

# Volatile Sports Management Environment In Ethiopia: A Case Of Youth Football Projects In Ethiopia

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## Abstract

Several Youth Football Projects are institutionalized in various countries with the support of Federation of International Football Association for the development of football sport across the globe. In African countries, the implementation of Youth Football Projects are often ignored by the participative agencies and led to lack of very low attention, overall support and follow-up. The active participation of community, coach, administrative body, and trainees determines the development of football sport. In many countries, collaborative working and active participation of all stakeholders made the football as successful sport. It is witnessed in Ethiopia that very less initiation is given to improve the efficiency of youth football projects, particularly in the case of Benshangul-Gumuz Region. This study sheds the light on significant major challenges of youth football projects implementing in volatile sports environment in Metekl and Kamash Zones of Benishangul-Gumuze Regional State. Researchers have followed a survey research method with both qualitative and quantitative research approach. It is found in the study that the coaching manuals are not updated with the modern coaching methods; the number of competitions that were organized are much below the recommended number of games; the number of training days per a week and length of training session lacks uniformity and inconsistent for the same age groups; the factors like lack of overall support, lack of communication among stakeholders, low attention given, and knowledge of the coaches and scarcity of training materials are the major hindering aspects for the success of these youth football projects.

**Keywords:** Youth Football Projects, Football Coaching Methods, Football Sport Management

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Football is one of the most popular sports in the world with exponential increase in number of players and sponsors. It is a world's favorite game and has a lot of spectators, supporters and fun all over the world. The sport of football is associated with passion, emotion, excitement and dedication. Youngsters of different age categories are taking part in youth football training to become either amateur or professional players. The complex social changes that accompanied the industrial revolution in Great Britain in the eighteen and nineteenth century were responsible for the development of sport, and

specifically football, as it is known today (Jone Minten, 2002). The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA), is doing its best for the development and expansion of football with member federations. One of the tasks of FIFA is to enhance the development of football especially the program of youth football across the world.

Since 1999 with the creation of the 'Goal programme', FIFA has organized more than 1,000 football projects across the world including 'Ambo Goal project'. Similarly, the Ethiopia Football Federation, along with regional federations, striving to play its part for the development and expansions of football including in Benishangul-Gumuz Region (BGRS). In this regional state there are 35 youth football projects which are founded by Benishangul-Gumuth Football Federation, Youth and Sport Bureau and Federal Youth and Sport Ministry. Though the number of youth football projects is increasing, very low attention is given to overall support and follow-up.

The development of football is determined by the active participation of an administrative body, community, coach, and trainees. Football has become the successful sport in many countries only with the collaborative working and active participation of all stakeholders. But in Ethiopia as general, Benshangul-Gumuz Region in specific, the initiation to improve the efficiency of youth football projects were low. The low attention given to improve the quality of training, competence of coach, inadequate provision of financial and material support, lack of motivating the youth players and coaches, lack of periodical follow up and knowledge of talent scouting were some of the problems widely observed. The role of competition in the player development is indisputable and appropriate number of matches that are organized as per the age of the players is crucial for the payer development. Competition is a central element in a player's development.

According to Bernie Dekoven (2002) Players improve their ability to play soccer through proper coaching, training on their own, and appropriate competition. In Ethiopia in general, in Benishangul-Gumuz in particular, the amount of the competitions organized for youth footballer per a year is very limited. Training by itself is not sufficient to know the level of performance of the trainees. The youth has to get appropriate number of matches to determine their level of performance. The level of the performance of youth football projects of Benishangul-Gumuth was negatively affected with those aforementioned drawbacks and problems. The researcher has conducted this study to assess major Challenges of youth football projects in Benishangul-Gumuze with specific reference to Metekl and Kamash Zones.

## **2. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

This review is concerned with the football performance, talent identification and development; characteristics of youth footballer based on their age , role of the coach, and parent are discussed in

this chapter. Wondimu and Damene (2004) state that, football performance is a function of physical and mental characteristic of the individual. In addition, peak performance is the product of a careful preparation where the competitive As peak is the result of a well planned training program. Kachany (cited in Wondimu and Damene, 2004) football Performance is regardless as an actual manifestation of the efficiency of the player, it is a purposeful activity directed to the solution of a task determined by the principle of 27 training and estimable achievement is a complex mixture of environmental influences and training, At a general level, Wondimu and Damene (2004) say it is possible to demonstrate that, football performance is influenced by specific physical characteristic, which can be measured and described. These include variable such as strength, mobility and endurance, which are classified as component of physical fitness. This as well, is a useful way of analyzing football performance. For expected improvement, coach and players should set a goals together agreeing on rate.

