

## Epidemiological Surveillance of College Students Physical Activity Motivation

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### ABSTRACT

**Keywords:** Physical Activity, Epidemiology, Functional Human Movement, Health, Wellness

**Background:** Functional Human Movement Deficiency (FHMD) in Sierra Leone is more common amongst college students compared to school going pupils. Hence the need for physical activity epidemiology as a young and emergent scientific discipline geared towards the monitoring and evaluation of functional human movement deficiency (FHMD). This study aimed at scoring measured, and evaluated epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivation in Sierra Leone.

**Methods:** Behavioural Regulation in Exercise Questionnaire (BREQ), Physical Activity Motives Questionnaire (PAMQ), Decisional Balance Questionnaire (DBQ) and Physical Exercise Self-Efficacy Questionnaire (PESEQ) were the adopted research instruments. The variables were analyzed using IBM-SPSS v.23 Statistics, with a mean and standard deviation age of  $28.5 \pm 9.5$ , response rate of 100% and with sampled participants of  $N=500$ , ranged from 19-38 years, using simple random sampling (SRS) method of selection.

**Results:** The significant differences were tested at  $P < 0.05$ , with highest scores recorded as follows: under behavioural regulation in exercise (BRE) by sex and marital, males (257.03) and singles (252.01) scored highest for **External Regulation**. Also, behavioural motivation in exercise (BME) by sex and marital, females (260.84) and couples (257.54) scored highest for **Intrinsic Motivation**.

**Conclusion and Recommendation:** There is a significant record between sexes (females and males) and marital (single and married) in response to all the variables monitored and evaluated under intrinsic motivation for physical activity, with females and married couples scoring highest. Therefore, strongly agreed and recommended was about the relevance of autonomy physical activity (APA) over heteronomy physical activity (HPA) in the course of obtaining sustainable development in lifetime physical movement (LPM) of humans regarding healthy lifestyle.

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Date of Submission: 28-10-2019

Date of Acceptance: 12-11-2019

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### I. Introduction

In Sierra Leone, college students according to Bebeley et al., make up a significant portion of the national population index (NPI), and that majority (both males & females) adheres to physical inactivity lifestyle when compared to school going pupils (i.e. primary, junior and senior high school pupils respectively), of which the latter are more into physical activity lifestyle varying from low, moderate and vigorous activities.<sup>[8][23][28]</sup> Therefore, it is but worth looking into certain factors under physical activity epidemiological surveillance regarding physical inactivity lifestyle of college students especially in state colleges and universities, which include but not limited to deficiencies of social quotient (SQ), emotional quotient (EQ), intelligence quotient (IQ), and also non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes (Type II), insomnia, Alzheimer and post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).<sup>[8][23][28]</sup> In addressing physical inactivity (Sedentary lifestyle) of college students as socio-economic and socio-political issues in Sierra Leone for holistic and sustainable development of the soundness of the mind and of the body, the following fundamentals must be prioritized under the preventive health care chain (PHCC) with special reference and consideration to health and nutrition education (HNE) and mass communication (MC) under community outreach programmes:

Conception, birth and death (CBD) under developmental psychology in the discipline of Public Health Education and Mass Communication cannot be underestimated in dealing with issues under preventive health

care chain (PHCC) relating to the smooth and stress free existence of individuals within communities and in their respective environment of varying degrees of societal class, which according to Bebeley, et al., will create the enabling environment for proper planning, quality implementation and execution, monitoring, evaluation, timely intervention, advocacy and policy development for functional human movement (FHM) frequency lifestyle amongst college students, which is a key component in the discipline of health education and nutrition.<sup>[29]</sup>

Physical literacy, communication, dialogue and education is one key medium under community outreach programmes, of which functional human movement (FHM) lifestyle can be propagated especially to college students in Sierra Leone. This according to Bebeley, et al. is a professional training for not only carrier advancement personalities in sport (national and international), fitness (speed, agility, power, reaction time etc.), and aesthetics, but also a way of increasing individual step counts per day for wellness of the mind and of the body, which, however, requires in some cases maximum volume of oxygen ( $VO_2$  max) and basic aerobic endurance for pediatrics, adolescents, youths, young and old adults and geriatrics, which serves as a bench mark in archiving sustainable development of physical activity for college students and adolescents in Sierra Leone.<sup>[8][23][28]</sup>

