

An Appraisal of Facilities for Active Recreation in Jimetayola, Nigeria

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Abstract: *Jimeta-Yola, the administrative and commercial city as well as the capital of Adamawa State needs to consider the planning and provision of facilities for active recreation; this is because there are problems of planning implementation, development and management of recreational facilities in the area. The aim of the study, therefore, is to appraise and examine the existing facilities for active recreation in Jimeta-Yola with a view to making appropriate recommendations to enhance its development and management for optimum utilization. Primary data relating to the types of facilities, their distribution and maintenance were obtained through questionnaires, informal interviews and reconnaissance survey of the study area. Questionnaires were administered to people who reside or work in Jimeta-Yola as well as organizations responsible for provision and management of facilities for active recreation. The secondary data were collected through maps, unpublished and published literature materials. Among other things, the survey shows high demand for facilities needed for active recreation in the study area with high preference on play fields which are mostly found within educational institutions. The study also reveals that youths who falls between ages 21-40 years which has 75% participates more in active recreation. the three income groups with 94.5% indicated their profound interest to spend part of their income on active recreation if the facilities are available. The research shows that spatial location and distribution of the existing facilities were not in conformity with the standard of provision with 62% of the facilities found within educational institutions which are usually restricted to students and members of staff. Also, there is encroachment upon the few existing recreational open spaces meant for the provision of facilities. The study therefore, revealed a general poor quality provision and maintenance of facilities for active recreation in the study area which is also a reflection of inadequate planning and implementation. Proposals/recommendations includes the creation of a single Recreation Agency to handle all recreational matters, the general renovations and upgrading of existing facilities for active recreation through government and private sector participation, as well as the provision of a District Park, Indoor Sports Hall and Play fields/Sports grounds which have high demand in the study area.*

INTRODUCTION

The subject “facilities for active recreation” cannot be discussed without mentioning the word recreation. Recreation and leisure are fundamental to the existence of man. Recreational activities have health and mental benefits which help in the development of psychological and social tendencies of individuals. Roberts (1974) reported in Obinna, *et al.* (2009) defined recreation as any pursuit engaged upon during leisure time other than pursuit to which people are normally highly committed; Leisure time as the time available to the individual when the

disciplines of work, sleep and other basic needs have been met. The term 'leisure' and 'recreation' cannot be seen as being entirely synonymous; while leisure is best seen as a component of time, recreation centers on the behavioral pattern which one employs to fill the free time. Hence, it must be based in self-interest, spontaneous, initiative and choices.

The industrial revolution marked a rapid development of production process and industrial expansion, which continued throughout most of the nineteenth century. This actually created influences on the pattern of work, leisure and recreation participation of various social classes in the society. This period however, witnessed the emergence of the class of white-collar workers whom apart from earning income also obtained leave allowances meant for rest and relaxation and therefore created a new urban society which encouraged wide spread participation in recreational activities.

Recreation may be active or passive, indoor or outdoor e.g. active pursuit of sporting activities involves direct participation hence regarded as active recreation while those watching (spectators) are said to be engaged in a passive recreation. Indoor recreation are those recreational activities taking place within and around the house or hall, likewise the informal outdoor activities take place in the field or outside. Recreation is a vital need in today's world. It is perhaps the greatest opportunity for self-expression, for doing what one really wants to do and not what one is forced to do to earn a living.

Statement of Problem

investigations reveals in the study area show that public facilities for active recreation in the area are very few, poorly maintained and in a total state of dilapidation; secondly, some of the land-uses left for recreation are being converted to residential and other land-uses; thirdly, the facilities are not properly located to meet recreational needs according to standard of provision and also the residents of Jimeta- Yola are not being properly enlightened on the importance of recreation/recreational facilities and open-spaces hence its relegation to the background.

According to Ogunbawo (1996) reporting in Ajishu (2010), recreational activities requiring physical output differs according to age and level of development of participants. Therefore, the call for the provision of facilities for active recreation in the study area will serve both the young and old's needs for recreation.

Aims and objectives

The study aims at appraising the facilities for active recreation in Jimeta-Yola with a view to making appropriate recommendations to enhance their development and management for optimum utilization.

The study objectives are:

- (a) To identify the locational distribution of existing facilities for active recreation in the study area.
- (b) To assess the condition of facilities for active recreation.
- (c) To analyze the problems that are associated with the development of facilities for active recreation in the area.
- (d) To make planning recommendations towards solving identified problems

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Recreation

Smith (1992) traces the origins of the term Recreation to the Latin word *Recreate* which means to renew or to be re-created. The concept of restoring the individual often, historically means to return to work still pervades most contemporary definitions.

Encyclopedia of Recreation (2004) defines "Recreation as those activities which an individual is not compelled to do, but rather which are chosen based upon the establishment of their value as being enjoyable, satisfying, interesting, diverting or otherwise capable of sustaining pleasure for that individual".

Godbey (1978) reporting in Zingven (2001) defined "Recreation as an activity done in opposition to work that refreshed or restored the individual". He explains further that recreation is any activity pursued during leisure either individually or collectively that is free and pleasurable having its own immediate appeal, not compelled by a delayed reward beyond itself. This definition show that recreation refreshes the individual a new or restores lost energy and it is performed during leisure time as well as it is also free and pleasurable.

Butler (1967), sees recreation as an activity that when engaged in restores a person's vitality, initiative and perspective of life, there-by preparing the individual to return to his toil. This shows that recreation contributes immensely to the growth and development of participants as well as the nation. While these terms emphasize a human and at times ideological or spiritual perspective, a resultant tension has evolved among definitions emphasizing one's experience and one's engagement in an activity.

Some other important definitional criteria centered on whether or not recreation or the experience of leisure can occur during time spent on obligatory or extrinsically motivated activity, such as within employment. Despite such debates, there is generally agreement on some of the basic elements of recreation. Neumeyer and Neumeyer (1958) summarised it that recreation is an individual or collective activity that can occur during leisure, which must have some elements of intrinsic value, That the primary motive is the satisfaction arising from participation in an activity, and that social stimulation and cultural influences shape specific forms of recreation.

However, for the purpose of this research, recreation is defined as socially acceptable and worthwhile activities in which a person voluntarily participates during leisure hours which refreshes and restores lost energy.

Historical Perspective of the Development of Recreational Activities

As the recreation and leisure field continues to develop even before the advent of modern production using machines, different societies all over the world did participate in leisure and recreation with the pattern depending on the level of societal civilization, During the pre-industrial time, there was no formal distinction made between work and leisure time. The people at that time were not used to setting a particular time for leisure. According to Enekebe (1988), it was only between the upper class in ancient Greece that there was a distinction between work and non-work.

Furthermore, Zingven (2001) identified that there was a decline of the people's leisure time from the end of the middle ages to the height of the industrial revolution period. However, in the fourth

century, there was evidence of growing interest on recreation as free time for the Romans during this time was tremendously increased from what is used to be. It is worthy to note that during the industrial revolution period, there were two major influences on the pattern of work, leisure and recreational participation of the various societal groups. This created a new urban society and it encouraged wide spread participation in recreational activities. E.g. people were able to demand for leisure time as a right. This can be clearly seen from the reduction of working period of 12 hours per day in the 1830's to 8 hours per day in 1924 by the International Labor Organizations (I.L.O), which shows that the dawn of machines, gave man a right to define leisure and recreation. Therefore, by early twentieth century, recreations was fully developed based on the philosophy that recreation refreshes and regain lost energy, thus improving productivity. Introduction of different recreational activities took place such as boxing, football, badminton, volleyball, wrestling, basketball, golf, horse-racing and a host of others. This is to say that "paralleling the increased demand for leisure opportunities has been a growing awareness of the potential of recreation to contribute to a person's physical and social well-being and overall quality of life in a community" (Klein, 1983).

Evolution of Recreational Activities in Nigeria

According to Ojo (1979), the evolution of recreational experience in Nigeria has been identified under the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods. During the pre-colonial period, agriculture was the main economic base of the country and there was no defined recreation time. However, it was expected that for one to keep body and soul together, one had to work from morning until dawn. People were self- employed and gave up neither toiling only when they were tired or when there is no work to do. Recreation time at this period was limited and consisted of time not given to work, eating, sleeping or performing other essential occupation as determined by the individual. The recreational activities were home-based and took place within premises and sometimes within the immediate environment. E.g. undertaken during religious festivals, birth ceremonies, initiation, wedding, installation and funeral that consisted a large measure of activities in which everyone participated. In other words, recreational activities were not organized on commercial basis but rather as part of social living of the people.

