

## Recreational Facilities and Its Implication in Jimeta Wards, Yola North Local Government Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria

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Article History	Abstract
Original Research Article	<i>The study was carried on Recreational facilities in Jimeta Wards, Adamawa State. Recreation takes variety of forms and it occurs in places depending on the choice of the individual. Some recreational facilities are passive while others active. Some engage on recreation in their homes or communities or they may travel along distance for a recreational activity. This study seek to address the issue of recreational activities in Jimeta Wards, Yola North Local Government Area with a view to recommend planning for the betterment of the residents of Jimeta Wards in Yola North Local Government Area, Adamawa State. Stratified random sampling was used for the study, the population of both male and female was used in other to create no bias. Data was analyzed using mean statistics, 310 respondents from both male and female were drawn. Questionnaire was used to seek for more information in other to provide a planning solution to the existing problem. Among the recommendation made was to manage and provision of more recreational facilities in Jimeta Wards Yola North Local Government Area, Adamawa State.</i>
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Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.	
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### Introduction

Recreation is an activity that is voluntarily pursued by people for the purpose of relaxation which is embarked upon for personal enjoyment or satisfaction and it is usually done during their free time especially vacations. People embark on recreational visits in variety of ways and are carried out in variety of places, depending on the best choice of the individual after carrying out necessary assessments. People can decide to embark on a passive recreation which is a recreation within their homes or communities or they may wish to travel long distances for the recreation activity. Since the end of World War II in 1945, recreation has become an important element in modern life. Some of the factors that have given boost to recreation in recent times include high incomes and earnings by people, improvement in workplace conditions, security, international agreements and transportation sector improvement. These have given many people more money, ample time and overall anxiety for recreation. Recreation being a major industry in modern times, it provides pleasures, comfort and connections for millions of people and may also make an important contribution to an individual's mental wellbeing and physical health. For

example, a hospital can often organize recreational activities under the supervision of significant persons as therapy for patients. In order for these facilities to perform their functions and satisfy the need of people, they must be upgraded and be effectively put into use. This paper explores relevant and important issues such as the inadequacy and mismanagement of recreational facilities in wards of Jimeta metropolis. Since rapid urbanization as resulted to lagging in recreational facilities, this is a noticeable gap in this study. Hence, the reason for this research on recreational facilities and its implication in Jimeta Wards, Yola North Local Government Area, Adamawa State.

### Statement of the Problem

Recreational activities are needed by people of all ages irrespective of their social, cultural, and economic status. Numerous wards in Jimeta are lacking recreational facilities which bring about development as well as revenue generation to the state. However recreational facilities in the study area are lacking and did not balance up with the increasing population of Jimeta and its wards. Some studies

on recreation in Nigerian urban centers have shown that provision of recreation space and facilities are highly inadequate.

For example, Ambrose (2005) and Danladi (2009) focused their research mainly on space and facilities inadequacy, without putting the need for spatial distribution into consideration. They both neglected the problem of inadequate planning and development of recreational facilities by the government and the private sector. Hence, it is observed that, despite the availability of water body such as River enue in Jimeta-Yola, there are inadequate recreational facilities, the recreational facilities are not well equipped and are also being over used by residents and the locations of the existing facilities are not in conformity with the standard service radius for the provision of those facilities. This study therefore was based on the above identified problems.

### Aim

The aim of the study is to assess recreational facilities and its implication in Jimeta wards.

### Research Objectives

- i. To assess the level of participation in sport in each ward.
- ii. To rate sport facilities in each ward of Jimeta.
- iii. To assess the availability of sporting facilities in each ward.

### Research Questions

- i. Do you participate in sports activities?
- ii. How do you rate sport facilities in your area?
- iii. Do each ward have this type of sporting facilities in Jimeta?

## Principles of Recreational Facilities

### Socially Oriented Principles

The principles that are aimed at achieving the socio-cultural aspiration of the people are:

**1 Enhancement of enjoyment:** the recreation planning process will be directed to ensure individual and collective needs. By so doing, people will be more interested to engage in recreation activities and will tend to enjoy its betterment.