The key to goal setting should always remain realistic. If players constantly face goals that are unattainable, instead of stimulating greater effort, they become discouraged and quickly lose interest. Such lose of interest negatively contributed toward the development of performance. Helping players set short and long term goal, the coach can keep a written records of player's progress and see if the goals may still be attainable. If they are attainable,

they definitely contribute positively toward performance development. In this sense, football performance constitutes an integral system with a structure of its own (Wondinu and Damene, 2004).

This structural form of football performance contains physical, psychological, technical, tactical and nutritional factors.

**Physical factors;** Physical fitness has many advantages, player's vision, awareness, instinctive reaction, adaptability, inventiveness, composure, skill, confidence, decision making, and hardiness all benefit. Rees (cited in Wondimu and Damene, 2004) state that, if a football player is not physically fit, his technique will suffer, especially late in the match. In addition, a fit player is much less likely to be injured. All athletes, particularly football players, must develop physical fitness before anything factor. On the work of Kacany (cited in Wondimu and Damene, 2004) put, in the course of one game defensive player covers 4000-5000 meters, midfielders 6500-7000 meters, and attackers 5000-5500 meters.

In the course of a game player pass a ball 29-46 times, the exact number depending on the function of the individual player. Another numerical indication of the level of exertion is the number of times the player is involved in play with the ball: backs 43-47 times, midfielders 42-56 times, and wing forward 34-40 times. Another basis for the qualitative characteristics of exertion is the intensity,

expressed in the irregular switch from components with, high, average and low intensity. In planning strenuous training, it is important to know what distance will be covered with high intensity. For a back is 1020 meters, centre back 710 meters, midfielders 1450 meters, wing forward 1100meters and centers forward 980 (Wondimu and Damene, 2004). All these numerical information point the fact that how much footballers need high physical preparation.

**Technical and tactical factors;** Technique is evidently of fundamental importance. It forms the basis for possession of the ball, for keeping it under control in difficult match situations and for using it to good advantage. Good technical skill adapted to any particular situation, which enable a player to avoid losing the ball too frequently and then having to expended more energy in trying to recapture it. Unless a player has perfect ball control, he/she will never to be able to control a game. Tactics teach players how to be organized, how they should be positioned, how the skill can best be implemented in competition and how all players have different roles to play on the playground. The aim of good tactic is to

put emphasis on the position. Moreover, a good choice of tactics helps to build up confidence within the team itself. As Wondimu and Damene (2004) state that, it is impossible to treat tactical aspect separate from technique. Players learn to make a rapid and creative choice from the technique they have been taught, selecting those that are most effective in the given situation. Practice and preparation of play combination, cooperation of individual in play activities. The climax of tactical preparation is the practice and perfection of play system. The play system represents action at high level by the player as adapted to the needs and abilities of the entire team.

Psychological factor; this is a length, complex process and must be realized in the conjunction with good physical education, and emphasize the view varied and philosophical basis of the training process. The basis for influence on the player is philosophical, moral and willpower training (Wondimu and Damene, 2004). As regarding to player's personality Kacany (cited in Wondimu and Damene, 2004) note the following, ideological preparation must mould the player so that they achieve a broad overview, thereby enabling them to arrive at the right assessment of the aim of football activities. Ideological preparation forms the basis of judgment of intellect together with other aspect of his personality. At the same time it forms an important component in the regulation of the player's motivation, which in turn forms the basis for growth in football performance. Kacany state continuously moral preparation is direct to the development of characteristic such as the relationship to collective value, to work with fellow players, the coach and football activities in general. The level of moral characteristic is expressed in honest behaviour, responsibility with respect to training and match, maintenance of a disciplined life style and consciousness performance of daily duties. Nutritional factor; Good nutrition is the function for physical performance and one of the most important variables in attaining a high level of fitness. Food fuels our systems and forms new tissue. Mc Eachen (2004) said

that, muscle building was ten percent hard working ninety percent nutrition. Continuing state professional male soccer players must consume 3000-3600 calories to meet the energy demand of the sport. Upper level female players might need up to 2500 calories. The recommended ration is 60-70 percent carbohydrate, 15-20 percent protein, and 15-20 percent fat source. In addition, sufficient source of water, vitamin, and minerals must be part of the everyday diet.

### **Characteristics of youth football players of various age groups**

With respect to the physical and psychological characteristics of children in general and soccer players or trainees in particular, they show a good deal of differences or variation with their age or developmental level. They have a relatively a particular period of time in their age to deal with each aspect of soccer (Soccer training). In a sense to realize their potential soccer trainees should be exposed and trained with the necessary aspect of each component. The strength of the trainees and the emphasis given to the intensity of the activities should be given a serious emphasis. For this matter it is mandatory to know and recognize the primary characteristics of each age group and what the emphasis should be at each age level.