Global attention has been drawn to physical activity epidemiology, which according to Bebeley, et al., physical activity epidemiology is considered as a fundamental block in monitoring, surveillance and evaluating physical inactivity lifestyle (PIL) of individuals for sustainable development of functional human movement (FHM) and wellness literacy quotient (WLQ). Therefore, for pediatrics, adolescents, young and old adults and geriatrics to spontaneously respond to sustainable functional human movement (FHM), the narrative has to be shifted towards (a). Physical activity benefits for soundness and wellness of the body and of the mind, (b). Physical activity self-decision for soundness and wellness of the body and of the mind, (c). Physical activity motivation for soundness and wellness of the body and of the mind, (d). Physical activity regulation for soundness and wellness of the body and of the mind, (e). Self-efficacy for physical activity and leisure time spent on functional human movement (FHM),<sup>[8][23][28]</sup> which serves as an essential element and a determinant bench mark for personal, social & environmental factors in health and nutrition education and extension, considering kilocalorie utilization, with the aim of mainstreaming socio-physiological, and socio-psychological wellness lifestyle.<sup>[8][7][23][28]</sup>

Pedagogical and adapted physical activity according to Bebeley, et al., favoured by autonomy (intrinsic motivation) rather than heteronomy (extrinsic motivation) in self-determination for functional human movement (FHM), wellness, soundness and motor fitness skill development, is representing an imaginary scientific discipline (ISD) as an emergence from physical literacy, dialogue, communication, and education (education of and through the physical), which is an educational system that brightens and keeps in line the minds of pediatrics, adolescents, youths, adults, geriatrics, paraplegics and the aged about the physique of functional human movements (FHM), health and nutrition education.<sup>[6][8][23][28]</sup>

Physical activity motivation (PAM) in Sierra Leone, is drastically low especially amongst college students, which according to Bebeley, et al., in determining individual physical activity motivation (PAM) for sustainability, professionals such as clinicians, public health educators, health and nutrition educators, physical educators, physical activity epidemiologists, exercise physiologists, kinesiologists and health extension workers, must be seen helping to motivate through mass communication for informed judgement and awareness raising in: physical activity practices,<sup>[8]</sup> therapeutic nutrition education,<sup>[11]</sup> drugs education,<sup>[18]</sup> sex education,<sup>[20]</sup> surveillance of vitals,<sup>[12]</sup> cardiovascular diseases education<sup>[13]</sup> and remedial,<sup>[17]</sup> surveillance of health education,<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> muscle education,<sup>[4]</sup> surveillance of physical education,<sup>[9][10]</sup> surveillance of oxygen consumption,<sup>[5]</sup> surveillance of physical literacy,<sup>[24]</sup> surveillance of students' physical activity,<sup>[14][15][19][21][22]</sup> and surveillance of adolescents physical activity,<sup>[25][26][27]</sup> which geared towards the control and reduction of functional human movement (FHM) deficiency of kyphosis, scoliosis, lordosis, kyphos-scoliosis, kyphos-lordosis etc. amongst all societal class.<sup>[8][23][28]</sup>

This study aimed at scoring measured and evaluated epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivation in Sierra Leone, aiming at preventing and reducing behavioural health risk factors of functional human movement deficiency (FHMD) for wellness of the mind and of the body.

## II. Materials And Methods

### *Respondents*

The research sampled participants of  $N=500$ , with a mean and standard deviation age of  $28.5 \pm 9.5$  with a 100% response rate and with 19-38 years age range, selected using a process of simple random sampling (SRS) method, mainly amongst undergraduates' students from two tertiary institutions.

### *Instrumentation*

Behavioural Regulation in Exercise Questionnaire (**BREQ**), Physical Activity Motives Questionnaire (**PAMQ**), Decisional Balance Questionnaire (**DBQ**) and Physical Exercise Self-Efficacy Questionnaire (**PESEQ**) were the

adopted research instruments, with evidences of Cronbach’s Alpha Reliability of (0.648), (0.945), (0.592) and (0.931) respectively which were previously used by Bebeley et al. (2018).<sup>[16][28]</sup>

**Procedure**

The testing and scoring of research participants were done individually on campus following procedural instructions provided for by the research instrument, through census survey entry (CSEntry) and census survey processing (CSPRO) systems software application installed on tablets, smart phones and computers accordingly.