The colonial period was marked with the increasing diversification of occupational activities. Apart from their primary occupation which is farming, this period however, witnessed the emergence of the class of white-collar workers whom apart from earning income also obtained leave allowances meant for rest and relaxation. With the introduction of Western Education and religious holidays, some recreational activities emerged in the course of economic development during the colonial period and were introduced in the commercial and administrative urban centers with sizeable population for foreigners (Europeans). Prominent among these were games and sports e.g. swimming, hunting, golf, horse racing, football and social clubs as a form of recreational activities. On the whole, colonial period constituted the major turning point in the pattern and trend of recreational activities from being wholly traditional to the increase in contemporary recreational activities (Jegede, 1981).

During the post-colonial period, rapid developments of recreational activities were witnessed in Nigeria. The introduction of more efficient and easy forms of transportation, such as rail, water and air transport system gave the people the opportunity to explore or visit recreational areas located at different places. At this period, more people were engaged in non-agricultural jobs in factories, commercial house, government and institutional offices that resulted to numerous paid public holidays which afforded people the opportunity of using week-ends for recreational participation. Urbanization and increased income helped tremendously in the rapid growth and participation in recreational activities in the country. This confirms the fact that urban centers are where recreational facilities are readily available

and with reduced working days, workers could afford to spend money and time to participate in recreation and leisure.

Classification of Recreational Activities

The classification of recreational activities in Nigeria will be seen based on the participant's effort required for the activity, organization and place of performance as well as based on the location.

Classification based on the participant's effort required for the activity

The participant effort required for any recreational activity falls within the Active and Passive recreational activities.

- (a) Active Recreational Activities - This type of recreational activities refers to activities involving physical participation exertion and intensity of play in individual participation. For instance, golf, lawn tennis, hockey, swimming, squash, football and volleyball etc. this type of recreational activity demands a lot of energy.
- (b) Passive Recreational Activities - It refers to those recreational activities that require minimum amount of physical exertion on the individual participation. E.g. spectators at a football match, chess, picnic camping, television viewing etc.

Classification based on organization and place of performance

Organization and place of performance in the classification of recreational activities will be considered under traditional and contemporary recreational activities.

- (a) Traditional Recreational Activities - According to Ojo (1979), traditional recreational activities refers to all those activities that have been developed by the indigenes or community based on their socio-cultural values, norms and technology adjusted to the features of leisure time activities available to the people. He tried to classify traditional

Recreational activities based on the places of performance and the way they were organized;

- (i) Activities organized by some professional group's e.g. the Igbanta (Igbo) Hunting.
- (ii) Activities that take place at home/compound space e.g. Chomo (Igbo), Wasan

Boye (Hausa), Bojuboju (Yoruba) etc.

- (iii) Activities organized by some religious groups e.g. Easter retreat (Christianity), Hawan Idi (Islam) etc.
- (iv) Activities that are organized by some social groups such as Dambe (Boxing in Hausa). However, some traditional recreational activities are gradually fading away in most Nigeria urban areas but are still prominent in the rural areas.

- (b) Contemporary Recreational Activities - The contemporary recreational activities are activities that were introduced into Nigeria as a result of contact with other cultures especially western culture. Most contemporary recreational activities came during and after the colonial administration. These activities include swimming, hunting, golf, football, hockey, ludo, scrabble, cinema viewing etc. which are either perform indoors or outdoors;

however, advancement in technology have made it difficult to demarcate between outdoor and indoor recreation e.g. Table tennis and basketball etc. can be performed both within and outside an enclosure.

Classification based on location

There are recreational activities that are classified based on location and these can be seen as follows:

- (i) Land Based Recreational Activities - They are activities that take place on land such as hockey, football, jogging, horse riding and golf playing etc.
- (ii) Air Based Recreational Activities - They are recreational activities that take place in the air e.g. ballooning, parachuting, pleasure flying etc. however, the air based recreational activities are restricted to contemporary type of recreation only; while there has been no evidence of any traditional type of air-based recreational activities in Nigeria.

Approaches Used for Appraisal of Recreational Facilities

Many approaches have evolved especially in developed nations of the world, all in attempt to bring forth the most efficient method of provision and appraisal/assessment of recreational facilities. It is believed that some of these approaches faced some criticisms because the requirement for recreational facilities varies from place to place as well as the recreational habit of people changes with time and fashion (Falade,1999).

Use of planning standard

The planning of recreation has placed much emphasis on the standards of provision. According to Brain and Bryan (1987), Recreational Area planning Standards are guidelines or rules which guide the recreational planner to determine the kind of recreational facility to be provided based on the population size. Table 1 indicated some planning standards used for the provision of facilities for active recreation. However the use of planning standards have also been criticized based on the fact that the demand for recreation and its pattern is affected by time, cultural background, income and as well as age and fashion. There is therefore need for planning standards to be flexible in order to accommodate the socio-cultural demands of the people regarding the provision of recreational facilities.

Planning Standards for Active Recreation.

Facility	Standard
Play Fields	- 6 acre/1,000 population
District Indoor Sports	- One per 40,000-90,000 plus one additional

17m²/100 population

Indoor Swimming Pools - 5m²/100 Population

Golf Course - One 9-hole course per 18,000

Source: Brain and Bryan (1987).

Locational concept/approach

The locational approach is used in order to locate recreational facilities in close proximity to the immediate users or beneficiaries. This approach has the following concepts:

- (a) Linear Concept - This concept is employed to take advantage of a natural or physical factor as river front, costal line, mountains and hills etc. for instance, the recreational facilities lies alongside the extensive riverside as the case may be. It is applicable at macro level of space e.g. Regional City Park.
- (b) Dispersed Concept - In this concept, the facilities are located in different places that spread out and linked together in such a way forming a whole. E.g. it is mostly applied at micro level space such as neighborhood, Community or District level.
- (c) Concentrated Concept - This concept attempts to integrate all recreational facilities within a single piece of land. It is more economical in terms of space and maintenance but could lead to functional inefficiency as all elements cannot be easily integrated within a single site.

Extrapolation approach

Extrapolation as the name implies attempts to predict future data by relying on historical data, therefore in this case is the process of forecasting future recreational demands through the use of future requirement. For instance, the level of patronage to a particular recreational facility through the record of participants can be used to determine the future demand for such a facility. However, the problem with this procedure is that it only indicates what people do and not what they prefer, since the present pattern of recreation activity may not necessarily be repeated in future. Therefore, it is important to state here that although no single approach could be used in the appraisal of facilities for active recreation, however the combination of the above approaches would be useful in this study

Importance of Recreational Facilities

It is virtually impossible to discuss the importance of recreational facilities without highlighting the importance of recreation itself to man. Recreation has great potential to improve one's physical and mental health and to assist individuals and society adapt to rapid

societal and technological change (Klein, 1983). Recreation contributes to human happiness and happiness is a by-product of balanced life; it restores lost energy from the day's job and engages the youths in activities that will prevent them from delinquencies.

However, recreational facilities serve the purpose through which the above mentioned recreational importance can be achieved. Recreational facilities provide aesthetic and healthy living environment. This is made possible by the distribution of the facilities that gives the city a good background; recreational open spaces and play fields allow the free flow of ventilation in and out of the surrounding land uses.

Problems of Implementing Planned Recreational Land-Uses in Nigeria Planning standards and guidelines for recreation facilities and open space were last formulated in the late seventies and approved in 1981 (Recreation, Open-space and Greening, 2007). Since then, there has been significant improvement in the incorporation and development of recreational land-use in both rural and urban layout designs. However, the rapid population growth and urbanization have contributed to the challenges of implementing planned recreational land-use in Nigeria. The high competition and demand on land-uses more especially residential and probably commercial land-use have made it difficult for any expensive urban land meant for recreation to be developed, hence the conversion of allocated recreational open space to other uses. Lack of clear understanding and appreciation of the contribution of recreation/open space to improvement of human health. Those saddled with the responsibility of development and management of recreational space or facilities have relegated its importance to the background; therefore, recreational land-use has become an endangered species in the midst of other land-uses which can easily be converted to any other use. Lack of a comprehensive study of leisure habits and recreational preferences to assess the leisure habits and recreational preferences of the people, so as to formulate planning standards and guidelines to meet their needs. This is common in developing nations like Nigeria where a large chunk of land will be allocated for recreational purpose without necessarily assessing the leisure and recreational preferences of the people. In most cases such areas become dumping ground for refuse (waste materials) or converted to other land-uses since there are hardly any available data to show leisure and recreational preferences of the people should in case it is developed, there will be adequate patronage. As such both public and private organization becomes reluctant to invest in the development of recreational land-use.

