

Current Practice and Challenges of Talented Youth Football Project Players Becoming Amateur-Professional: The Case of Sheka Zone, South Ethiopia

Junaid Mussa¹, Dagne Getachew² & Wondimagegn Abebe³

M.Ed. in physical education in Hawassa University¹

Assistant professor in Hawassa University²

Lecturer in Hawassa University³

Corresponding author: Dagne Getachew

Abstract: Ethiopian association football has faced a brisk collapse from the African cup of Nation as well as world development of football. Still Amateur-Professional players are presenting in Ethiopian Football leagues with vast number and given the status of Ethiopian football league are called by this nomenclature. The purpose of the study aimed at to assess and evaluate the current practices of youth football projects regarding talent identification and player training of the youth football projects in Sheka zone. In dealing with research problems, descriptive survey both quantitative and qualitative method was employed and relevant literatures were reviewed. A total of 56 respondents; 33 project players, 3 coaches, 10 officers from sport experts and 10 club players were participated as respondents in this research using comprehensive sampling and purposive sampling; for players and coaching staffs used consecutively. In order to realize the objective of the study both primary and secondary sources of data were gathered. The collected data was critically analyzed, interpreted using appropriate statistical tools mean and standard deviation. As a result, the researcher investigated two main findings; currently practices of the youth projects performance progress analysis result low effectiveness. According to the analysis finding result the second one was the major challenges that affecting the progress of youth football projects. Some of the challenges that assessed and evaluated them in relation to its difficulty such as, lack of capable coaches which bring wrongly talent selection and recognition, less emphasis given to the nutrition and food items which should be eaten before and after the training session, facilities and equipments imagined any training cannot be successful and effective if it without supported of appropriate facilities and equipments Therefore, the researcher was recommended that all stakeholders must improve the overall performance of the youth football projects and using the existing football court should be comfortable for players and maximum effort has to be made by the sport commission to increase the number and fulfill the facilities of youth projects for the available courts.

KEY WORDS: Talent, Challenges, Youth and Amateur-professional

Date of Submission: 15-04-2019

Date of acceptance: 01-05-2019

I. INTRODUCTION

Football is a team sport and it's increasing annually with the numbers of players at an unpredictable rate. It can be played by young and old, boys and girls, by best and physically or mentally challenged and on small or wide field. It has attracted a large amount of faithful fans that will do their best to support it.

The essence of football is a simple game based on intelligent interposing for most easily grasped form however the program of talented youth football project should be producing players who are beneficial to the main club and national team. This can be achieved through identification of talented and a well-organized structured youth football projects development program. According to Ommundsen (2009), talent is something you have, something you are, something you can be, or something you can develop. Talent can in this regard be seen as a static or dynamic concept. The static definition views talent as something you have inherited, which implies a focus on the performance level at an early age, while the dynamic definition regards talent as something you can develop.

Based on FIFA coaching manual (2017) youth football project training is a very complex long and continuous educational process because the aim of the process is using to make specific means; to contribute the achievement of maximum sports performance by a player based on the balanced development of individual entire personality. As a result the main clubs and national team status can be raised when youth project improve their status depending on the supply of their talented player, this is also a direct contribution on the development

national league competition standard. In other words, the youth football projects that produce talented players who are suitable and fit with the modern football and competent in international level, the problems in the training of its youth football project development program have to be assessed and maintained to a level which can produce great competent players who are capable of modern football.

Professionalization in football was traced back in the world by 1885; the onset of professionalism has had a long standing legend (Tischler, 1981). English football has got a serious controversy while they are transferring from Amateurism to professionalism; owing to peculiar emphasis to societal affiliation than economic merits of the country (Vamplew, 1988). Though the transition period was very harsh and created two different paradigms of; amateurism and professionalism, they have succeeded the period effectively. Above all there are variables occurred between 1880 and 1920 by the studies of Mason (1989) in the history of British football. However, the turmoil goes to legalize professionalization then to structure the market by after an overwhelming concern of English FA (Football Association) in 1885 (Mason, 1989).