### **Role of the Coach**

The coach of a football team also has to fulfill various functions: In the first place, a coach is responsible for the team in its day-to-day business He is in charge of coaching, guiding, motivating the team and deciding about the starting formation each match day. How well these activities and decisions are made, determines the performance of the team on the field (Koning, 2003). The coaches' influence on the team's performance depends mainly on the coaches' ability to combine the stock of players effectively, through team selection as well as choice of strategy to produce positive game outcomes. For these staffing decisions to make, a coach must have an understanding of the game, the qualification to monitor and evaluate a player's performance in a variety of situations and knowledge of the player's strengths and weaknesses. Moreover, the coach has also an important leadership impact on team performance, through the strategic team composition. Coaches actively take part in the decision-making process about player transfers. Furthermore, in the long term a coach is responsible for forming a real team out of various individuals, their skills, personalities and perspectives, which must be able to compete successfully (Dawson,et al., 2000)

### **Competition for different age group of football player**

Competition is a central elements in a players developments (players development guide of us soccer federation (nd:20). At the youth cove, however, a competitive environment should not be a result oriented environment. The different must be clear. A competitive environment at youth level encourage decision from players and coach alike that focus on performance rather than outcome. The

result is one indicator of performance and at this age, not most important one. Competition among kids playing games well exist, weather adult

present or not making soccer fun at the younger age deeds not mean that competition is removed competition can be positive and healthy scoring goals and winning the games are fundamental parts of soccer (us soccer federation) . If youth and junior level soccer, the emphasis and manner of the coach will often determine the competitive environment is healthy or not. But what should be done is that, the game ought to be fit of the developmental level of the trainees. In this regard Richard Algich (1995:3,78,136,263,318 and 411) have recommended game specification for different age groups of soccer trainees. The table below shows the specification of the match for different age group and number of match needed to be played per year (player’s development guide the Us soccer federation (nd:3-45

Age	Field size (Lxw)	Ball size	No of players	Penalty kick	Corn er kick	Thro w in	Goal kick	No of match per a year
5-8 years	30-47*21-46 yards	3	6 (with Gk)	(6 years)				No need of organized game
9-10 years	45-59*21-46 yards	4	7(with Gk)	(8 yds)				20
11-12 years	50-100* 44*59 yds	4	8(with Gk)	12 yds				30
13-&14 years	100-150*50-100 yds	4=13 5=14	11(with Gk)	12 yds				30
15-16 years	100-130*50-100 yds	5	11 (with Gk)	12 yds				30
17 and	100*130*70-100 yds	5	11 (with	12 yds				30

above			Gk)					
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### 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The nature of data generated to undertake this study lends itself to both qualitative and quantitative approaches particularly to descriptive survey. As its nature, this method was more appropriate to define, describe and understand the problems that block the program. In addition, descriptive method is appropriate for collecting information from a relatively large number of respondents (Cress well, 2003).The researcher employed descriptive survey as the method of study because it provided the researcher with detailed description of the existing condition about the problems under investigation. The researcher used both primary and secondary data as source of data. The primary data gathered like through interview, questionnaire& observation, and secondary data (written documents) were very important for the accurate data gathering method. The researcher used questionnaire, interview and observation for collection of primary data sources. The researcher used secondary source as they had some background information about the issues. Related documents like magazines, Book, Journals, research paper, published and un-published materials, office document, and Policy documents were examined.

The research population includes a range of respondents namely Football project coaches, youth footballers, sport officers, and members of Benishangul-Gumuz football federation officials. In order to select samples from a large population, the researcher adopts simple random sampling and purposive sampling. The Simple Random sampling method was employed in order to select youth football respondents who took part in a written questionnaire. Generally, there are 14 youth football projects in the study area, where 8 of them were found in Matekel zone and 6 of them were found in Kamash zone. Out of the existing 14 youth football projects, 12 of them were selected using purposive sampling strategy. In addition, coaches, sport officers, and Football federation executive committee were selected using availability sampling as they are few in number.

There is the profound conviction that there is using a merit in using more than one instrument as they support one another to generate an acceptable idea. Accordingly, the researcher employed questionnaire Interview, observation and document analysis to collect data from the representative sample. Questionnaires' with open and close ended item were developed and dispatched to the target group , namely youth football, coaches, sport officers, and members of BGfootball federation executive committee which consists of item such as professional question, facility and equipment, number of competition available, overall support provide for the projects, number of supervision held per a year to know the level of performance of the youth, interrelations among the stakeholder (Football federation, sport commission, and parents) and the main problems that hinders the development of

youth football projects in Benishangul-Gumuz regions. The below table shows the number of questionnaires distributed to the four groups of respondents. As illustrated in the above out of 133 questionnaires distributed to the target groups 134(99.03%) were returned, whereas 1(1.75%) questionnaire was missing. This shows that small numbers of missed questionnaire do not affect the meaningfulness of the gathered data.

