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## Analysis of Demographic Variables of Waug Personnel on Knowledge and Behaviour towards Safety

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### **Abstract:**

*This study investigated on the knowledge and behaviour of WAUG personnel towards safety in terms of number of editions attended, age and gender. The descriptive research design, a population of five thousand, eight hundred (5,800) participants which was made up of athletes and officials of 14<sup>th</sup> West African Universities Games referred to as 'WAUG 2018', a sample size of three hundred and thirty (330) respondents, the purposive sampling technique, a sample size of eighty (80) officials and two hundred and fifty (250) athletes, a 25-item questionnaire consisting of sections 'A and B' were used for the study. The instrument had a return rate of eighty one percent (81%). The demographic data generated was analyzed using the frequency table, percentage and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. A criterion mean of 50% was used as a guide for taking decision. The study found out that there is a low negative relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge towards safety and the number of editions attended and also low positive relationship between WAUG Personnel's behaviour towards safety and the number of editions attended, there is a positive relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of age However and there is a negative relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge towards safety and gender but a positive relationship between WAUG personnel's behaviour towards safety and gender. The study recommended among others that WAUG personnel's safety knowledge and behaviour should be regularly updated through organized seminars and workshops. Age should be considered when recruiting WAUG personnel.*

**Keywords:** Age, behaviour, edition, gender, knowledge

### **1. Introduction**

West African Universities Games (WAUG) is a sporting competition for West African University students. It is the apex sports competition organized for West African University students hence it is also referred to as ECOWAS students' games.

It is on record that WAUG started in 1965 at university of Ibadan with the aim of fostering unity and cordial relationship among students of West African universities, creation of avenue for actualization of sporting prowess of the youth in order to elevate sports in West Africa (WAUG-Uniport, 2018). According to Unillorin (2012), sports is a veritable platform for promotion of national and international integration and cooperation WAUG which comes up every four years is organized by WAUG Executive Committee and Managers of sports in member institutions Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, 2018).

WAUG as elite sports event attracts the presence of different categories of individuals who participate at various levels. These individuals who interact to produce sports are sports personnel (Nwankwo, 2016). Safety in sports is basically the product of the knowledge and behaviour of these personnel and the knowledge and behaviour of these personnel is greatly influenced by their demographic characteristics. Demographic variables which are also referred to as demographic data is a statistical data about the characteristics of a population such as age, gender, status occupation and soon (John, 2010).

Demographic variables in this paper is conceptualized as statistical expression of socio-economic information of a population which include gender, age, experience, status and so on Geolytics (2016) posited that though demographic variables can appear as little more than sterile numbers and statistics, they illuminate aspects of life that are not found anywhere else if delved into. The demographic variables should therefore be considered dependable in taking vital decisions on sports matters.

WAUG is a human activity with inherent risks. Therefore the human and material resources involved in it require adequate protection from exposure to these risks hence there is need to ascertain the safety knowledge and behaviour of

the personnel. Nwankwo (2016) posited that safety should be one of the prime considerations in organization of any event since its negligence could negatively affect the goals of the event.

Safety simply put, is a state of being safe. It is a condition of being protected from consequences of harm (Nwankwo, 2014). It is a state of being safe from undesirable conditions (Nwankwo & Obiechng, 2018). Safety according to Business Dictionary (2018) is relative freedom from risk, danger, threat of harm, loss to personnel or property. This study conceptualized safety as functioning without fear of exposure to risk, threat of harm or undesirable events.

Safety knowledge is the awareness and understanding of safety issues and the ability to effectively execute safety procedures. Eliot (2004) described safety knowledge as the understanding of safety procedures and the ability to function without exposure to harm while Blome and Ek (2014) posited that safety knowledge is the comprehension of safety concepts, operations and rules. It is the possession of abilities to reduce risk. Safety behaviour according to Wright (2017) and Safeopedia (2018) is the tendency to respond positively or negatively towards safety. This study aimed at utilization of demographic variables of WAUG personnel to ascertain their knowledge and behaviour towards safety. According to Event Impacts (2019) the demographic profile of attendances is critical in correct measurement of the impact of any event.

### 1.1. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to ascertain the knowledge and behaviour of WAUG personnel towards safety. Specifically, the study sought to ascertain the knowledge and behaviour of WUAG personnel towards safety in terms of;

- Number of editions attended
- Age
- Gender

### 1.2. Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

- What is the relationship between WUAG personnel knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of number of editions attended?
- What is the relationship between WAUG personnel knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of age?
- What is the relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of gender?