In view of the fact that of the reviewed finding some of African countries such as Niger, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, and other become successful with the standard. In South Africa, with bitter struggle of multiracial movement against apartheid groups until 1994; the former holistic revolution won to make the same football association. By 1995, they formed South African Football Association (SAFA), they established professional football league as their number one in the country. No amateur-professional player's engage in the league, and there is no a mixture of both amateur and professional as well.

Comparatively examining the scenario of Ethiopian sport policy via indiscriminating of all levels offering of both groups in the competition, for instance for traditional and modern sports. Thus, the policy was formed after a century of British establishment of legalized professionalization; but Ethiopia retarded to determine amateurism and professionalism by 1998. Even after a century Ethiopian Football leagues are not determined their sport as professionalization. In this study the word Amateur-Professional explicit a single meaning, player's who have paid money per month without being a professional; and are competing in the league by being amateur. And also the status of Ethiopian football still offers both amateur and professional player's in both leagues.

In Ethiopian football federation, yearly competitions have resonated in to three league levels: namely Premier league, super league and national league. The leagues continued woefully, players are competing without being acquired a professional license; since the league has not yet established a parameter to make professional league. In fact to empower the league levels, there must be a consistent project player's training to be supplemented for the clubs. Not disregarding student's players aside after once graduated from the project training of their clubs. Because they are taking project football training as equal as school education; so that it needs serious investigation. Currently Ethiopian football leagues have providing an opportunity to players, considering of the amalgamation of amateur and professional player's level.

In cognizant to the above facts, Ethiopian youth football projects should glance to produce talented players who are suitable and fit with the modern football and competent in international level, that can produce great competent players who are capable of modern football player's however, countries like Ethiopia in process and with several difficulties to develop their leagues and national team standards due to the problems in the training of its youth football project development program have to be maintained to a level which cannot produce greater competent players who are capable of modern football.

Objectives of the Study

- To assess the current status or practices of youth football projects in producing amateur professional player's in Sheka zone.
- To identify the major challenges which affect the contribution of youth projects.
- To find out the availability of appropriate diet before, in training and after training session.
- To identify the number of talented players joining the main clubs among Ethiopian football leagues
- To determine the significant effect of practice and challenges of youth football projects in three football projects.
- To offer valuable suggestions to the study unit with a view to help to improve the effectiveness of talented youth football practices in Sheka zone.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Study Area

The study is conducted in SNNPR Sheka Zone this zone has three woredas such as masha andirach and tepi. It is located 676 km south west of, Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia.

Research Design

The main objective of this study was identifying and examines the current problems and prospective of youth football projects and its contribution to the main clubs as well as the national team. To this effect, descriptive

survey research method was employed. This method is selected because it was helpful to identify the root problems of the youth projects, the present conditions and point to present needs, immediate status of a phenomena and facts finding (Youesh, 2006:105).

Sample size and Sampling Techniques

The study was conducted in Sheka zone administrated youth football projects. The coaches and officers sampled by using purpose selected whereas the players sampled by using comprehensive sampling from the projects. The target population of this study can be defined as those of all talented football players currently playing in the three woreda clubs of Sheka zone. This study was sampled 33 player's projects and 10 club players 3 coaches, and 10 officers. Therefore, the total sampled of this study was 56 respondents.

Data Collection and Instrument

The main focus on the study was to assessment of talented youth football projects to become amateur professional and its contribution to the main clubs. In order collect data necessary for analysis the researcher was using questionnaire, unstructured interview and observation,. Triangulation a multi method approach was implemented to maintain the validity of the study and to acquire information from different sources.

Questionnaire

Questionnaires were used to collect relevant information from players, coaches sport officer's administrative staffs and previous players.

Interview

Interview guide was prepared and conducted for 10 players, 3 coaches and 3 club players in order to gain detail information about the availability of facilities, equipment's, qualification level of the coaches, relationships.