Theoretical Framework

The third National Development Plan (1979-80) laid emphasis on the drawing up of master plans of several cities for a balanced development. This opportunity was put in the effort of most planners, Architects and Engineers to incorporate recreational facilities for the urban populace.

Published works by Ojo (1979) in "Recreation and Tourism, Pattern and Trends," identifies three phases of the development of recreation in Nigeria i.e. pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial phases. During the pre-colonial period, recreational activities were home based e.g. activities within social groups or age mates such as wrestling, horse racing, fishing, and hunting and finally activities associated with religious practices such as singing and dancing.

Other published works are by Maw (1974), in "Leisure Research and Policy", where he identified the existence of recreation environment. The identification of this recreation environment will assist in the choice of suitable areas for recreation facilities. The same author further develops the concept of constraints. Theoretically it is argued that if all

constraints existing on an individual at the point of decision making about the use of a period of leisure time were known, it would be possible to predict accurately his recreational use of time.

However, there are two types of constraints – structural or personal constraints like time available, discretionary income, age, sex, education and secondly environmental constraints which are sub-divided into facility and linkage constraints. Facility constraints lead to facility deferred demand such as complete lack of an economically feasible facility like an expensive recreation center near a low income housing. linkage constraints are when the individual does not know of or can't travel to existing facilities.

Conceptual Framework

Furthermore, this study will employ the theories of “Normative Planning Standards” as identified by Andrew (1982) but with some little modifications. The four classes of normative standards are:

- (i) The first type considers a given population to recommend amount of space to be allocated to recreational facilities and types.
- (ii) The second type identifies the minimum physical structure and ancillary facilities that should be available in any recreational center
- (iii) The third type relates a given population to the demand for individual facilities mostly in the various recreation centers.
- (iv) The last type considers the provision of traditional/cultural oriented facilities in line with Normative planning standards – which focuses on the location, hierarchy of facilities and accessibility to the population which is supposed to use them.

Gaps in Literature

For the fact that several works have been done on recreation in the developed countries however, this aspect of planning is yet to attract sufficient attention from both scholars and practicing planners in the developing countries. This branch of planning is often felt to be less important when compared to more pressing development problems like health, housing and education etc.

Unpublished works by Jegede (1981); established the need for recreation resources in Lagos and proceeds to provide them in the form of a well-integrated hierarchy. Also other unpublished that exists is the one by Alhassan (1979) “Provision of Recreational Open Spaces for Ilorin,” where he used the concept of hierarchy in the provision of recreational open spaces for the location of facilities needed to enhance recreation. The hierarchy he used was tertiary, secondary and major open spaces.

Among the published works that exists is the one by Owen and Duffield reported in Maw (1974) “Leisure Research and Policy in Scotland” where they tried to establish the relationship between recreation activities and physical resources. However, outdoor activities do not take place in isolation but depend on the availability of physical resources that are able to support and sustain them. In turn, resources capability in the context of outdoor recreation is dictated by the particular requirements of relevant activities.

Abram (1981) in his published work – ‘Recreation Facilities in Shapeville’ identifies that integrating and unifying the existing heritage, cultural, community and religious functions on a recreational site will promote participation and utilization of recreational facilities.

These studies or research work that have been carried out were done in areas other than Jimeta-Yola. The studies also don’t lay any much emphasis on the relationship between outdoor recreation and resources/facilities. Therefore, this deficiency will be overcome in this study and more emphasis will be laid on facilities for active recreation. Also, the hot weather of Jimeta-Yola always drives people out-door hence the need for development of facilities for outdoor recreation

Implications of the Review for Jimeta-Yola

With increasing urbanization, globalization and changing values and concerns, there would be shifts in how people interact with lands especially recreational land-use in the future, hence the provision of facilities for active recreation would recognize that people from Local Communities, Jimeta metropolis, across the state and around Nigeria derive benefits and quality experiences from participation in recreation.

It also implies that a workable, practicable and achievable approach to understanding and responding to the recreational needs of the communities around and within Jimeta-Yola is achieved; hence the economic status of the people can also be enhanced considering the benefits of recreation to human beings. As highlighted earlier, recreational opens spaces and play fields will allow the free flow of ventilation in surrounding land-uses thereby enhancing the health status of the people. Therefore, the review is intended to ensure that citizens can live a safe and healthy active life with opportunities to participate in social and cultural activities; hence the community will have access to an adequate range of services and facilities to meet those needs.

METTODODOLOGY

This discusses the principles and methods used in collecting, processing and analyzing as well as dissemination of data for the research. Therefore, attention is given to the techniques used in analyzing the data gathered from reliable sources for decision making purposes that make comprehensive presentation. The section discuss the study area, data required, data source, sample frame, sampling techniques, sample size, data collection procedure, data analysis tool, and data presentation techniques.

The Study Area

Jimeta-Yola is the administrative and commercial city as well as the capital of Adamawa State which was formed in 1991 from part of Gongola State. The study area Jimeta-Yola is situated at latitude $9^{\circ}11'N$ to $9^{\circ}20'N$ and longitudes $12^{\circ}13'E$ to $12^{\circ}33'E$ with an altitude of about 185.9m above sea level. The area is restricted from Growth to the immediate north by an arm of flood land, however the rocky plateau on which it is located and which rises directly from the Benue stretches far to the west and connects with a large area of open land to the north-west, before once again meeting the flood land on the other side of the watershed.

Recreational center/facilities with the emerging status of Jimeta-Yola as Local Government Headquarters and State capital were however created in the year 1976 out of the Native Authority by the Federal Government. The recreational facilities as at that time were local

and traditional which consisted of large open spaces for the performance of traditional and religious festivities.

Population

The population of the state is 3,106,585 giving a population density of 68 persons per square kilometer with Jimeta-Yola North having a total population of 325,925 people (NPC, 2005).

Existing land use activity of Jimeta

The Jimeta metropolitan area is mainly used for housing, related commercial enterprises, administration, and Agricultural activities are predominantly undertaken keeping in mind few available industries, which is the part of income source of the study area.

Relative humidity

The seasonal variation in RH of the study area, between January and March RH is extremely low (20 -30%). It starts increasing as from April and reaches the peak (about 80%) in August and September. This is due to the influence of the humid maritime air mass which covers the whole state during this time. Relative humidity starts to decline again as from October following the cessation of rains (Adebayo, 1999).

Sunshine

The monthly distribution pattern shows that the period from January to April has a mean monthly sunshine hour of 220. There is a decline in sunshine hours between May and September due to increasing cloudiness all over the state (Adebayo, 1999). The mean during this period is about 207 hours. The mean sunshine hours increase again to 255 for the period between October and December. The number of sunshine hours is 2750per annum.

Soil and Vegetation

Like most areas in northern Nigeria, the soil of Yola-North is derived from the basement complex rock; however, there is some alluvial soil along the Benue flood plains. The soil of the study area is loamy and it drains easily when it rains. The vegetation consists of short, medium and shrubs, more especially in the months of August and September during which the area records higher amount of rainfall.

Topography

The topography of Yola North (Jimeta) is generally plain, rising from 95m to 190m above sea level, with River Benue, running from East to South of the study area.

Existing Infrastructural Facilities

Infrastructure which is seen as the basic facilities, services and installations needed for the functioning of a community or town can be said to be available within the study area. This is because Jimeta is both the administrative capital and commercial center of Adamawa state.