**2 Emphasis of self-identity and culture:** Sometimes, it is desired that the performance of recreation activities, one's self-identity is emphasized. Some particular communities or group of people are identified mainly by religion or culture. In planning for recreation activities, this principle is employed in order to reflect culture and self-identity. This helps to prevent the extinction of some activities.

### Physically Oriented Principles

There are principles which are concerned with achieving harmony with the physical environment and these are:

**1 Enhancement of environment aesthetics:** Apart from providing facilities for recreation activities, the planning process could also be aimed at enhancing the beauty of the natural environment, for example organized tree planting to bring out some certain shapes, planting of flowers and shrubs, this is to be observed.

**2 Emphasis on the ecological conservation:** The desire to conserve the ecological state of the recreation site even as activities take place means the employment of principle of ecological conservation which is mostly applied during the process of planning for passive recreation activities.

**Table 1: Standard for Passive Recreation**

S/N	Types of Recreational activity	Space Requirement per population	Ideal size of space required for activity.
1.	Picnicking	4 acres / 1,000- 2,000	variables
2	Zoos & Botanical gardens	1 acres/ 1,000 pop.	100 acres
3	Indoors recreational centres	1 acres /10,000 pop.	1-2 acres
4	Outdoors theatres	1 acres /25,000 pop.	5 acres

**Sources:** George Nex. Standards for New Urban Development.

**Table 2: Standard for Active Recreation**

S/N	Types of Recreational Activity	Space Requirement for activity per population	Ideal size of space required for activity
1	Children play area	0.5 acres/1,000 pop.	1 acres
2	Field play areas for young children	1.5 acres / 1,000 pop.	3 acres
3	Field play areas for adult	1.5 acres / 1,000 pop.	15 acres
4	Tennis courts Basket baseball courts	1.0 acres / 5,000 pop.	2 acres

5	Swimming areas	1 outdoor pool / 25,000 pop.	2 acres
6	Golfing	1-1 hole course /50,000 pop.	120 acres.

**Sources:** George Nex. Standards for New Urban Development.

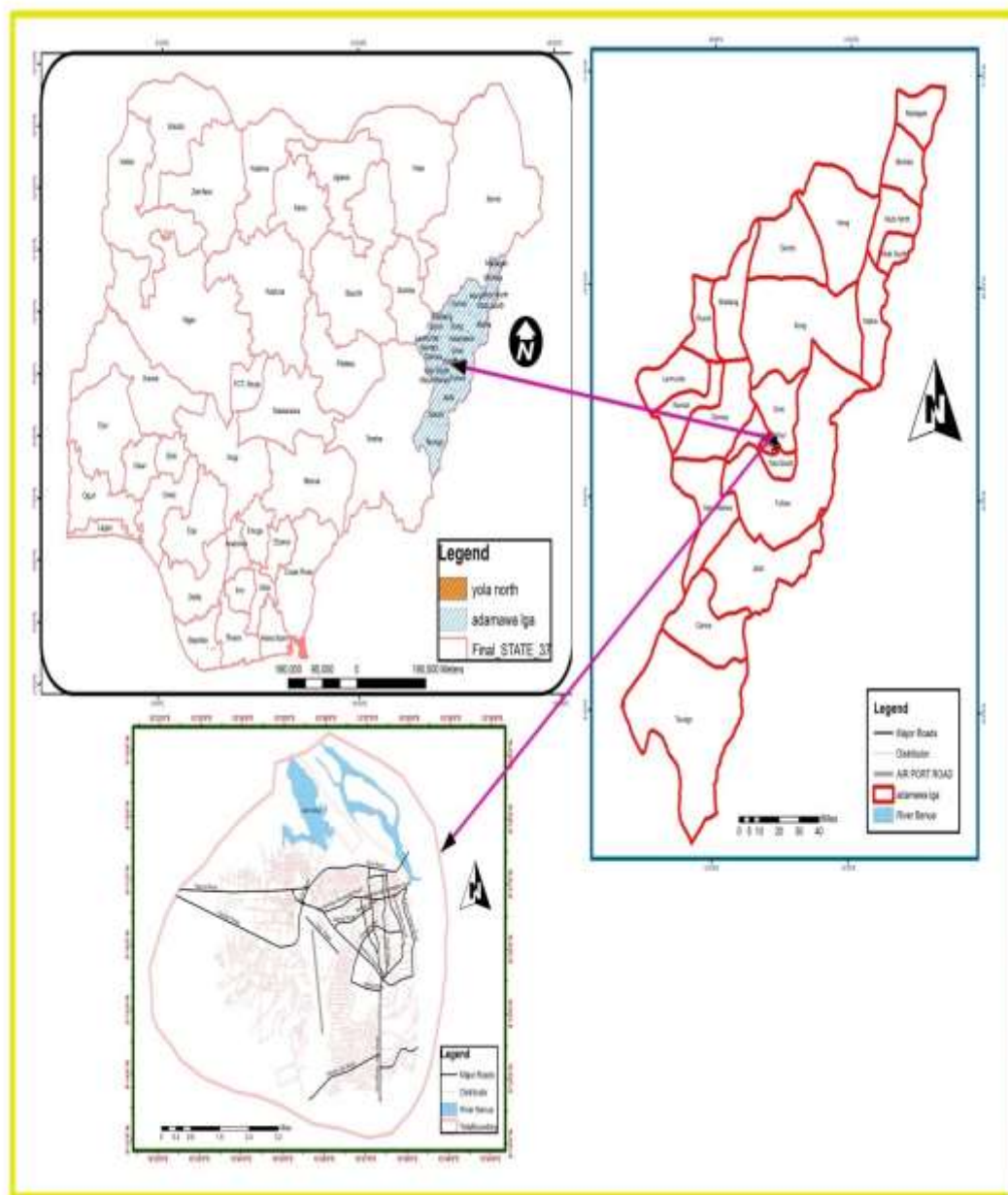
## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology therefore describes the types and sources of data required, methods of data collection, data analysis and data presentation. Sample frame and sample size for the study.