Validity and reliability of data

The study was a self made questionnaire, to ascertain the validity of the instrument, criticized by the discipline professionals. Moreover, the pilot study was administered at Tepi town to determine the efficiency and reliability of the questionnaires. Cronbach's Alpha equals 0.849 for the entire questionnaire which indicates very good reliability.

Methods of Data Analysis

The process was carrying out in clear way to reach the objective of the study of necessary primary and secondary data collect; it was started by ending and classifying the collecting data to more meaningful and relevant data. The statistics tools and techniques such as mean and standard deviation to measured the central tendency of the data, it has already categorized in order to interpreter the finding. In addition, the researcher was using t-test to evaluate its significance in the study. One way analysis of variance was used to determine the significance difference between three projects in youth football talented players becoming amateur professional.

III. RESULT

For this study, a total of 56 questionnaires were distributed. All distributed questionnaires were filled up and returned with response rate of 100%. The study shown that out of 56 respondents as much as 33 (59 per cent) of the respondents were in the age group of 13-17 years, followed by nearly 12 (22 per cent) of the respondents were in the age group of 28-35 years. Following 8 (14 per cent) of the respondents were found in the age of above 35 years and lastly nearly 3 (5 per cent) of the respondents are in the age group of 18-27 years grouped.

IV. QUANTITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

Practices of the Talented Youth Project

The scored mean value of the respondent for item#1 where do you get pocket money standpoint was 2.05 with a standard deviation 1.227. Similarly, item #6 "youth players participation in competition very well was 2.55 mean value of the respondent with a standard deviation 0.933 respectively. From this it can be concluded that the respondents of the youth projects were disagree within the pocket money and player's participation in football competition of the project. Here, incentive and players participation in football competition can determine the level of most advantageous performance and standards of the youth football talent.

The study above also reveals that, the scored mean value of the respondents to the second sub-construct i.e. the chance who gets more to inter the youth project was 1.21 signifying that "strongly disagree." This shows that the respondents were dissatisfied with the case described and the standard deviation of the sub-construct was 0.530 which was relatively very low being evidence for the relative homogeneity of the responses. This

shows that a great deal of the youth projects haven't done fair selection from this perspective in order to realize its fairness.

The third sub-construct i.e. objective to join the youth project the average scored mean value of respondents' response was 2.63 with the standard deviation 1.227. This shows that the majority of the respondents were replied "neutral". The scored mean value of this sub-construct conveys that the respondents were uncertain or indifferent with the case described i.e. setting objective to join the youth project performance goals which was the vital factor in facilitating the youth project development.

The item #4 and #5 sub-constructs i.e. level of training per week and reflect the players enjoyment in football training their average scored mean value of respondents were (3.00, 2.84) with the standard deviation (0.915, .968) respectively. These confirm that the respondents were "neutral". The scored mean value of these items conveys that the respondents were uncertain with the case described i.e. setting level of training per week and players enjoyment in football training which was one the factor the youth projects.

Item #7 "what extent do you think youth football was an effective project" this question response might be summarizing the present status or practices of the youth projects performance. So that the scored mean value of respondents' response was 2.59 with the standard deviation 1.023. This shows that the respondents 'disagreed' with a relative homogeneity in their responses. The scored mean value of this sub-construct conveys that the respondents were uncertain or indifferent with the case described i.e. the youth football project effectiveness. From this it can concluded that the practices of youth football projects were not be effective.

Generally, based on the sum of mean 16.87 result of effectiveness of the TYFBP that the respondents were low with the standard deviation 5.91. It can be concluded that the respondents of the youth projects were disagree within the practices of the youth football projects. In other words, it might be true that the scarcity of resources and lack of competitive training might affect talents of football players.