**Table 3-1 Response Rate**

No	Category of respondents	Questionnaires handed Out	Questionnaires returned	Difference
1	Youth football project	100(100%)	100(100%)	
2	Project football coaches	12(66.1%)	12(66.1%)	
3	Football federation members	9(100%)	8(88.6%)	1(11.4%)
4	Sport officers	12(50%)	12(50%)	

To supplement data gathered through questionnaires, the researcher adopted a structured interview. Structured interview is essentially a questionnaire where the questions are ready out by the researcher who also notes the respondents. It has an advantage over a respondent’s completion questionnaire that the respondent can seek clarification over questions that may be unclear (Cheri Gratton and Ian Jones, 2004). The interviews were held with coaches and youth footballers. In order to get the clearest pictures about the availability of facilities and equipment, training methods and utilization of manual the training session were observed using Non participant observation method. (Cheri Gratton and Lan Jones, 2004) Non-participant observation is an appropriate method when the phenomenon under investigation can be directly observed the observations were made on all the focused group of the study, although there were limitations.

The coaching manuals were assessed and evaluated as it is the most important guideline for the effectiveness of the coaching process. In addition, the annual plans of the coaches were assessed to know how far their plans were allotted to training session and its content. As far as data analysis is concerned, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed. Qualitative method was used to provide a detailed description of data to help the researcher explore and discover the inherent quantitative approach was meant for quantifying data in terms of percentage.

#### **4. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

The primary data collected from the coaches, athletes, Football federation Executive committee and Sport officers is analyzed and interpreted in the following ways. In addition to the primary data, the data collocated via structured interview; non-participant observation and document analysis was also analyzed and interpreted using different descriptive analysis techniques.

**Table-4.1 Description of Demographic factors of football coaches**

Profile	Categories	Point		
		No	%	
Sex	Male	12	100%	
	Female	-	-	
	Total	12	100%	
Age	25-30	5	41.6%	
	31-35	4	33.3%	
	36-40	2	17%	
	41-45	-	-	
	46-50	1	8.3%	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>	
Marital status	Married	9	75%	
	Single	3	35%	
	Total	12	100%	
Educational background	Master in sport science	-	-	
	BA degree in P.E	6	50%	
	Diploma in P.E	3	25%	
	Certificate in sport		--	
	12 <sup>th</sup> Complete		--	
	Other	3	25%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>		
Level of coaching in football	1 <sup>st</sup> level	9	75%	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> level	3	25%	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> level	-	-	

	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>	
Coaching experience	1-2 years	3	25%	
	3-6 years	7	58.3%	
	7-9 years	2	17%	
	10-12 years			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>	

It is reported from the Table -3 that all coaches were male and majority (41.5%) of them belongs to the age group of 25-30 years. Among the coaches participated in survey, 50% of them have bachelor degree in physical education and 25% of them have pursued diploma in physical education and the rest 25% have completed other certificate courses in physical education. In terms of coaching level, majority of the coaches 75% have the first level coaching qualification and 25% coaches have second level coaching qualification. It is observed that majority of the respondents 58% have had 3-6 years of experience in food ball coaching. It is evident from the table 4.2 that individual affection towards the football game has motivated the coaches to provide coaching to youth in this game play. Amongthese coaches, 50% of the respondents reported that the training what they have received duringtheir short-term training sessions is relevant to youth football coaching, whereas the rest 50% reported that it is not relevant. All the coaches expressed that they were not exposed to any coaching methodology that specifically varies across different age group of football trainees. Majority of the coaches (75%) have undergone different courses to upgrade their coaching skill, but 25% of the respondent have not taken any courses to update themselves in coaching methodologies

**Table 4.2 Background of Coaches**

No	Item	Choice	Response	Point	
				NO	%
1.	What motivated you to be a youth football coach?	A	Concern of nationality	-	-
		B	To get money	-	-
		C	Affection to Football sport	12	100%
		D	Reinforcement on the parts of media	-	-
2	Does the short term training You attended relevant for Coaching youth football	A	Yes	6	50%
		B	No	6	50%
3	Do the course you took incorporate the method of coaching youth footballers based on their age brackets?	A	Yes	-	-
		B	No	12	100%
4	Did you take upgrading courses to improve your coaching competence	A	Yes	3	25%
		B	No	9	75%

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As mentioned in the table 4.3 the number of games that were organized across the different age groups varies substantially. All the coaches have reported that only regional level and national level football games are available for their teams and there were no Kebele and Zonal level matches available for their teams. Among the responded coaches, majority of the coaches, i.e. 62.5%, have reported that their teams have not yet participated in any youth football programmes. Only one 12.5% of the respondents, i.e. one coach, have responded that his team has been participating in 3-5 games in a year in youth football programmes. The rest of 25% respondents, i.e. 2 coaches, have responded that their teams have participated in two games in a year in youth football programmes. Majority of the respondents, i.e. 91.6%, are providing training to players for 3 day in a week. Only 33% of the respondents are using additional training aid like video, charts during training and the remaining coaches are following conservative instructional base coaching. Except two coaches, i.e. 16.7% of sample, all the remaining coaches have not divided the annual training plan divided to training mesocycle, microcycle and session of training. Among the coaches surveyed, only 25% of them have the profound knowledge about periodization to allocate the annual training plan in to different seasons.