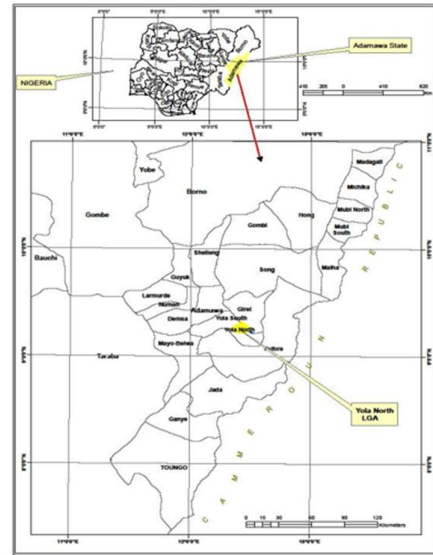
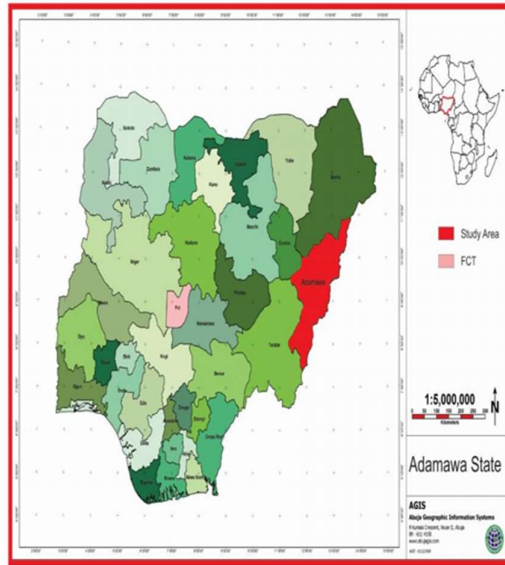


Figure 1 and 2: Administrative Map of Nigeria Showing Adamawa State in Red
Map of Adamawa State Showing Yola North LGA (Source: ADGIS Yola, 2014)

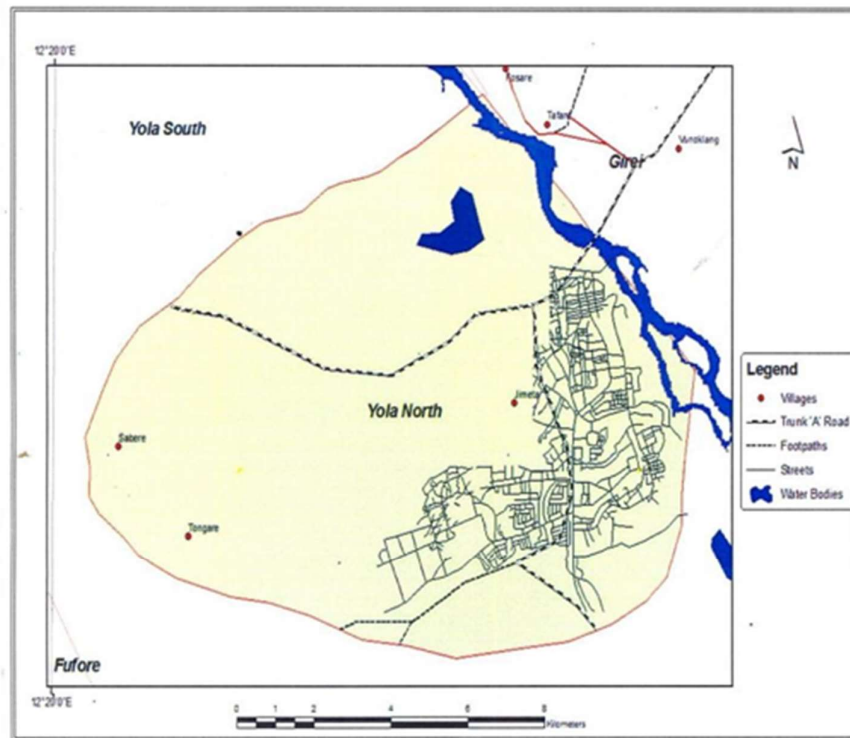


Figure 3: Yola North LGA in the Context of Adamawa State (Source: ADGIS Yola, 2014).

Sources of Data

Two major types of data will be collected for this research work i.e. the primary and secondary data:

- (a) Primary data - These are fresh data relating to the study which was collected through administering of questionnaires as well as oral interview with some Senior Planning Personnel in different government organizations like the State Ministry of Lands and Survey, Adamawa State Urban Development Board, Adamawa Sport Council etc. Reconnaissance survey of the study area was also done to ascertain the present condition of facilities for active recreation.
- (b) Secondary data - This refers to already published materials in the area of study by writers on the topic. This serves as a reference for the development of the topic especially in literature review. It therefore, entails the extensive use of the library, internet facilities, journals, articles, textbooks, past thesis, seminal papers, maps and other related information on recreational facilities

Population and Sample Technique

In sourcing data for this research, 2 items were considered:

- (i) The residents and users of recreational facilities
- (ii) The regulators and managers of recreational facilities

For the purpose of this work the data collection sampling technique is by a stratified random sampling where a cluster of residents based on electoral ward density were interviewed. However, for the management/organizations no sample technique was adopted due to the few in number of organizations in charge of these facilities.

Sampling procedure

The technique identified eleven (11) electoral wards considering their population size while The population of each ward was obtained from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Yola; that consist of adults of voting age which was used to form the total population of the respondents.

These wards were further subjected to simple random sampling to obtain the sample size for the study. This technique gives all the respondents within each ward the equal chance of being selected for the study which was used to obtain a comprehensive representation of information for the divided wards within the delineated area of study

Sample size A systematic sampling was used to select samples from the study area which is divided into electoral wards. The sample size is 500 of the total number of 10,000 households in the 11 wards obtainable within the study area which constitutes about 5%. For it is not possible with this present economic predicament to undertake 100% home surveys.

Therefore, Sample Size = $\frac{5}{100} \times 10,000$ H/holds

$$= 0.05 \times 10,000 \text{ H/holds}$$

$$= 500 \text{ Questionnaires}$$

The unit of study of each ward is the household; the selection of the respondents involves selecting each 20th dwelling unit of the population of each ward after the first

Sample frame

The data collection was structured into 2 groups which includes the following:

- (i) The residents of Jimeta and other stakeholders who are beneficiaries of recreational facilities.
- (ii) The regulators and managers of recreational facilities which are stated below;
 - Adamawa State Ministry of Lands and Survey
 - Ministry of Sports and Tourism
 - Adamawa State Urban Planning Board
 - Nigeria Police Force, State Command, Yola
 - Nigeria Army Yola
 - Nigeria Air-force Yola
 - Ministry of Education
 - Aron Nigeria Limited Yola
 - Concordia College, Karewa
 - LCCN Church Nassarawo
 - St. Mary Catholic, Jimeta
 - Aliyu Mustapha Academy, Jimeta

- Lelewal Motel Management
- Duragi Hotel Management
- Lagoon Hotel Management
- Col. Isa Mohammed Memorial School Management
- Adamawa State Sports Council

Data Collection Instruments

The instrument/procedure for data collection in this study includes the following:

- Questionnaire: In collecting data for recreational facilities in Jimeta Metropolis, a total of 500 questionnaires were administered.
- Interviews guide: This was used in obtaining data on measures taken in addressing the issues affecting the delivery of recreational facilities and those involved.
- Literature review: Data collected using this instrument include data on concepts and theories, emergence of recreation and leisure movements, approaches used for appraisal of recreational facilities, psychology of recreation etc. to appreciate and ensure effective delivery of recreational infrastructures.
- Observation: This was used in collecting data on type, location and distribution of recreational facilities as well as their activities, working and environmental conditions in which they operate in the study area.
- Photograph: Pictures were taken of the various locations of facilities for active recreation at different places to show their types, nature and condition as well as other forms in which they operate.

Method of Data Analysis

The data obtained, were analyzed using descriptive inferential statistics. The opinions of respondents, observations on the location and conditions of facilities as well as statements collected from the various organizations responsible for the provision and maintenance of recreational infrastructures were also analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Inventory/Distribution of Existing Facilities for Active Recreation

In trying to appraise the existing recreational services/ provision of facilities, the distribution of facilities for active recreation in the study area were classified into three (3) major categories

which includes facilities within Hotels, facilities within institutions as in and public facilities; likewise shows the locational distribution of the existing facilities.