Challenges of Available Sources of Youth FBP

The sub-constructs i.e. "item-1. availability of suitable filed, item-3. hospitality of injured players and item-11. external factors e.g. family of the youth project the average scored mean value of respondents' responses were (2.91, 2.79 and 3.04) with the standard deviation (0.581, 0.909 and 1.537) respectively. These show that the majority of the respondents were answered by the same manner, this shown that the challenges were prioritized by the same sense than other challenges. The scored mean value of these sub-constructs conveys that the respondents were uncertain with the case described i.e. availability of suitable sources of the youth projects which affect the overall performance of the projects that was the factor that should must needs to be solve from the youth projects.

The study also reveals that, the scored means value of the respondents to the second sub-constructs i.e. "Supply nutrients/diet, equipment and Incentive from the youth project" were (4.29, 4.21) signifying that "strongly agree." This shows that the respondents were strongly dissatisfied or they replied supplying diet, equipment and incentive were the dominant factors of the youth projects with the cases described and the standard deviation of the sub-constructs were (0.868 and 0.731) respectively, which were relatively very low being evidence for the relative homogeneity of the responses. These show that the selected youth projects were not equipped with the necessary sources of football projects materials. For instance, concerning with the advantage of having players their own ball, the Official U.S. Youth Soccer Coaching Manual (2002) suggested that: every player must have a ball to use at every practice. So much more can be accomplished if everyone can be engaged in play at the same time because developing their talents in other words learning and mastering football techniques requires repetition. In general, finding of the items shows that there were lack of necessary and standardized facilities and equipment's for football training.

The study shows that the response on "Training methods, Training schedules, Relationships with project members and Fair talented players selection) the scored means value of the respondents (3.77, 3.63, 3.70 and 3.63) with standard deviation (0.572, 0.822, 1.127 and 1.019) respectively. These indicates that the respondents "agreed" with a relative homogeneity in their responses. It can be concluded that the respondents of the youth projects were agree within the above factors of youth football player's projects context. Here, the coach used training methods and training schedules, relationships among the project members and players selection process of projects were unfair talent identification and player selection which were the major challenges of youth projects.

The above study, shows that the "player coordination and motivation talented player" of the respondents. The scored mean value of the respondent from coordination while training competition and motivating talent standpoints as indicted in the table above were (2.39 and 2.36) with a standard deviation (0.824 and 0.645) respectively. These indicate that the result of respondents was "disagreed" with a relative homogeneity in their responses. It can be concluded that the youth projects were lack player coordination and motivating.

In general the sum of mean value and standard deviation indicate that there were eleven parameters used to measure the feedbacks of respondents with challenges of available sources in youth football projects, for which the respondents secured the sum of mean values 36.72 with the standard deviation 9.63 which have low mean value. Beside, the average sum of mean value were 3.34 with standard deviation 0.875. These show that the respondents were "neutral". The average scored mean value of these sub-constructs conveys that the respondents were uncertain with the case described i.e. challenges of available sources of the youth projects which affect the overall football performance of the projects that must be solve.

Challenges of Empowering Talented Youth Football Players in Sheka

The study also reveals that, the scored mean value of the respondents to the second sub-construct i.e. "lack of supportive policy to the youth project" the average scored mean value of respondents' was 3.25 with the standard deviation 0.858. This shows that the respondents were replying "neutral". The scored mean value of this sub-construct conveys that the respondents was uncertain with the case described i.e. lack of supportive policy to the youth project which was one of the challenges' of the youth football projects.

The items replied almost all sub-constructs i.e. "lack of awareness, lack of youth sport bureau commitment, lack of quality training skills, lack of technical and tactical training, lack of sustainable training, using one single training method and practicing complex training methods" the average scored mean value were (3.45, 3.59, 3.63, 3.91, 3.59, 3.45 and 3.46) with the standard deviation (1.127, 1.041, 1.054, 0.978, 1.141, 0.893 and 0.953) respectively. The respondents have similar means result category which was "agree". The scored mean value of these sub-constructs conveys that the respondents were agree with the cases really challenges' of the youth football projects to develop players talent. Since coaching was a complex process, coaches have to confront with a lot of activities, and in trying to understand how players deal with these dimensions of playing, it was necessary to examine the beliefs and attitudes which underlie coach on field actions. And it was widely accepted that the coach action has shaped by the attitude and beliefs one has towards the players.