**Table-4.3 Competition Level and Training Process**

No	Item	Response	Points	
			No	%
1	What levels of competition were available for youth footballer in the region?	A) Local	-	-
		B) Zonal	-	-
		C) Regional	12	100%
		D) National	12	100%
2	How many organized matches do you have per a year for youth football program?	A) 0	9	62.52%
		B) 1	-	-
		C) 2	2	25%
		D) 3-5	1	12.5%
		E) More than five	-	-
3	How many training days do you have per week?	A) One day	-	-
		B) Two days		
		C) Three days	11	91.6%
		D) Four days	1	8.4%
		E) Five days	-	-
4	Did you use an additional training aid like video, charts for you coaching?	A) Yes	4	33%

		B) No	8	67%
5	Do you have an annual training plan divided to training mesocycle, microcycle and session of training?	A. Yes	2	16.7%
		B. No —	10	83,3%
6	Do you have pre found knowledge about periodization to run the training program	A, Yes	3	25%
		B. No —	9	75%

The majority of the respondents, i.e. 50%, have reported that the youth football programme has been hindered by lack support from the concern bodies. A significant proportion of the respondents, i.e. 33.3%, shared that the coaches are being ignorant about the effective coaching methodologies to train the players for youth football programmes. About 16.7% of the respondents reported that the lack of appropriate teaching material has become the hindering for the success of the youth football programmes. Among the coaches, 25% of them have not received any supervision service from the concerned bodies to facilitate the youth football programmes (see the table no. 4.4).

**Table 4.4 Factors affecting successful organisation of youth football programmes**

No	Item	Response	Point	
			No	%
1	What hinder the successfulness of youth football training?	Lack of knowledge about the contents	-	-
		Lack of appropriate teaching material	2	16.7%
		Ignorant to the methodology of coaching	4	33.3%
		Lack of support	6	50%
2	Do the concerned bodies provides supervision service for the program per a year	A) Yes	3	25%
		B) No	9	75%
3	Does the training court is convenient to conduct the training?	Yes	3	25%
		No	9	75%
4	Do Concerned bodies supply adequate training materials for the program?	Yes	0	0%
		No	12	100%
5	Does the quality of training material are good?	Yes	3	25%
		No	9	75%
6	Does the size of ball convenient for training from the point of players' age	Yes	3	25%
		No	9	75%

	brackets?			
7	Does the coaching uniform is Appropriate?	Yes	2	16.7%
		No	10	83.3%
8	Does the coaching fee received is Motivational?	Yes	2	16.7%
		No	10	83.3%

It is observed from the table 4.4 that majority of the respondents felt the training court size is not appropriate. All the coaches of the study have reported that the concerned bodies are not supplying the adequate materials required of the youth football programme. The quality of the training materials supplied by the concerned bodies is perceived by the majority of the coaches as not good. Majority of the respondents also stated that the balls provided under these youth football programmes were not suitable for different age group of players. Among the coaches interviewed, many of them quoted that the coaching fee is not attractive and the uniforms are not appropriate to discharge their activities during coaching.

**Table-4.5 Executive Committee Opinion**

No	Item	Alternatives	No	Percent
1	Type of support BG Football federation provided for youth football projects	A. Facility and equipment	-	-
		B. Provide pocket money	-	-
		C. Financial support		
		D. Technical support	5	62.5
		E. Psychological support	3	37.5
		F. No support		-
2	Do you think the support you are provided sufficient?	A. Yes	-	-
		B. Not at all	-	25
		C. No	-	75
3	If your answer for question No 2 is "No" what are the impacts of lack of adequate support on the program	<input type="checkbox"/> It affects performance of player <input type="checkbox"/> It encourage drop out from the project <input type="checkbox"/> It demotivate and discourage an athletes' and the coaches		
4	How many times do you make supervision of the activities of the youth football projects in a year?	Response	No	Percent
		One time per a month	-	-
		Two times per six month	1	12.5%

		Two times per a year	1	12.5%
		No supervision	6	75%
5	What are the hindering factors for the success of the youth football projects in the region?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of good communication</li> <li>2. Low attention given to the projects</li> <li>3. Lack of joint support</li> <li>4. Knowledge of the coach</li> </ol>		

Among the Executive Committee of Benshangul -Gumuz Football Federation 37% expressed that they have received psychological support and 62.5% reported that they have received Technical support. Majority of the respondents, i.e. 75%, from the committee stated that they do not supervise the activities of the youth football projects. All the members of the committee expressed that the support they are rendering to the youth football projects is insufficient. They also acknowledge that this insufficient support is negatively affecting the youth football project in several ways. The committee members noted that lack of good communication, low attention shown on projects, lack of joint support and lack of knowledgeable coaches are the major problems that hinders the successful performance of youth football projects in the region (see the table no. 4.5).