Public facilities

These are the facilities that are owned and managed by government which is open to the general public for patronage/utilization. There are only four (4) existing public facilities for active recreation with one under construction in the study area.

- (i) Jimeta Mini-Stadium: For now it is the only stadium where local and inter – state football league competition are being hosted. It is generally serving the whole town not a certain population as such its space allocation is not adequate

Table 1 : Facilities Within Hotels.

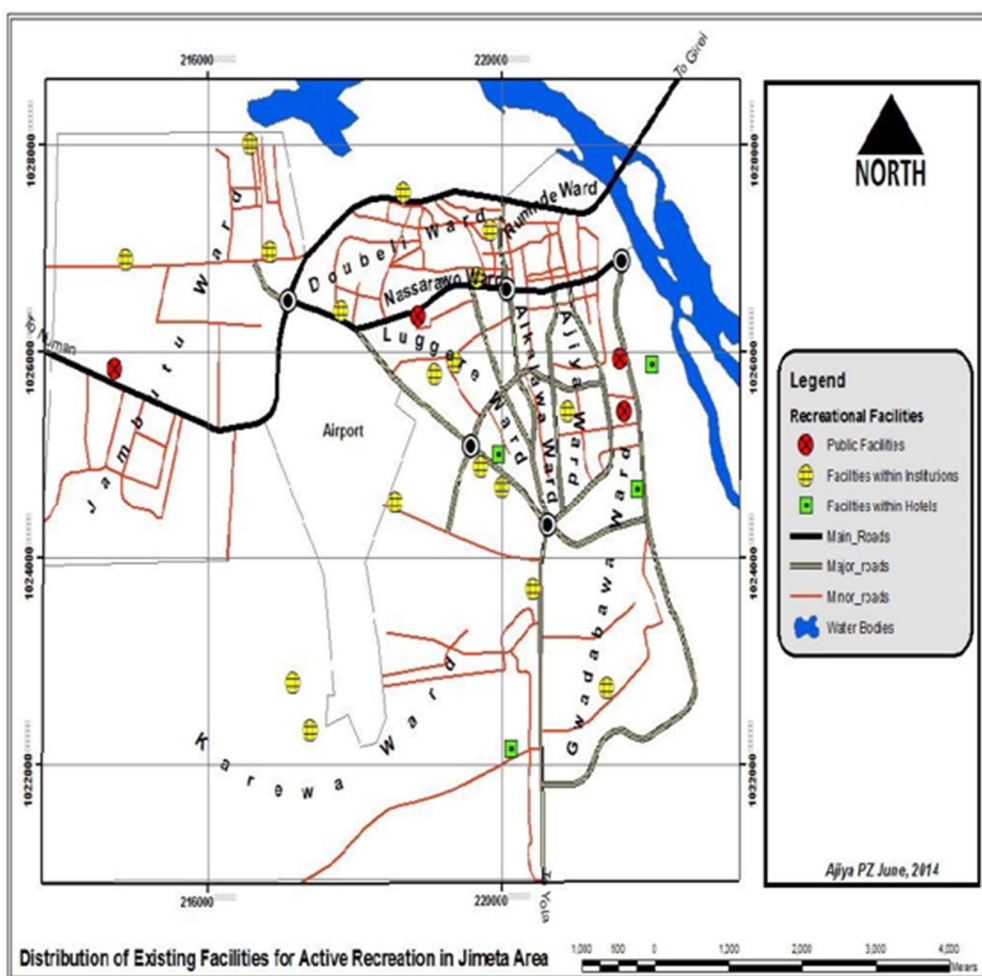
Facility	Lagoon	International	Lelewal Motel	Duragi	Total
Swimming pool	1	1	-	1	3
Lawn tennis court	-	1	-	-	1
Badminton	-	1	-	-	1
Volley ball	-	1	-	-	1
Table tennis	-	-	1	-	1
Gymnastic	-	1	1	-	2
Equipments					
<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023).

Table 2: Facilities within Institutions.

S/N	Institution	Basket Ball court	Volleyball court	Football/ play field	Lawn tennis	Table Tennis	Badminton Court	Hand ball	Total
1.	State Polytechnic (SPY)	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	5
2.	FCE Yola	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	6
3.	Police Officers Mess	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	4
4.	Military Officers Mess	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	6
5.	Col. Isa. Moh'd Memorial Sec. School	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	5
6.	Aliyu Mustapha Academy	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	4
7.	Capital School	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	3
8.	Army Day Sec. School	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	3
9.	Air Force Comp. Sec. School	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	4
10.	Govt. Sec. Sch. Jambuta	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
11.	Concordia College Karewa	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	8
12.	Ramat College Karewa	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2
13.	LCCN Nassarawo	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
14.	St Mary Catholic Church	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Total		6	10	11	4	15	5	4	55

Source: Field Survey (2023).



Area coverage of existing facilities for active recreation

The total area coverage of the facilities is 91.77 hectares which are mostly concentrated within educational institutions.



Plate 1: Poor Condition of Jimeta Mini-Stadium

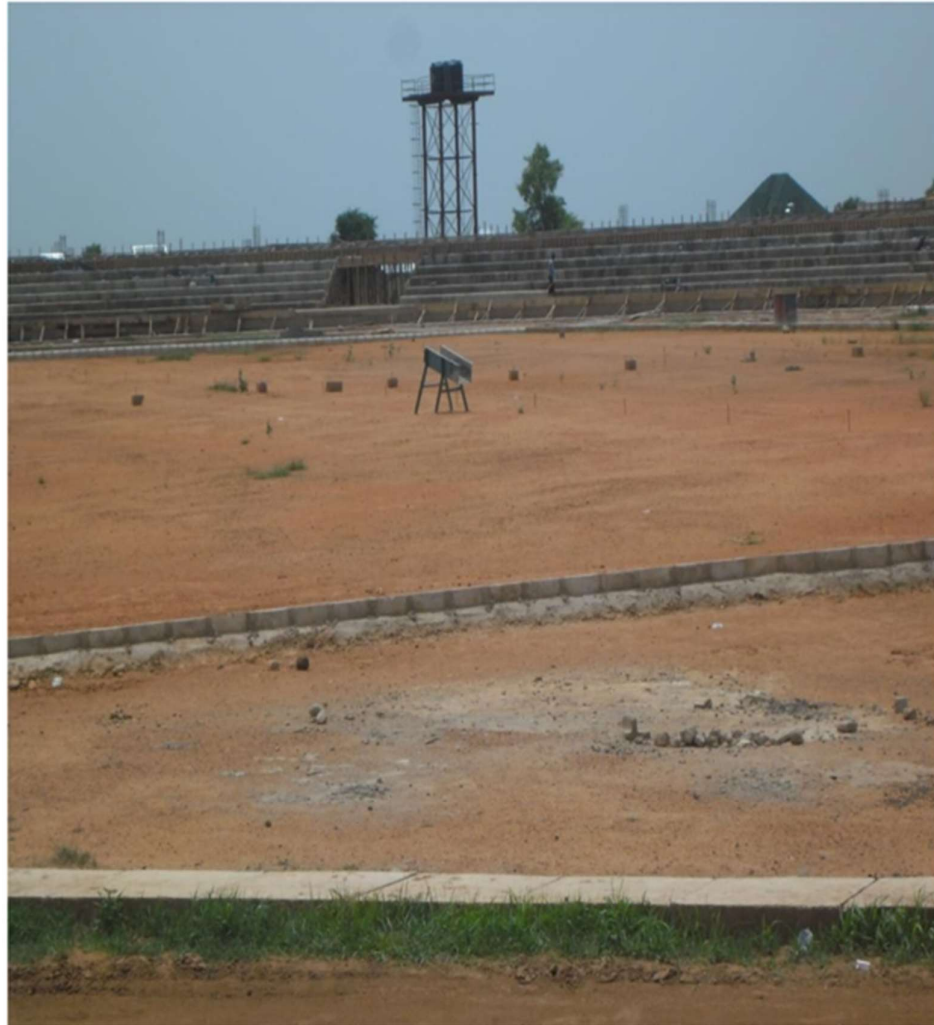


Plate 2: The State Stadium under Construction (Along Numan Road)

Table 3 : Area Coverage of Existing Facilities for Active Recreation.