**Analysis**

An inferential Statistics of Non-Parametric Tests using the example of Mann Whitney U Statistical Test of Mean Rank from IBM-SPSS v.23 Statistics were used to compute the data, analyze data and compare the research findings at significant value of P < 0.05.

**III. Results**

A notable difference observed in Mann Whitney U Test statistics of behavioural regulation in exercise (BRE) by sex and marital, males (257.03) and singles (252.01) scored highest for **External Regulation**. Also, behavioural motivation in exercise (BME) by sex and marital, females (260.84) and couples (257.54) scored highest for **Intrinsic Motivation** as in tables 1 & 2.

**Table 1: Mann-Whitney U Test – Behavioural Regulation in Exercise (N=500)**

Behavioural Regulation in Exercise		Mean Rank of Mann-Whitney U Statistics Test			
		External Regulation	Introjected Regulation	Identified Regulation	Intrinsic Motivation
Sex	M(n=392)	257.03	243.73	239.90	247.65
	F(n=108)	226.81	275.09	288.98	260.84
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.022</b>	<b>0.030</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.351</b>
Marital	S(n=431)	252.01	251.67	250.78	249.37
	M(n=69)	241.05	243.20	248.78	257.54
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.487</b>	<b>0.624</b>	<b>0.909</b>	<b>0.628</b>

**Table 2: Mann-Whitney U Test – Behavioural Regulation in Exercise (N=500)**

Behavioural Regulation in Exercise		Mean Rank of Mann-Whitney U Statistics Test	
		Intrinsic Motivation	Extrinsic Motivation
Sex	M(n=392)	247.65	244.03
	F(n=108)	260.84	273.97
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.351</b>	<b>0.053</b>
Marital	S(n=431)	249.37	252.77
	M(n=69)	257.54	236.35
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.628</b>	<b>0.373</b>

A significant difference observed in Mann Whitney U Test statistics of physical activity motives (PAM) by sex and marital, females (277.87) and couples (257.35) scored highest for **Enjoyment Motives**. Also, physical activity motivation (PAM) by sex and marital, females (289.73) and singles (252.77) scored highest for **Intrinsic Motivation** as in tables 3 & 4.

**Table 3: Mann-Whitney U Test – Physical Activity Motives (N=500)**

Physical Activity Motives		Mean Rank of Mann-Whitney U Statistics Test				
		Enjoyment Motives	Competence Motives	Appearance Motives	Fitness Motives	Social Motives
Sex	M(n=392)	242.96	240.34	239.10	236.12	249.11
	F(n=108)	277.87	287.37	291.86	302.70	255.53
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>0.668</b>
Marital	S(n=431)	249.40	248.55	247.74	250.86	248.38
	M(n=69)	257.35	262.66	267.75	248.24	263.75
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.628</b>	<b>0.430</b>	<b>0.270</b>	<b>0.874</b>	<b>0.389</b>

**Table 4: Mann-Whitney U Test – Physical Activity Motives (N=500)**

Physical Activity Motives		Mean Rank of Mann-Whitney U Statistics Test	
		Intrinsic Motivation	Extrinsic Motivation
Sex	M(n=392)	239.69	237.93
	F(n=108)	289.73	296.11
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Marital	S(n=431)	248.22	247.88
	M(n=69)	264.75	266.84
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.371</b>	<b>0.306</b>

A justifiable difference observed in Mann Whitney U Test statistics of physical activity decisions (PAD) by sex and marital, females (303.67) and singles (250.80) scored highest for **Wellness Advantage**. Also, physical exercise self-efficacy (PESE) by sex and marital, females (291.00) and couples (259.89) scored highest for **Under Anxiety** as in tables 5 & 6.

**Table 5: Mann-Whitney U Test – Physical Activity Decisions (N=500)**

Physical Activity Decisions		Mean Rank of Mann-Whitney U Statistics Test			
		Wellness Advantage	Fitness Advantage	Psych Disadvantage	Stress Disadvantage
Sex	M(n=392)	235.85	238.26	257.40	255.88
	F(n=108)	303.67	294.93	225.44	230.98
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.071</b>
Marital	S(n=431)	250.80	250.63	251.84	251.09
	M(n=69)	248.62	249.66	242.16	246.82
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.891</b>	<b>0.953</b>	<b>0.550</b>	<b>0.795</b>