As highlighted by the table 4.6, among the sports officers responsible to operations of the youth football projects, 37.5% of them supervises the project progress two times a year and 25.5% of them supervising 3-5 times a year and rest 12.5% officers supervising two times in a six months period. The sport officers responsible for the projects expressed that their bureau is supporting the project operation in many ways. A total of 50% respondents reported that they are supporting the projects by providing material required to the projects; 25% of them reported that they have rendered financial support to their respective projects and 12.5% of them have only supported either technically or morally to the youth football projects in the region.

However all the sports officers highlights that the support what they have rendered towards facilitating the operation of the youth football programmes are inadequate. As similar with executive committee members, the sports officers also highlights that lack of good communication, low attention shown on projects, lack of joint support and lack of knowledgeable coaches are the bottlenecks for the success of the programmes. Majority of the officers, i.e. 75.0%, expressed that

they do not have schedule meetings with stakeholders of the youth football programmes to discuss the issues and plan of action for the successful organisation of the youth football programmes. All of the sports officers expressed that their communication with the stakeholders of youth football projects is very poor.

**Table 4.6 Sports Officer Opinion**

No	Item	Choice alternatives	No	Percent
1	Does your organization supervise the youth projects to know their level of performance?	A. One time per a month	-	-
		B. Two times per six months	1	12.5%
		C. Two times per a year	7	37.5%
		D. 3-5 times per a year	2	25.5%
		E. No supervision	2	25%
2	What type of support your organizations provide for youth football?	A. materials support	4	50%
		B. Financial support	2	25%
		C. Technical support	1	12.5%
		D. psychological support	1	12.5%
3	Do you think that the support you provide adequate?	A. Yes	-	-
		B. Not at all	-	-
		C. No	8	100%
4	What are major problems that	Lack of good communication	-	-

	obscure the development of youth football?	among concerned bodies		
		Low attention given to the program	-	-
		Lack of joint support	-	-
		Knowledge of the coach		
		All are the problems	8	100%
8	How is your communication with BGFF, BGEB, parents and coaches	A. Excellent	-	-
		B. Very good	-	-
		C. Good	-	-
		D. Poor	12	100%
9	Do you have scheduled meeting with stakeholders?	A. yes	1	12.5%
		B. Sometime	1	12.5%
		C. No	6	75.0%

## 5. INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study are interpreted as follows

- ☐ There is a great gender gap in the coaching occupation. It reflects very clearly in coaches appointed to train the players in youth football programmes. Hence, the concerned authorities and responsible bodies should take necessary measure to inculcate women's football coach in order to assure equal participation.

☐ No coach appointed was to the youth football team with master degree experience and all coaches are having less than years of experience in training the players for football game. Hence, the concerned bodies should appoint appropriate manpower with profound knowledge to train and teach youth footballers. As coaching requires scientific knowledge, educational background of the coach was seen as a serious problem in the application of appropriate methodology of coaching.

☐ Among the coaches. 50% respondents expressed that the short term course given to them were not adequate for coaching young players and additional courses are mandatory for the coaches to be effective and efficient in their work.

☐ All the coaches responded that the course they took did not incorporate a method of coaching to treat youth footballers to deliver the training in attractive way & to be effective . Thomas E. Larkin, (2008; 60) methods of training describe those activities athlete and coaches use to train for soccer strictly speaking methods of coaching refers to ways in which coaches communicate and teach the game of soccer to their charges. To create a training program that addresses the multiple demands of the game, a coach must become familiar with the different methods of training for the sport of soccer.

☐ Out of all respondent coaches, 62.5% of them didn't attend the upgrading courses to improve their coaching competence and introduce themselves to contemporary methods of training. As it is clearly seen, there is no deep conviction of the respondents concerning the upgrading course to improve their competence; this data implies majority of the coaches had not given additional coaching courses. This makes the coaches to stock to what they have learned earlier, coaching competence assist the coaches during training session. According to Thomas Reilly (2004:156) as knowledge is re find and developed the coach became more expert. As knowledge refined and developed through training and exposure to environment, a lots are expected from the concerned body to facilitate additional upgrading courses for the practitioners that goes along with time. Coaches of

Junior soccer also require additional expertise in child development, Educational psychology and parental guides (Thomas Reilly 2004-156)

☐ The table above the numbers of competition available and match organized per year of training was absolutely poor. Regarding availability of competition for their teams, the majority (75%) of the respondents' said that competitions were available once a year at national level. In addition, 50% of the respondents responded as competitions were held at regional level once per a year.