### 1.3. Methods

The descriptive research design was adopted for this study. The population was five thousand eight hundred (5800) which was made up of officials and athletes of 14<sup>th</sup> West African Universities Games referred to as WAUG-Uniport 2018. A sample size of three hundred and thirty respondents was drawn using purposive sampling technique. The sample size consisted of eighty 80 officials and two hundred and fifty athletes. A-25 item self developed structured and validated questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument consisted of sections 'A' and 'B' section 'A' collected information on demographic variables of the respondents while section 'B' answered the research questions. The response options for research questions were Yes and No. The instrument was administered by the researcher and three research assistants. The instrument had a return rate of eighty one percent (81%). The demographic data generated was analyzed using frequency table, percentage and Pearson's Correlation Coefficient. A criterion mean of 50% was used as a guide for taking decision.

Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	200	74.6%
Female	68	25.4%
Age		
18-22 years	60	22.2%
23-27 years	102	38.2%
28-32 years	30	11.2%
33 years and above	76	28.4%
No of Editions		
1 edition	90	33.6%
2 editions	51	19%
3 editions and above	127	47.4%

Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of WAUG Personnel (N = 268)

Table 1: Shows that 200 respondents representing 74.6% of the total respondents were males while 68 respondents representing 25.4% were females. For age, 60 respondents representing 22.2% were between the ages of 18-22 years. Similarly, 102 (38.2%) and 76 (28.4%) were between 23-27 years and 28-32 years and 33 years and above. Majority of the respondents participated in 3 editions and above, this is indicated on the table where 127 respondents representing 47.4% of the respondents participated in 3 editions and above while 90 (33.6%) and 51 (19%) participated in only 1 and 2 edition respectively.

S/N	ITEMS	YES	NO
1	Safety is freedom from danger	234 (87.3%)	34 (12.67%)
2	Safety is necessary in every human activity	252 (94%)	16 (6%)
3	WAUG should be conducted in safety	243 (90.6%)	25 (9.4%)
4	I know some regulatory bodies for safety	220 (8.21%)	48 (17.9%)
5	I know some safety programmes organized by safety regulatory bodies	90 (33.5%)	178 (66.5%)
6	Adequate safety precautions were put in place for this edition of WAUG	106 (39.6%)	162 (60.4%)
7	Safety professionals should be involved in the organization of WAUG	254 (94.8%)	14 (5.2%)
	Grant Total	200 (74.6%)	68 (25.4%)

Table2: Knowledge of Safety Possessed by WAUG Personnel

The result in table 1 shows that most of the respondents indicated that safety is freedom from danger with percentage score of 87.3%, safety is necessary in every human activity with percentage score of 94%, that WAUG should be conducted in safety with percentage score of 90.6%, that they know some regulatory bodies for safety with score of 82.1%, but majority of the athletes claimed not to know of any safety programme organized by safety regulatory bodies and that adequate safety precautions were not put in place for this edition of WAUG with percentage scores of 66.5% and 60.4% respectively. The respondents had a positive response that safety professionals should be involved in the organization of WAUG with percentage score of 94.8%. The average percentage score of 74.6% for yes and 25.4% for no showed that WAUG athletes possessed good knowledge of safety.

S/N	ITEMS	YES	NO
1	I have experienced/witnessed accidents during WAUG	167 (62.3%)	101 (37.7%)
2	It is necessary to report accident that occur during WAUG	121 (45.2%)	147 (54.8%)
3	I have heard of officially reported accidents during WAUG	165 (61.2%)	103 (38.8%)
4	I have been trained on how to report accident	59 (22%)	209 (78%)
5	I have officially reported accidents during WAUG	187 (69.8%)	81 (30.2%)
6	I have heard of accidents during WAUG been investigated	8 (3%)	260 (97%)
7	It is necessary to investigate accidents that occur during WAUG	224 (83.6%)	44 (16.4%)
	Grand Total	140 (52%)	128 (48%)

Table 3: WAUG Athletes Behaviour towards Safety

The result in table 3 shows that most WAUG athletes had experienced/witnessed accidents during WAUG with percentage score of 62.3%, that it is necessary to report accidents that occur during WAUG with percentage score of 45.2%, had heard of officially reported accidents during WAUG with percentage of 61.2% that they have not been trained on how to report accident with percentage score of 59 22%, that they have officially reported accidents during WAUG with percentage scores of 69.8% while 3% of the respondents claim not to have heard of accidents during WAUG been investigated. And finally, majority of the athletes accepted that it is necessary to investigate accidents that occur during WAUG with percentage score of 83.6%. The average percentage score of 52% for yes and 48% for no shows the positive behaviour of WAUG athletes towards safety.

1.3.1. Research Question 1

What is the Relationship between WAUG Personnel’s Knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of number of editions attended?

