

# Examination of coaches' doping knowledge, motivational climate, confrontation efficacy and attitudes towards doping in selected sport in Kenya

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There is no doubt that Kenya is a powerhouse in sports and especially the performance of athletes in middle and long distance running at the global stage has been phenomenal. However in the recent past, Kenyan athletes especially in long-distance running have been failing anti-doping rule violations (ADRV's) at an alarming rate. This has made the country to be placed in category "A" by the athletics integrity unit (AIU). For example in the year 2022, more than 30 Kenyan athletes have been suspended for flouting anti-doping rules. Thus it appears that the efforts of Anti-doping agency of Kenya (ADAK) in fighting doping in the country is not bearing the expected fruits. Anecdotal evidence and some studies indicate that athlete support personnel (ASP) such as coaches are abetting doping in Kenya (Juma et al., 2022; WADA, 2018). This is against the WADA (2021) code which has stipulated the roles and responsibilities of coaches in championing the cause for clean sport. Therefore the thrust of this study is to examine the coaches' knowledge on their anti-doping roles and actions, motivational climate (MC), doping confrontation efficacy (DCE) and attitudes towards doping and clean sport. The main research question is whether there are associations between coaches' knowledge, motivational climate, doping confrontation efficacy and attitudes towards doping in Kenya. Hypothesis will be formulated to find out whether the above variables are mediated by coaches' selected demographic and sport specific factors. The findings of the study have fundamental implications to coaches and other ASP, sport federations, ADAK, national Olympic committee of Kenya (NOC) and the Ministry of Sport in their efforts to curtail doping and championing clean sport in Kenya. Secondly, findings will reveal the extent of success/failures of the anti-doping education and prevention programmes offered to coaches by ADAK and WADA. A cross-sectional analytical survey design will be utilized and data will be collected through questionnaires from 350 coaches sampled from the sports in individual (athletics and swimming), combat (boxing and wrestling) and Team sport (rugby, soccer, and volleyball). Questionnaire items will be derived from standardized protocols to collect data on coaches' knowledge on their roles and actions (Allen et al., 2017), motivational climate, (perceived motivational climate in sport questionnaire -2 (PMCSQ-2) (Newton et al., 2000), doping confrontation efficacy (doping confrontation efficacy scale (DCES) (Sullivan et al., 2015) and attitudes towards doping (performance enhancement attitude Scale (PEAS) (Nicholls, et al., 2017; Vargo et al., 2014). The collected data will be analysed through descriptive and inferential statistics while the results will be presented in tables and figures. The hypothesis of the study will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.