- ☐ The respondents (75%) responded as there were no matches organized for the youth per year and 25% of the coaches responded as there were matches organized twice a year. About 12.5% of the coaches said 3-5 matches are organized for youth athletes.

Competition is the central elements in a player's development. In addition, competition or matches are relevant means to evaluate the performance level of the footballers. According to Richard Alagich (1995) the numbers of organized match recommended for u-10, u-12, u-14, u-16 and 17 and above are 20 for u-12 and 30 for the rest of age categories.

- ☐ In relation with the players age group, 75% of the respondents said that the region compete in age categories u-17 and also 16.6% the coaches responded as the region took part for u-15 age categories. Similarly, 8.4% of the respondents' replied as the region participates in a competition organized at national level in u-13 age categories. Competition is a central elements in a players developments (players development guide of us soccer federation (nd:20). This implies to the responsible bodies to increase the number of well-organized competition to assess the level of performance the athlete based on age categories.

- ☐ All respondents incorporate the four components of training during practice. So, this again requires further encouragement to make the training process more economical.

- ☐ Among all the respondents, 50% of the respondents said that lack of support from concerned bodies hinders the success of the training. Whereas 25% of the coaches agreed that lack of appropriate coaching materials is major hindering factor and the ignorance to the method of coaching is perceived as another major hindering factor by 25% of the coaches which is affecting the success of the training. This result shows the concerned body to take automatic solution to improve the performance of the trainees.

- ☐ Application of principles of training makes training to match to the functional movement of the game. The principles of trainings are important for both elite athletes to maximize

performance and for individual trainees to promote healthy. The findings of the study reveal that half of the coaches are utilizing training principles during the coaching and rese were not utilizing. It highlights the need of complete makeover of coaches to see the value of training process based on the training principles.

- ☐ Most coaches, 75%, responded as there is no supervision by the responsible bodies to provide support and only 25% of the respondents agreed that there is supervision on their teams. This

result indicates the attention given to supervise the youth football projects is low. To get satisfactory result and keep on producing fit athletes, adequate support and follow up is required from the concerned body. According to Debora and Bonate (P 144) follow up of the coach should be conducted periodical, coach should be encouraged.

- ☐ Out of the total respondents, 62.5% of the coaches expressed the inconvenience of the courts to conduct training. However, 37% of the respondents' agreed that the courts were convenient to conduct training for their teams. It is clear to understand that the court on which the training undergoing were not comfortable and it will affect the nature of the game and its outcome. Thomas Reilly(1996;135) surface for football, particularly soccer, have evolved in response to performance.
- ☐ With regard to provision adequacy of training materials, 100% of the respondents strongly disagree with the provision adequate training materials for the successfulness of the training process. Added to this, majority 5(62.5%) of the respondent responded as strongly disagree in the quality of the equipment supplied for the center whereas, 3(37.5.5%) of the couches agreed as the materials provided were with were high quality . Thomas Reily (1996:138) the full size ball is required to have an outer casing which should be of lather or other approved materials which does not prove dangerous to players. It is clear to understand that the poor materials which were supplied to the youth footballers affect the performance of the athletes.
- ☐ With regard to the convenience of the ball for the age categories, the outlook of the respondents' inclined to inappropriateness of the size of the ball. The response of the coach proves that, 62.5% of them strongly agree that the ball provided were not appropriate size for different age categories. Whereas only 37.5 of the respondents agreed that the size of the ball distributed to the program were appropriate to all categories of the youth projects. The effects of this variation on both performance and potential injuries can be established (|Thomas Really 1996).As age of the youth footballers vary, the ball given for the program should take in to consideration. If the size of the balls is not appropriate to the age of the players, it can cause potential injuries particularly when heading the ball. While its size varies for junior player, its material and method of construction, and internal pressure may also varies.
- ☐ With regard to provision of coaching uniform for the coach, out of the total target coaches majority ( 87.5%) of them strongly disagree on the provision appropriate coaching uniform whereas, 1(12.5%) of the respondents' agreed that they were provided coaching uniform. In addition, opinion of the respondents' regarding coaching fee, of the total respondents' 7(87.5%)

of them strongly demotivated on the monthly payment and 1(12.5%) agree that coaching fee for coach was motivational. This made the coaches to feel less interested and give low attention to the task.