<b>Number of Editions</b>	<b>Pearson corre</b>	<b>-0.273</b>	<b>.010</b>
	Sign (2 tailed)	.021	.934

Table 4: Summary Table Showing the Relationship between WAUG Personnel Knowledge and Behaviour towards Safety in Terms of Number of Editions Attended (N = 268)  
\*Correlation Is Significant At 0.05 (2 Tailed)

Table 4 shows that the correlation coefficient (r) for WAUG personnel knowledge towards safety on number of editions is -0.273 indicating a low negative relationship between personnel knowledge towards safety and number of editions. This implies that as the number of editions increased the personnel knowledge towards safety decreased while the correlation coefficient (r) for personnel’s behaviour towards safety and number of editions is 0.010 indicating a very low positive relationship safety and number of editions. This imply that as the edition increased the personnel’s behaviour towards safety slightly increased also.

### 1.3.2. Research Question 2

What is the relationship between WAUG Personnel's Knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of age?

		<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Behaviour</b>
Age	Pearson Correlation	.175	.154
	Sig (2 tailed)	.047	.081

*Table 5: Summary Table Showing the Relationship between WAUG Personnel's Knowledge and Behaviour towards Safety in Terms of Age (N = 268)  
\*Correlation Is Significant at 0.05 (2 Tailed)*

The result on table 5 shows that the correlation coefficient (r) for WAUG personnel towards safety in terms of age is 0.175 which indicates positive relationship between personnel's knowledge towards safety in terms of age. This implies that as the age increased the knowledge of personnel towards safety also increased while the correlation coefficient (r) for personnel's behaviour towards safety in terms of age is 0.154 which shows a positive relationship between personnel's behaviour towards safety and number of editions attended. This also implies that as the age increased, the personnel's behaviour towards safety changed positively.

### 1.3.3. Research Question 3

What is the relationship between WAUG personnel knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of gender.

		<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Behaviour</b>
Gender	Pearson Correlation	-.142	.095
	Sign (2 - tailed)	.045	.180

*Table 6: Summary Table Showing the Relationship between WAUG Personnel Knowledge and Behaviour towards Safety in Terms of Gender (N - 268)  
\*Correlation Is Significant at 0.05 (2 Tailed)*

The result on table 6 shows that correlation coefficient (r) for personnel knowledge towards safety in terms of gender is 0.142 which indicates a negative relationship between personnel knowledge towards safety in terms of gender. This implies that gender has a negative relationship with personnel's knowledge towards safety while the correlation coefficient for personnel's behaviour towards safety in terms of gender is 0.095 indicating a positive relationship between personnel's behaviour towards safety in terms of gender. This implies that gender has a positive relationship with personnel's behaviour.

## 2. Summary of Findings

1. There is a low negative relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge towards safety and the number of editions attended and also a low positive relationship between WAUG personnel's behaviour towards safety and number of editions attended.
2. There is a positive relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of age.
3. There is a negative relationship between WAUG personnel knowledge towards safety and gender but a positive relationship between WAUG personnel's behaviour towards safety and gender.

## 3. Discussion of Findings

The finding that there is a low negative relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge and also a low positive relationship between WAUG personnel's behaviour towards safety in terms of number of editions attended could be attributed to the practice of not reviewing safety issues until serious incident or accident occurs. This practice encourages the maintenance of status quo which obviously influences knowledge and behaviour. WAUG personnel may have continued at almost the same level of safety knowledge and behaviour in various editions of WAUG competitions while higher number of editions should have remarkably influenced their knowledge and behaviour towards safety. The comprehension of safety concepts, operations, rules (Blome & Ek, 2014), the possession of skills to reduce risks and the exhibition of positive habits towards safety goals (Wright, 2017) are inevitable in the achievement of enhanced safety knowledge and behaviour.

The finding that there is a positive relationship between WAUG personnel's knowledge and behaviour towards safety in terms of age agrees with Banjo and Olufemi (2014) who observed that age has moderate positive relationship with most variables of their study on demographic variables and job performance.

The finding that gender has a negative relationship with WAUG personnel's knowledge is in disagreement with Shubina and Kulaki (2019) who discovered that gender has a significant positive impact on knowledge in their study of gender differences for knowledge generation in education while the finding that there is a positive relationship between WAUG personnel's behaviour is in agreement with Vijaya Aparanjini and Lahaari (2017) who found out a positive relationship between gender and behaviour in their study of impact of gender on consumer purchasing behaviour.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that as the edition of WAUG competitions increased the personnel's knowledge towards safety slightly decreased while their behaviour towards safety slightly increased, as the age of the personnel increased, their knowledge and behaviour towards safety increased positively, also, gender has a negative relationship with WAUG personnel's knowledge but a positive relationship with their behaviour towards safety.

#### 5. Recommendations

- WAUG personnel's safety knowledge and behaviour should be regularly updated through organized seminars and workshops irrespective of the number of editions of WAUG they have attended.
- Age should be considered when recruiting WAUG personnel. Very young and very old people should not be part of WAUG personnel.
- The principle of gender equity should guide the selection of WAUG personnel.
- There should be safety signage in and around WAUG competition venues to enhance safety knowledge and behaviour of WAUG personnel.

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