S/N	Facility	Total Number	Area-Coverage (Ha)	Percentage (%) coverage
1.	Swimming pool	3	1.62	1.77
2.	Tennis court	5	2.96	3.23
3.	Table Tennis Board	16	0.084	0.09
4.	Volley ball Court	11	5.67	6.18
5.	Basketball court	6	2.84	3.09
6.	Playfield/Children's park	12	31.02	33.80
7.	Badminton	6	1.44	1.57
8.	Stadium/multi-Purpose	3	44.2	48.16
9.	Handball pitch	4	1.89	2.06
10.	Gymnastic Equipments	2	0.047	0.05
	<i>Total</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>91.77</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Ownership of existing facilities for active recreation

Ownership has a great role to play in the maintenance of facilities..

Table 4: Ownership of Existing Facilities for Active Recreation.

Ownership	Number of Facilities	Percentage (%)
1. Government	39	57.4
2. Private sector	29	42.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Table 5 : Percentage of Income Willing to Spend on Recreation.

Percentage Range	Number	Percentage (%)
1-4%	261	62.1
5-10%	85	20.2
11-20%	36	8.6
21-39%	13	3.1
40-50%	2	0.5
None	23	5.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023)

Location of respondents and recreational use pattern

The survey conducted on population in the study area revealed that 66% of those sampled reside within the study area (Jimeta-Yola) while 34% reside outside the study area.

data analysis on the usage of facilities which depict 29% of the residents in the study area use facilities within the area while 21% use facilities outside the study area where most of them gave their reason for going out as due to lack of facilities within their area. 15% of the non-residents in the study area make use of the facilities while 35% do not. This in essence shows that the residents mostly use the facilities hence the need for upgrading of facilities for active recreation in the study area to meet people's demand. The analysis here shows that 44% make use of facilities in the study area while 21% are willing to do the same if facilities are provided.

Table 6 : Recreational Habit of People.

Determinant	Number	Percentage (%) A.
Income level	261	62.1
B. Quality of facility	85	21.2
C. Location of facility	36	8.6
D. Transport availability	21	5.0
E. Both A, B and C	203	48.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023)



Table 7 : Frequency of Visits to Recreational Areas.

Frequency of Visit	Number	Percentage (%)
Daily	27	.4
2-5 times a week	42	10.0
Occasionally	152	36.2
Not at all	6	1.4
Weekends	193	46.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>420</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023).



Table 8: Usage of Facilities for Active Recreation.

Item		Number	Percentage (%)
Resident	: Yes	122	29
	No	88	21
Non – Resident	: Yes	63	15
	No	147	35
<i>Total</i>		<i>420</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023).

Table 9: Score of Quality Assessment of Facilities on Different Parameters.

Parameters	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)	Total (%)
(i) Parking Area	10	21	23	46	100
(ii) Amount of space	9	28	32	31	100
(iii) Safety	14	28	31	27	100
(iv) Physical attraction	11	20	27	42	100
(v) Availability of equipment	12	21	29	38	100
(vi) Hours of operation	20	62	15	3	100
(vii) Maintenance of facilities	10	15	32	43	100
(viii) Functionality of equipment	17	33	38	12	100

Source: Field Survey (2023).

Summary of Major Findings

The following findings were based on the analysis of the data collected from the existing facilities for active recreation as well as the physical survey conducted;

- (i) There are few existing facilities for active recreation compared to the population that needs them and more of these facilities are located within educational institutions which are usually restricted to students and members of staff.
- (ii) Majority of the users of facilities for active recreation in the study area are youths that falls within the ages of between 21 and 40 years where they also indicated more interest in participation if facilities are available.
- (iii) Poor quality provision and maintenance of facilities especially government owned facilities where most of the facilities have not been renovated or replaced since from the time of their establishment

Table 10 : Suggested Solution from Public Opinion.

Suggestions	Percentage (%)
Expansion to be done on existing facilities	27
More parks/play fields needed	43
Reduction in user cost/Fees	10
Improvement on management strategies	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: Field Survey (2023).

- iv) Encroachment upon recreational open spaces meant for the provision of recreational facilities which can be seen in Plate IV and Plate V where recreational spaces are converted to refuse dumping ground or for commercial purposes.
- (v) The spatial location and distribution of the existing facilities are not in conformity with the standard of provision as the facilities are mostly found within educational and government institutions regardless of its service area.
- (vi) People prefer government managed facilities for active recreation to privately managed ones due to low cost in terms of patronage and gate fees.

(vii) Poor management and implementation of budgetary allocation for recreation and recreational facilities which is usually attributed to poor funding and negligence on the part of recreational managers resulting to worn-out facilities



Plate 3: Encroachment on Recreational Space by Refuse dump (along Mai-Doki Round about)



Plate 4: Encroachment on Recreational Space by Commercial Activity (opposite

the entrance to the park)

The analysis of the data collection on both the socio-economic surveys, inventory and survey of the existing facilities have provided a variety of inferences on which to base our general planning proposals. The inferences here is drawn from two categories but discussed together i.e. those from the existing situation plus management options.

It has been found out that majority of the users of facilities for active recreation were youths who falls between the ages of 21-40 years i.e. the active labour force class which are mostly students/applicants and civil servants. It is also evident from the survey that there are few existing facilities when compared to the population that requires them. 76% of respondents indicated that facilities were inadequate and also the standard of provision is inadequate. This shows a potential for better utilization of recreational facilities when provided.

With the exception of the state stadium - under construction most of the government owned facilities and likewise some few private owned facilities are associated with poor quality provision and maintenance, as earlier indicated. However, all existing play fields which are of high demand in the study area are found within security organizations and educational institutions which are usually restricted and accessible to students and members only. There is therefore need for play fields that will be accessible to the general public.

Encroachment upon recreational open spaces meant for the provision of recreational facilities . Because of the low premium given to the development of open space reservation as a way of policing them, they have been susceptible to several abuses. Some of the open spaces in the study area have become refuse dump site while others overtaken by commercial activities. An interview with some government officials shows that they are aware of the conversions of open spaces and recreational areas into other uses which revealed that they are actually involved. The reason for the conversion of these recreational spaces is due to the pressure on the demand for residential and commercial land-uses; since these spaces are not in use, they have to be converted into other uses.

The partial location and distribution of the existing facilities are not in conformity with the standard of provision as regards planning for recreational facilities which were provided based on the availability of land as well as where schools and organizations are located. Also, people prefer government managed facilities for active recreation (even though poorly maintained) to privately managed ones because if government runs a facility, it will be heavily subsidized in terms of gate fees charged compared to the private sector that is profit oriented with high gate fees. This also shows that some reasonable amount of money can be realized from fees to manage the facilities when developed as the respondents indicated willingness to pay gate fees in order to enjoy recreational facilities. This finding clearly

reveals that government cannot totally hand over its responsibility of the provision and management of public facilities to individuals/private sector. However, a Public – Private Partnership could work in this area.

Most of the facilities are in a state of disrepair and dilapidation, this is especially common with government owned facilities as there is poor funding for the maintenance of the existing facilities and also, the non-implementation of plan proposal for open spaces and recreational areas was due to the inability of government to source funds for its implementation. The result of dilapidated facilities is due to inadequate planning, implementation and general poor management of facilities in the study area. There is therefore no clear cut definition on which government agency or department that handles the implementation of recreational facilities provision e.g. different recreational budgets under different departments.

In conclusion of the findings, it is further identified that little or no attention has been given to the provisions and proper management of facilities for active recreation in the study area, however more attention is given to passive recreational areas like viewing centres, relaxation joints, hotels etc. because they are profit making ventures. Also, it was discovered that there is lack of sufficient public awareness on the importance of facilities for active recreation to the general well-being of individuals as observed by Butler (1967) and Godbey (1978) which stated that recreation restores a person's vitality, initiative and perspective of life as well as contributes greatly to the growth and development of participants and the nation

Areas Suitable for the Development of Facilities for Active Recreation

Leisure activities may make a variety of demand on the environment since there exist a strong relationship between recreation resources, land and scenery. Some are suitable for development of recreational facilities because of their physical attribute and characteristics.

