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Opinion

The Relationships Between Nhodo Performance and Standard Hand-Eye Coordination Test Scores in Primary School Children

Theresa T Matemera and Eberhard Munetsi Tapera*

Department of Sports Science and Coaching, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe

***Corresponding Author**: Eberhard Munetsi Tapera, Department of Sports Science and Coaching, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe.

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The use of indigenous traditional games as an alternative to established tests of bio-motor abilities has not been investigated. This study sought to investigate the relationships between nhodo playing and hand-eye-coordination in primary school learners. Nhodo is a Zimbabwean indigenous traditional game whose performance predominantly requires hand-eye coordination. Data for the study were collected over two days, from 15 learners, purposively selected from school Makuvatsine primary school in Buhera district. Subjects played three trials of nhodo, and their best score was recorded, on day one. The subjects then performed three trials of the Tennis Ball Wall Toss test, which measures hand-eye coordination, on day two, and their best score was recorded. The measured nhodo scores were linearly regressed against hand-eye coordination scores. A linear regression analysis performed on the data found a linear relationship between the nhodo performance and hand-eye coordination scores, namely:

Hand Eye Coordination score = 0.5340314 Nhodo Performance +19.80105,

which can be rearranged to

Nhodo Performance= (Hand Eye Coordination score-19.80105)/0.5340314.

This finding implies that nhodo performance can predict HEC scores in primary school learners. We concluded that primary school teachers can use nhodo performance to determine HEC of primary school learners. We recommend that nhodo be used as an alternative bio-motor test of HEC in the primary school. Further similar studies can investigate any causality between nhodo and hand-eye coordination.

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