In general the sum of mean value and standard deviation indicate that there were eight parameters used to measure the feedbacks of respondents with challenges of talent development in youth football projects, for which the respondents secured the sum of mean values 28.33 with the standard deviation 8.05 which have high mean value. Alongside, the average sum of mean value was 3.54 with standard deviation 1.006. These show that the respondents were "agree". It conveys that the respondents were agreed with the case described i.e. challenges of talent development of the youth projects which affect the overall football performance of the projects.

One way analysis of variance among three projects

Type of schools

	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig
Between groups	189.66	2	78.45	3.45	.067
With in groups	9234.24	31	17.67		
Total	9423.9	33	96.12		

A one way between groups of variance was conducted to explore youth project training among three project. Subjects were divided in to Masha project, Degela project and Keja project based on the presence of football projects in Sheka Zone. There was no statistically significant difference at the $P < .05$ in youth talent for the three football projects [F (2, 33) - 3.45, $p = .05$].

V. QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

Qualitative Result

During an interview the researcher quoted from one of the coaches said that,

...In other words, there was consensus among the players in their situation, indicating a weak link between talent and heritage. Instead they perceive talent as something they must train for, and thus have a dynamic perception of skill. We have worked for it, many believe that, or that, many may say that a talent, you've got it, you've inherited things and stuff, but I think that we have also trained for it, we want to accomplish something, it does not come by itself...

One example mentioned by one of the coach was the importance of training, and the fact that players not defined as talented could have a higher training load and thus achieve a higher skill level based on training. According to Elias and his colleagues,

... "players' skills come as a direct result of their training load, and could thus explain why some players catch up in terms of skill level" ...

Having this in mind, let's discuss whether the field is suitable or not, and whether the coaches have a plan or planning before they get started on football training. There were enough football fields available to youth players but there is a big question raised when we evaluate its standards and suitability of the football field. Accordingly, most of the coaches have prepared daily, monthly, weekly and annual training plans before they start training sessions.

On the other hand, a recent assessment found no differences in training amount when comparing players that had obtained a project with club players did, indicating that this is a poor predictor of future success. From the players' overall training amount, one could argue that the main difference is the type of training is important, not the amount. Because, talented players are obliged to have great ambitions in regards to their football job. Based on the fact that the club players had the greatest amount of playing time and considered themselves to be more successful than the project players, one could expect the club players to be the most ambitious. An obvious explanation could be that the project players were, in fact, more ambitious, and that this could be one reason as to why they became amateur professional players.

It has accurate the results of the above tools finding that the document analysis result, it has also used to assess the number of youth players who joined the selected projects and to identify the number of talented player who join the main club.

The result of the document analysis which indicated that the average numbers of players who joined in the selected three youth football projects (Masha project, Degela project and Keja project) 25 up to 40 in Under 13-Under 17 for five years (the document analysis starting with 2006 up to 2010 E.C.). As the focus of the study lies on the youth football projects contributing talented players to the main club or national team. Overall assessing finding indicated that the success of these selected youth projects didn't contribute the talented players to the main club so far. In other words, from U-13-U-17 football projects trainees launched in Sheka zone 2006-2010 E.C. but there is unable to join the country main club or national team.

In contrary, in Tepi town which is one of the Sheka zone woreda town. There were three talented players (for example, Baye Gezahagne, Wubshet Alemayehu and Habtamu Gezahagne) joining the main club as well as candidate for Ethiopian national team. Even if players are showing performance explained above still there is a resistance launch youth football project in Tepi town.

VI. DISCUSSION

The study has enlightened to bring the current status and challenges of youth talented football players becoming amateur-professional. Along with the problem of Ethiopian sport policy, because of not segregating a vacant position both amateur and professional independently. Assuming amateur-professional and professional football player's unthinkable.