**Table 6: Mann-Whitney U Test – Physical Exercise Self-Efficacy (N=500)**

Physical Exercise Self-Efficacy		Mean Rank of Mann-Whitney U Statistics Test				
		Under Anxiety	Under Depression	Under Tension	Under Fatigue	Under Workload
Sex	M(n=392)	239.34	237.77	239.75	238.54	239.02
	F(n=108)	291.00	296.70	289.51	293.89	292.17
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Marital	S(n=431)	249.00	249.69	250.13	247.17	249.31
	M(n=69)	259.89	255.53	252.83	271.29	257.93
	<b>P(2-tailed)</b>	<b>0.534</b>	<b>0.740</b>	<b>0.878</b>	<b>0.167</b>	<b>0.619</b>

#### IV. Discussion

Epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivation (PAM) in Sierra Leone, is that non-communicable disease (NCD) component of health and nutrition education that is geared towards the monitoring, measurement and evaluation (MME) of physical inactivity (PI) i.e. sedentary behaviour amongst college students. Therefore, based on all factorial variables evaluated, physical activity under behavioural regulation in exercise (BRE): epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivation shows that, more males (M) and singles (S) do physical activity (PA) of external regulations compared to their female and couple counterparts, who were more into physical activity (PA) of intrinsic motivation, which therefore, supports the need for epidemiological surveillance of physical inactivity amongst college students, leading to sound wellness of the mind and of the body.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Physical activity under physical activity motives (PAM): epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivation shows that, more females (F) and couples i.e. married (M) are more into enjoyment physical activity (EPA) motive compared to their male (M) and single (S) counterparts, which therefore, supports the need for epidemiological surveillance of physical activity amongst college students, leading to sound wellness of the mind and of the body.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Physical activity under physical activity decision (PAD): epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivations shows that, more females (F) and singles (S) are more into wellness advantage physical activity (WAPA) compared to their male (M) and couple i.e. married (M) counterparts, which therefore, supports the need for epidemiological surveillance of physical activity amongst college students, leading to sound wellness of the mind and of the body.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

Physical activity under physical exercise self-efficacy (PESE): epidemiological surveillance of college students' physical activity motivations shows that, more females (F) and couples i.e. married (M) are more into anxiety physical exercise (APE) compared to their male (M) and single (S) counterparts, which therefore, supports

the need for epidemiological surveillance of physical activity amongst college students, leading to sound wellness of the mind and of the body.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

## V. Conclusion And Recommendation

Conclusively therefore, is that, majority of the students (males and singles), responded more to Extrinsic Motivation of Physical Activity (EMPA), showing appreciable Status for Heteronomous Physical Activity (HPA). And also, good number of the students (females and married couples), responded more to Intrinsic Motivation of Physical Activity (IMPA), showing appreciable Status for Autonomous Physical Activity (APA). Which therefore, justifies the relevance of Self and Force Driven Motivation for Health and Nutrition Education Promotion (HNEP) and Functional Human Movement Deficiency (FHMD) reduction and or minimization i.e. Epidemiological Surveillance, that is Self or Forcefully Determined and Transtheoretically captured to minimized deficiency in functional human movement (FHM) amongst college students in Sierra Leone.

It was strongly agreed and recommended that, professionals including health administrators, health nutrition educators, health economists, health extension workers, and health education promoters in the preventive health care chain (PHCC), should be seen as responsible role models in making logical conclusions and informed implications about epidemiological surveillance of physical activity amongst college students leading to sound wellness of the mind and of the body. Also, strongly agreed and recommended was about the relevance of autonomy physical activity (APA) over heteronomy physical activity (HPA) in the course of obtaining sustainable development in lifetime physical movement (LPM) of humans, which serves as a support base for a young emerging scientific discipline i.e. physical activity epidemiology, that caters for the prevention and reduction of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) or non-infectious diseases (NIDs) such as obesity, kyphosis, lordosis, scoliosis, etc. for sound wellness of the mind and of the body, gearing towards healthy lifestyle of all societal levels.

## Acknowledgement

The authors express thanks and appreciation to all staff and students of the two selected tertiary institutions, whose immense co-operation rendered this study to fruition.

## Conflict of Interests:

The authors declared no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this manuscript.

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Samuel Joseph Bebeley. "Epidemiological Surveillance of College Students Physical Activity Motivation." *IOSR Journal of Sports and Physical Education (IOSR-JSPE)* 6.6 (2019): 13-18.