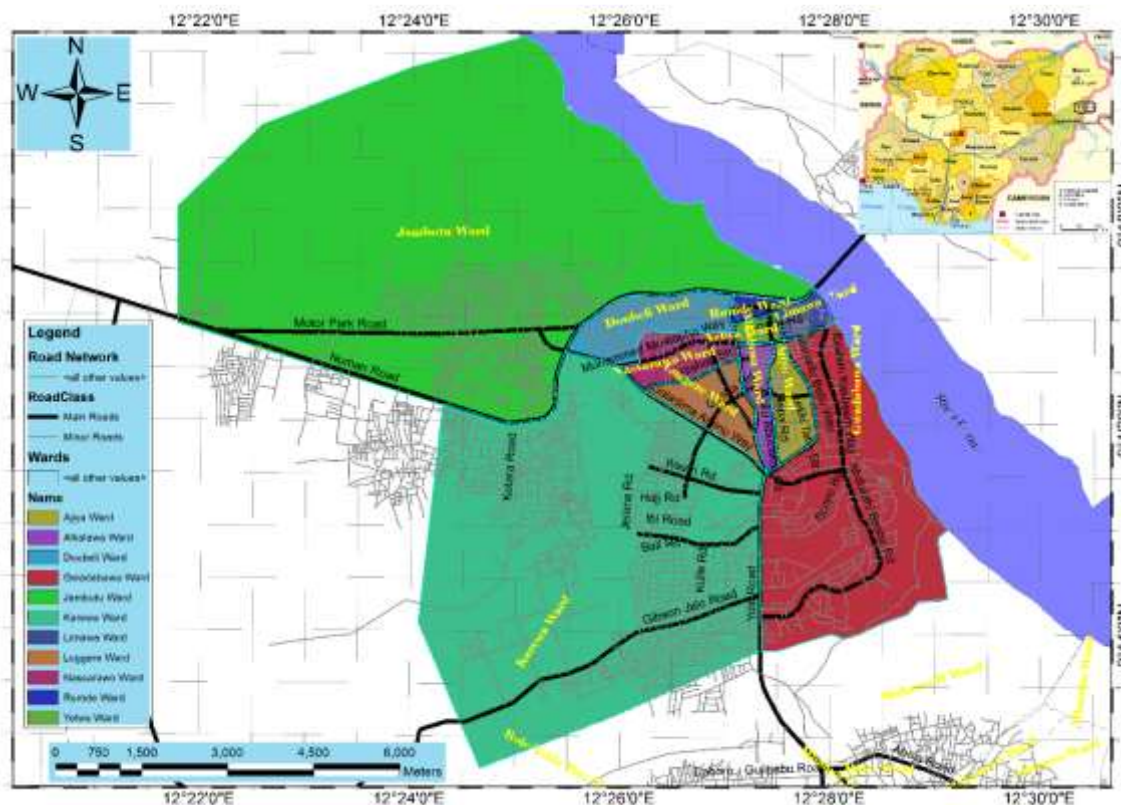
### The Study Area

Jimeta town is the capital of Yola North Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The city is located on the bank of

River Benue, between latitude  $90^{\circ} 10'$  to  $90^{\circ} 15'N$  and longitude  $120^{\circ} 11'$  to  $120^{\circ} 17'E$ . The area has a Sudan type of vegetation and a tropical climate marked by wet and dry seasons. The minimum temperature recorded is about  $15^{\circ}C$  and a maximum of about  $40^{\circ}C$ . The city has been experiencing an increasing population explosion since it assumed a status of Adamawa State capital in 1976. More so, according to population census conducted (2006) the population of Jimeta was 199,674, and the current projected population of 2022 is 307, 900.



**Figure 1: Locational Map of the Study Area**



**Figure 2: Jimeta Wards Map**

## Research Method

Both physical reconnaissance survey and secondary data was obtained as data sources. The physical data was sourced through site visit and observation techniques, oral interviews, buffer analysis from GIS and field survey while the secondary data was sourced from available records and published materials such as textbooks and internet.

**Oral interview:** - asking of questions by the residence community in the study area.

**Reconnaissance survey:** This was done through site visit, physical observation and field survey in all the following wards: (i) Alkalawa Ward, (ii) Ajiya Ward, (iii), Doubeli Ward, (iv) Gwadabawa Ward, (v) Jambutu (vi) Karewa Ward, (vii) Limawa Ward, (viii) Luggere Ward, (ix) Nassarawa Ward, (x) Rumde Ward, (xi) Yelwa Ward.

**Secondary data:** this was collected through maps, journals, textbooks, thesis, published and unpublished documents etc.

## Method of Sampling Procedure.

Population (2008) 254,967. Population is only group of individual that has one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher. Projected population (2024) = 452,379

## Sample frame:

Using the projected population, the sample frame for this study consist of the number of male and female gender in

