sport motivation, moral decision-making and attitudes towards doping. At the same time, the study will establish whether the associations are differentiated based on the secondary school athletes' gender, age, playing experience, type of sport and country(i.e. Kenya ,Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda).The results of the study will have implications on the anti-doping prevention and education programs which have (if any) put in place for secondary school athletes in East Africa. Secondly, the findings of the study will reveal the extent to which value-based education on anti-doping may have succeeded in different countries within the region. The findings will bring out the nexus between sport motivation, moral decision making and attitude towards doping among secondary school athletes and therefore this will have relevance to anti-doping organizations, sport federations, athletes' entourage and Ministries of Education and Sports in the respective countries in their efforts to fight doping. A cross-sectional analytical survey research design will be utilized to collect data from 1000 secondary school athletes derived from the Four East African countries of Kenya ,Uganda ,Tanzania and Rwanda(KUTR).Through disproportionate sampling, 25% or 250 secondary school athletes will be sampled to take part in the study from each country. Athletes will be derived from those competing in regional secondary school competitions in the individual sport (athletics and swimming) and those in team sport (basketball, handball, netball, soccer and volleyball). Questionnaire items derived from standardized protocols of perception of success questionnaire (PSQ), Sport motivation Scale (SMS-6), attitudes to moral decision-making in youth sport questionnaire (AMDYSQ) and the short version of performance enhancement attitude scale (PEAS) will be used for data collection. Data will be analysed through multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA) and multiple regression analysis.