The study shows that, there is no satisfaction of football project players in Sheka zone and adding that, challenges are still incurred by the officials. Sheka Zone has determined by three districts: namely Tepi Woreda, Anderacha and Masha Wereda; owing to the presence of three youth football projects in Masha town, the study was conducted. But due to well framed need assessment activity, there are four numbers of football players have been joined from national league to higher levels from Tepi woreda youths, though it is lurked. However there is no youth football project inaugurated by Tepi, maybe it is because of lack of comprehensive need assessment or other sentiment regarding the Sheka Zone sport delegates. As the reality explains that, from U-13 to U-17 football projects trainees launched in Sheka zone 2006-2010 E.C. but the projects have unable to bring players to join the country main club or national team; pointing that the project should be tweaked in to Tepi. The study is also conducted with intent of examining the potential of public high schools in Sheka Zone whether it has potential youth football players in supplementing students to the projects: namely Masha project, Degela project and Keja project.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The result of the study reveals that respondents have secured a low mean score for all the youth football projects practiced factors. The sum of mean score obtained by respondents reveals that the players perceive poor satisfaction with youth football projects practices. The coaches and officers perceive poor satisfaction with overall youth football projects practices when compared to club players in the study area.

It is to be underscored that the awareness of the respondents regarding service quality of youth football projects quite poor in all areas. In this regard, all the dimensions show a gap between aim of expected from the youth football projects and supposed service in the study area needs to make improvements in all dimensions to close gaps. The study further reveals that there is a strong relationship between youth football practices and contributing talented players (amateur professional to the main club) in the study area.

The coaching method has a multifaceted impact on the performance of other functional areas of the projects. In this light, coach can make significant contribution to the effective implementations of the youth football projects through which player's satisfaction is derived.

Challenges of available sources of youth projects such as, availability of suitable field and equipment, incentive from the project, supply nutrients/diet, hospitality of injured players, motivating talent & good job, relationships with project members and external factors e.g. family were some of the factors which have discovered the study. Challenges of youth players talent developments of the projects such as, lack of awareness, lack of using common standards to identify talent and fair players selection system, lack of technical and tactical training, lack of quality training skills, lack of common training schedules, lack of youth sport bureau commitment, using complex training methods, lack of supportive policy to the project, lack of sustainable training, lack of coordination on training and using only one single training method.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are forwarded which might improve the talented youth football player's projects to become amateur-professional:

- ❖ Therefore, to increase the contribution of youth projects to generate new successor players, top management officials and the clubs should create suitable environment for players such as players living nearer to the training area.
- ❖ In addition the researcher assess there were less emphasis given to the facilities and equipments. Any training can be successful and effective if it supported with appropriate facilities and equipments.
- ❖ The researcher recommended that coaches should create awareness on their players about the advantage of training methods, coordination and motivation as well as its duration and practice.
- ❖ Therefore, the projects officers or coach should create awareness through meeting and discussion about nutrition and food items which should be eaten before and after the training session.
- ❖ Establishing and organizing football youth projects in all woreda's of Sheka zone could be one major strategy to address the sustainability of the major football clubs.

REFERENCE

- [1]. Crolley, L. & Hand, D. (2006). *Football and European Identity*. London: Routledge.
- [2]. Mason, T. (1989). *Sport in Britain: A Social History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [3]. Ommundsen, Y. (2009). Hvemertalentene, måvispesialiseretidlig, oghvaer en god trener?In B.T.
- [4]. Tischler, S. (1981). Footballers and businessmen: the origins of professional football in England. London: Holmes & Meier.
- [5]. Vamplew, W. (1988). *Pay Up and Play the Game: Professional Sport in Britain 1875–1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [6]. FIFA coaching manual . (2017). Retrieved from <https://premiersoccerinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Fifa-Coaching-manual.pdf>

Dagne Getachew. "Current Practice and Challenges of Talented Youth Football Project Players Becoming Amateur-Professional: The Case of Sheka Zone, South Ethiopia." IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS). vol. 24 no. 04, 2019, pp. 65-71.