In the study area, the following areas could be identified on the basis of their physical characteristics as suitable for the development of facilities for active recreation which include The Northern part between Jambutu and Doubeli Wards which lie close to the major river (River Benue) that passes through the State can be used as play field where beach sports like beach football, volleyball etc. could be developed.

The existing recreational open space by Mai-Doki Round-About that is opposite the Airport which is gradually becoming a refuse dump site could be developed into a District Recreational Park and Children's play ground.

Gwadabawa Ward with a relatively flat land area could have an Indoor Sports Hall and play field which should be located along Jimeta-Yola Town road for easy accessibility. The survey also shows it is the second most preferred facility by the people in the area.

The existing facilities for active recreation at various locations within the study area that are dilapidated could be renovated or upgraded and new ones provided where necessary

Planning standards and requirements

Generally it is recommended that 7-10% of a town or developed urban area should be devoted to parks, playgrounds and other organized open spaces. In Nigeria, the allocation for recreational space and facilities should be influenced by the need to provide to all people in the community, adequate facilities for recreation suited to their age, sex, socio-cultural and intellectual background so as to satisfy their physical, social and psychological needs. The land requirement therefore should depend on the physical layout, climatic condition, density of population and socio-cultural traits of

the community .

Table 11: Areas Suitable for the Development of Facilities for Active Recreation.

Areas Suitable	Possible Facilities
Northern Part of Jambutu/Doubeli Ward	Play field/Beach sports
Open space by Mai Doki Round About	District park/Play ground
Gwadabawa Ward	Indoor Sports Hall/ Play field
Some Locations of Existing Facilities	All Types of Facilities

Source: Field Survey (2023).



Plate 5: Potential Area for Development of Play Field/Beach Sports

Onokerhoraye reporting in Sarki (1993) stated that about 8 to 10 % of developed areas of the town should be devoted to parks, playgrounds and other organized spaces. Furthermore, it can be concluded that planning standards derivable from the central place theory as far as the demand for facilities is concerned consist of estimates of population required to support a particular the facility of a specific size.

Therefore, the guiding principle to be taken into consideration when planning the location of recreational facilities should be that of maximizing accessibility. Facilities for active recreation should be located so that people living in any part of an urban area could be within range. Some of the standards used by a few of the planning organizations were considered in this study.

Proposed framework for the provision of facilities for active recreation

Based on the preceding findings and inferences drawn, the following planning proposals are made as a start towards the solution of the problems identified;

(a) All play fields and some facilities that are restricted should be opened to the general public; the current practice which has grown out of the lack of public facilities whereby each institution or organization provides its own exclusive sport ground is expensive, duplicating and extravagant with urban land. It does not make available the facilities to the majority of people who are not members of the institutions. Therefore, some of the good facilities within institutions like FCE Yola and the State Polytechnic (SPY) which are provided out of public funds might be augmented to cater more effectively for a wider community than what they are primarily intended. Other schools to be included in this proposal are primary and secondary schools that are owned and finance by government, however, private institutions are not included in this restriction since they are not finance with public funds.

(b) Upgrading of the only existing park i.e. Jimeta Amusement park. This can be done by providing more facilities to supplement the present provision which are few and inadequate to serve the people that are expected to visit the park.

The suggested proposal for the upgrading and improvement will be the provision of more facilities especially for active recreation like children playing equipment's and that of exercise. The provision of as many possible activities can be adopted so that

More than one set of demand is satisfied at the same time. Such multiple use of facilities will guard against future possible change of taste as situations are dynamic and not static.

(c) The number of recreational centres where facilities for active recreation could be accessed should be increased. The vacant open space by Mai-Doki Round About should be acquired from the owners and developed as a district park and play ground. The other identified areas as potential sites suitable for recreational facilities of different types could also be developed to increase the number of facilities for active recreation. Therefore, considering the socio-cultural background of the study area, the proposed Indoor Sports Hall to be located at Gwadabawa ward should have separate games for both males and females to encourage participation.

(d) The general renovation and upgrading of facilities within government institutions which have the highest number of facilities in the study area is needed. This is necessary because people indicated high interest in patronizing government owned facilities.

(e) In order to reduce transportation costs to the proposed recreational facilities centres in (c) above, it is proposed that there will be set up an efficient and organized public transport service. This is solely going to be under the Adamawa State Urban-Mass Transport Service (Sun-Shine Express). It is going to be a heavily subsidized venture by the state government, the maximum amount to be charged should not be above N30. Suitable collection points will be set up close to each ward areas so that recreationists don't have to walk more than 500metres in order to reach a bus stop.

At the entrance of each recreation center itself, the participants don't have to pay more than N50 gate fees in order to gain access to the facilities. This also is heavily subsidized by government to encourage the general participation of the people in active recreational facilities.

(f) Another planning proposed for Jimeta-Yola is the issue of standards. These standards are applied carefully in terms of needs, conditions, resources, population and general characteristics of the communities within the study area.

Proposed Areas for Development of Facilities for Active Recreation

- The area located between the northern part of Jambutu and Doubeli wards along the By-Pass road with about 32 hectares is proposed for the development of Beach Sports being a marshy area with dry sharp sea sand deposits. The provision of facilities for active recreation at this site will make it more attractive and encourage patronage as the area is currently being used by residents as play field but without facilities.

- The District Park/Play ground proposed here is to cover an area of about 5.2 hectares, an open space located at Mai-Doki Round About with good land area and easy accessibility from all parts of the town. The site is chosen to take advantage of proximity to living and working areas.

- The Indoor Sports Hall and Play field to be located at Gwadabawa ward with about 13.4 hectares is to complement the State Stadium under construction along Numan road in terms of facilities provision; Except that the facilities will be separated for both males and females to encourage especially women participation in active recreation. The site is so selected because of its natural features and location from the city centre in relation to that of the State Stadium.

Design Proposal

The conceptual frame work of the design proposal cut across all age groups where the facilities provision is expected to serve young and old. The design is basically on facilities for active recreation and some few passive recreational facilities incorporated. The resources based facilities on the site are also adopted and incorporated in the design such as the development of Beach Sports along the northern part of Jambutu and Doubeli Wards which has dry sea sand deposits.

The proposed District Recreational Park provided a variety of sporting facilities for both children, youths and adults; the children facilities here will include swings,

Table 12: Recommended Space Standards for Jimeta-Yola

Type of Facility	Recommended Standards
1. Local Neighborhood Park to	-In the existing built up area, 1 acre per 2,000 3,000 people. In developing areas 2-3 acres for 1,000 – 2,000 people.
2. City/District Parks	-1 acre for 4,000 people.
3. Playing Fields	-In the existing built up areas, 1 acre for 7,000 People. In developing area, 1 acre for 5,000 Population.
4. Swimming Pool 1,000	-There should be 360 square feet for each Population.
5. Stadia	-1 acre for 1,000 population with a seating Capacity of 8,000 per acre.
6. Golf Courses	-18 golfers/10,000 people. 5-100 acres for an 18 hole golf-course.

Source: Field Work (2023).

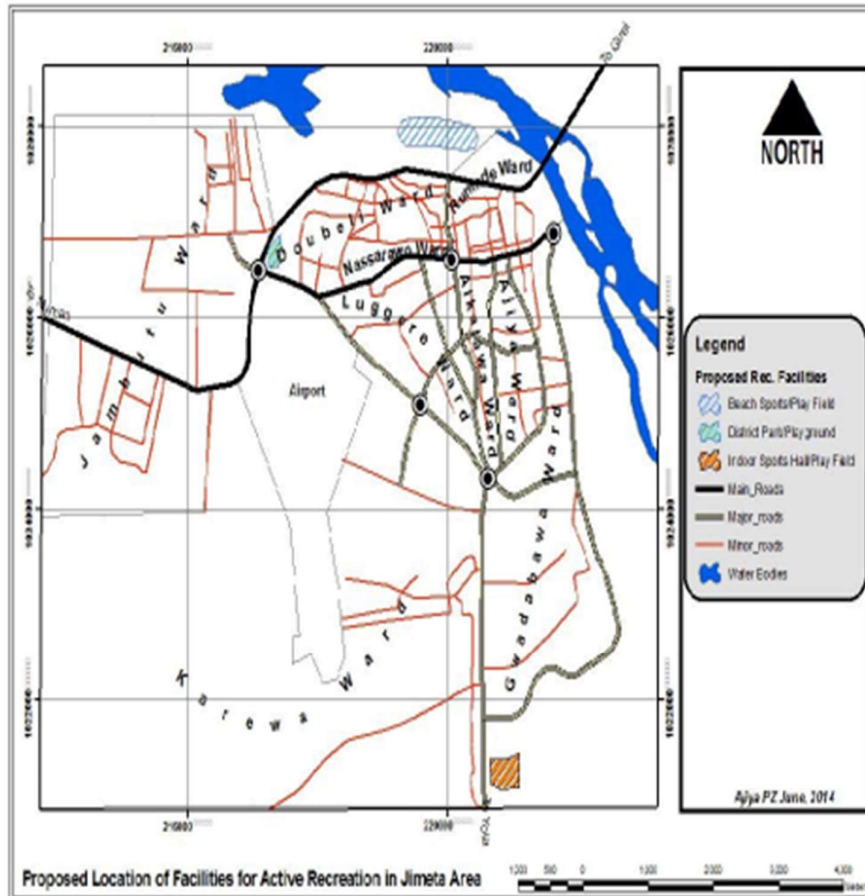


Fig 4. Proposed Location of Facilities for Active Recreation (Source: FieldWork, 2023).