the study area, represented in all the ward in Jimeta. Growth rate 32 percent interval between the present year (2025) and the base year (2008) Sample size: The sample size for the study was determined using the Krcjie and Morgan table for determining sample size. Population of the present year (2025) 309.900.

## Sample Size

This is a representative size of the population parameter of, Male and Female to ensure representation' without any bias.

## Sample Technique

This technique seek to offset inherent in adequacies associated with random sampling method particularly as it's relates to area of coverage, it is to ensure that the intervals are regular and it is directly link to the sample size. Decision was made to pick (10) ten after every house hold as administered for 310 respondents for both male and female with population of male 160 respondents while female 150 respondents no bias. Stratified random sampling was adopted for the findings.

## Method of Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using mean standard deviation. The result of the analysis was presented using table's maps and pictures. The presentation of data was in tables. It explicitly explains the data. Mean statistics was used in analysis in



analyzing data collected from the field, each item of the questionnaire was agree or disagree, the decision rule used was as follows.

Agree if the mean calculated is 3.00 and above. Disagree if the mean calculated is below 3.00. The likert scale was used to register the extent of agreement or disagreement with a particular statement.

## FINDINGS AND DISSCUSSION

### Research Question 1.

**Table 1:** Do you participate in sport activities?

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1	Laziness	142	102	41	25	3.2	Agree
2	Lack of Time	87	165	42	18	2.9	Disagree
3	Ignorance of the Benefit	150	102	34	24	3.2	Agree

Source; Field survey, May, 2025

N=310

Findings from above table, on the participation in sport activities in Jimeta wards revealed that Laziness is what makes them not to participate in sport activities while they also agree that ignorance of the benefit of sports attributed for not participating in sport activities.