climbers, slides, balance beams and merry-go-round. Likewise the proposed Indoor Sports Hall/Play field is to have active recreational facilities of all kinds with separate facilities exclusively reserved for women participation in sporting activities.

Institutional Framework for Implementation and Management

Implementation is an important aspect of planning. It is no use planning if the policies for implementation aspect will be ignored. All these calls for not only a strengthening of development control but also the development of an appropriate administrative or implementing legal and financial machinery solely created for the development of open space and recreational facilities.

The framework for realizing the above recommendations will however lie within both government and private organisations:

- (a) The government institutions and private organisations should continue to be responsible for the development and management of existing facilities for active recreation in the study area pending the creation of State Recreation Commission.
- (b) The State Recreation Commission is the implementing agency to be formed. It shall have power to acquire sites for the development of recreational facilities. For the implementation of recreational projects to reach the grass root level, the State Recreation Commission will have one more tier under it to be known as the Local Government Committee on Recreation.

The State Recreation Commission is at the State level and directly under the governor. It should have a composition of professionals like Planners, Landscape designers, Land Surveyors and Architects; while others to be included are those with the background of physical education to take care of the needed requirements and dimensions for the provisions of recreational facilities.

The State Recreation Commission will be headed by a Chairman, who could be a town planner or any related environmental discipline with the following functions:

- Making budgets for recreation and recreational facilities.
- Interpretation and execution of national policies on recreation.
- Developing plans for recreational parks and leisure services at all levels
- Implementation and management of recreation projects.
- Regulating and controlling the use of existing open spaces.
- Providing technical assistance and counsel to local government and private organizations.
- Acquiring land area and administering, construction and management of recreational facilities.
- Recommending suitable standards to be used.
- Making recommendations to the national body i.e. National Recreation Commission.
- Resolving conflicts between recreational land-use and other uses.

The functions of the Local Government Committee on Recreation are:

- Implementation of schemes at local level.
- Protection and maintenance of open spaces and recreational facilities.
- Recommending suitable sites for acquisition regarding recreational matters.
- Development briefs and specification for the implementation of plans, implementing and enforcing minimum requirements in a layout, housing estate, neighbourhood or primary/secondary schools.
- Involving local developers.
- Making recommendations to State Recreation Commission.

Phasing of proposals

In order to achieve the recommendations and its implementation in the study area, three (3) phases of development have been proposed:

Phase One

During this first phase, the projects to be implemented will include the following; (a)

- Creation of the State Recreation Commission
- (b) Constitution/inauguration of Recreation Committee
- (c) Funds mobilization
- (d) Renovations and replacement of worn out facilities/equipments, starting

With play fields which have highest demand in the study area.

Phase Two

- (a) Completion of work not achieve during the first phase if any. (b) Provision of land for the development of proposed facilities.
- (c) Selection of the invited private sector participants and allocation of land to Successful private developers.
- (d) Construction of District Park and Play field/Beach sports facilities.

It is expected that the contract award and construction of the above facilities should be a joint partnership between the private sector and the government at the ratio of 60:40 for a better development and management. It is also hoped that the above facilities should be able to operate by the end of the second phase.

Phase Three

This is the last phase and all projects which are not of a priority nature are put here; the Indoor Sports Hall has not been given top priority because of the principle of augmentation i.e. with the State Stadium under construction.

- (a) Land allocation and construction of the Indoor Sports Hall.
- (b) Purchase of buses and allocation to various routes to convey intended recreational participants.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

This research conducted appraised the existing facilities for active recreation in Jimeta-Yola and how it affects planning, provision, utilization and management of such facilities in the study area. This type of research is aimed at creating awareness and proffering solutions to the low priority which recreation has in the statutory planning process despite its importance in human growth and development. The method employed was the use of administered questionnaire, which covers the residents and users as well as the regulators and managers of facilities for active recreation. A stratified random sampling where a cluster of residents based on electoral ward density were interviewed.

The study shows that majority of the users of facilities for active recreation were youths, hence a great potential for better utilization of facilities when provided, likewise the State Stadium under construction is a welcome development. Despite this, the data and its analysis revealed that there are few existing facilities when compared to the population that requires them. Also, most of the facilities are in a state of disrepair and poorly managed. There is encroachment upon recreational open-spaces to other uses, and at the same time high demand for play fields in the area. The proposals included general renovations and upgrading of existing facilities as well as the creation of a State Recreation Commission to handle recreational matters, provision of a District Park, Indoor Sports Hall and Play fields.

Conclusion

Planning, provision and management of facilities for active recreation is a difficult intellectual and political task because there is no mechanism that exists by which public preference can direct the allocation of resources on to recreational facilities. It is obvious that the development of facilities for active recreation has been neglected and those already provided are haphazardly planned and poorly managed.

Recreation like work and play is an essential part of human life without which life is incomplete, dull and monotonous. Therefore, the situation calls for urgent action

especially in the study area and most urban centres in the country. Thus, there is the need for comprehensive policies and deliberate programmes suited to community needs that will encourage development and proper management of facilities for active recreation by both government and private organizations.

Recommendations

- (i) The success of any recreational development depends on the availability of recreational facilities and services. More facilities should be provided especially at government owned recreational areas. A good management of these facilities when provided will encourage patronage by the users; if need be, the government can charge a token fee for using the facilities since the survey reveals that more people are willing to spend part of their income on recreation.
- (ii) It is recommended that while efforts are made towards the provision of additional recreational facilities, the existing ones should be upgraded and renovated according to standard of provision as well as more parking space should be provided at recreational sites.
- (iii) The effort of government should be complimented by the involvement of the private sector. Land should be given to any prospective private developer to build or construct a facility for active recreation. This is to say that public-private partnership in the development and management of recreational facilities in the study area is highly recommended.
- (iv) There should be a strong National Policy for planning and management of recreational facilities/centers which the State Recreation Commission and Local Government Committee should implement. Also, government should make it mandatory for its sports departments and agencies to regularly organize programmes/competitions that will make use of the facilities provided at nominal charges to generate funds for proper maintenance.
- (v) In support of the above (National Policy on Recreation), there should be a clear cut definition on which department or organization should handle the implementation of recreational facilities so that all recreational budgets can be

channeled to a single department for general recreational development and proper accountability.

- (vi) Recreational facility provisions should be of international recognized planning standards and also based on proposals to meet the recreational and socio-economic needs of the inhabitants and their culture.
- (vii) The need for planning information system to educate the general public concerning the importance of recreation and recreational facilities is hereby recommended. This is to make people aware of the existing facilities for active recreation and their locations, which will guarantee the maximum use of facilities provided.
- (viii) Open spaces intended for the development of recreational facilities in layouts should be surveyed and certificates of occupancy be issued to the responsible government and private organizations expected to develop them as soon as approvals for such is obtained. However, if the land-use must be changed, then it should be based on a trade-off between the two land-uses in question such that what is lost by someone is gain in another direction. This will on the long run ensure that recreational development objective is balanced out.
- (ix) The budgetary/financing system for the development and management of recreational facilities by government should be improved.

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