### Research question 2.

**Table 2:** Rating of sporting facilities in each ward?

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	X	Remarks
1	Adequate	23	50	101	136	1.9	Disagree
2	Averagely	30	83	92	105	2.1	Disagree
3	Inadequate	54	83	74	119	2.3	Disagree

Source: Field survey may, 2025.

N=310

Rating of sporting facilities in each wards of jimeta revealed that most of the respondents response disagree that there is adequate sporting facilities this shows that sporting facilities are not adequate which will affect the rate of their participation to exercise their body which is very vital for their health development

### Research Question 3.

**Table 3:** Do each ward have this type of sporting facilities in Jimeta?

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	X	REMARKS
1	Swimming Pool	60	72	47	131	2.2	Disagree
2	Golf courts	40	37	90	143	1.8	Disagree
3	Picnic Areas	32	23	153	97	1.9	Disagree
4	Parks	30	15	181	84	2.6	Disagree
5	Reading Clubs	9	4	193	104	1.7	Disagree
6	Dance workshops	36	20	146	108	1.9	Disagree
7	Photography clubs	20	27	137	126	1.6	Disagree
8	Cooking classes	25	26	161	98	1.9	Disagree
9	Indoor sports hall	61	40	133	76	2.3	Disagree
10	Football pitch	134	110	36	30	3.1	Agree
11	Basketball court	45	25	131	109	2.0	Disagree
12	Lawn tennis court	69	40	98	109	2.2	Disagree
13	Volley ball court	34	89	78	104	2.2	Disagree
14	Handball court	8	10	191	101	1.8	Disagree

15	Hockey ball pitch court	15	7	167	121	1.7	Disagree
16	Cricket pitch	9	7	03	201	1.1	Disagree
17	Squash racket hall	10	15	121	164	1.6	Disagree

**Source: Field survey may, 2025.**

**N=310**

Findings on each ward type of sporting facilities in jimeta revealed that most of the facilities mention are not available from the analysis , only few strongly agree with the presence of some facilities in the ward, most of the respondents disagree 'Only football pitch that is all available in every ward which is very common in Jimeta wards.



Plate 1: Snooker game



plate 2: Swimming



Plate 3: Canoeing



Plate 4: Children swimming



Plate 5: Cinema



Plate 6: Playing Football.

### Findings

Survey revealed that lack Of public awareness On recreation makes them ignorant of sporting activities. Some recreational areas are not located properly. The recreational area available are not properly manage. Different types of sporting facilities are not found in each ward of Jimeta and sporting facilities are not adequate in most of the wards.

### Conclusion

Recreational facilities as part of urban recreational land use gives form and value to the neighborhoods, district or city

as a whole. Is it believing to be of great significance to the urban dwellers as the residents need recreation and relaxation? This Findings will improve these aspect of the people's lives and enhance the position of recreation facilities in each ward of Jimeta, if the recommendations are fully implemented successfully.

### Recommendation

Recreational facilities in wards of Jimeta as analyzed in the study is completely absence. In regards to these, below are

some recommendations toward how to improve the provision and management of recreational facilities in the study area.

- i. **Design proposal of recreational park:** recreational facilities should be encouraging to practice in the urban area so as to practice outdoor recreation, relaxation, and leisure after work or for pleasure, involve in visiting of event, sporting activity, eating, enjoying the beauty of nature, having some fun, shopping, playing and watching different kind of games, swimming, and among others.
- ii. **Need for proper management and administration of the facilities:** for recreational facilities to be in good and sound condition, it is very necessary to maintain facilities and prevent their over usage by people. The work department will have to employ adequate staff in order to maintain the recreational facilities from getting damage, spoil or vandalism.
- iii. **Proper location of the facilities:** this is a very important factor to be considered while proposing recreational park in an urban area. There is need to consider the proximity of its users to the recreational location or site, accessibility is also very important to note for easy access or passage to the location of the recreational park, security is also one of the important factor to be considered in proposing recreational park and among others.

**Public awareness on recreation:** workshop, seminars and public enlightenment on the need and benefit of recreational should be organized by public and private individual so as to encourage participation in recreational activities.

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