- ☐ The support given by the concerned bodies was poor as perceived by 64% of the respondents. Very few teams have got psychological support and sport materials by the concerned body. The result above indicates the concern of the concerned bodies in benefiting and supporting the projects was very little.
- ☐ The educational background of the federation committee members is graduation with specialization other than sport science field. It needs the urgent action from the government to appoint the federation members who have sports background In order to under the pros and cons of the issues what the players and coaches are facing.
- ☐ A total of 62.5% of the federation members expressed that they have provided technical support to the different teams and 37.5% of the members have provided psychological support to various teams. The support what they the federation members provided to the team was perceived by all the federation members as poor and inadequate. The impact of inadequate support brought about declines of the performance of the youth footballer, Encourage drop out, and demotivates & discourage an athletes and coaches. .It is clear to perceive that the youth football projects in the region are in series problem. For the success of the projects, the support given in all aspects requires attention and improvement.
- ☐ The inadequate support is also manifested with the lack of supervision on the functions and progress of the youth football teams. Majority of the respondents, i.e. 75% of the federation members stated that there was 'No supervision' from the concerned bodies.

Whereas few members told that the concerned bodies have supervised their teams two times per year and some are by two time per in half year.

- ☐ Respondents from the federation members acknowledge that the lack of communication among stakeholders; lack of support; lack of attention towards the problems and the lack of knowledgeable coaches as the hindering factors for the success of the youth football teams. Hence, the aforementioned problems need to get urge remedy to improve overall development the youth football projects to make them more competent at all level and to get fruitful result from the program.

- ☐ The above tables show the respondents' perceptions of the level of competition organized for youth football projects. As shown on the table, all of the respondents say the youth football projects take part on the competitions which are organized at a regional and national level once per a year. This shows that the youth football projects were not recruited by competition available to them but through quota given to each project stations to represent their respective zones. One of the benefits of competition is to know the level of performance of the program.
- ☐ The competitions arranged among the teams are very low. This clearly shows that there are serious problems regarding the number of matches to be organized per a year to know the level of performance of the program. According to Richard Alagich (195:411) the number of matches which it recommended for u-17 per a year is 30. From the above data it is possible to conclude that there is too much fewer amounts of organized matches facilitated to know the progress of the program per a year.
- ☐ The monthly payment paid to the coaches was perceived as very low by the 62.5% of the federation members. It necessitated the urgent action from the government to make sure that coaches are being paid adequately in order to keep their morale at higher level. Otherwise it makes the coach to give low attention to the program.
- ☐ If is found form the responses of sport officers that the supervision on the performance of the youth football team was poor. Majority of the respondents, i.e 37.5%, expressed that the performance of youth projects was supervised two times per a year and only 25% of the respondents claimed that the supervision has taken place 3-5 times a year. From the above data's it is clear to understand that the number of supervision held is not adequate to know the level of performance of the youth football, to know how the training is going and find solutions for existing challenges of the . Follow up of the program present performance motivates both coaches and athlete.
- ☐ A total of 62.5% of sports officers stated that they have been supporting the team through technical support and another 37.5% of sports officers they are supporting the team through psychological support. Regarding with the adequacy of the support, 75% of the sports officers claimed that it was not sufficient in all aspects. Whereas 25% of the sports officers responded as the support given for the youth footballers were partially adequate.

### **Findings during Interview**

During the semi-structured interview the twelve coaches of the youth football programmes have responded to the interviewer question in the following way. Only ten coaches have possessed the coaching manuals to train the players in the youth football programmes. Concerning the four game components of football and utilization of methodology, nine coaches have responded that the coaching manuals contain only contents such as technique, tactics and physical fitness, excluding psychological aspects and the methodology of coaching, while three coaches responded that they had no knowledge of the four contents of training and methods of coaching.

With regard to the upgrading course and its relation to youth football developments, 8 out of eight project coaches (67%) were not attended upgrading courses and four (33%) of the coaches responded that they had attended upgrading courses to improve their coaching competence. In addition, with respect to the upgrading course, the majority of the coaches replied that the courses given were not categorized to the age level of the players and its relation with youth football development was limited. With respect to professional support given from the concerned bodies, the majority of the respondents indicated that the supervision given to provide professional support for projects is very limited. It was not more than one or two times per year. Generally, they agreed that the youth project had no attention.

In relation with the supply of facilities and equipment, the majority of the coach respondents responded that the training courts are available but lack quality. According to the respondents some of the courts were not convenient for training as they were rough and cause injuries on athletes and reduce the performance and movement of the ball. In addition, regarding equipment, the majority of the respondents responded that there were a scarcity of training equipment such as balls, jerseys, shirts, shin guards and boots at large. The role of facility and equipment in the development of football and improvement of performance is indisputable. According to Thomas Reilly (1998, 135), in all levels of football, the equipment used has a major effect on the way the game is played.

## **6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The general objective of this study was to investigate the problems of youth football projects in Benishangul Gumuz with specific reference to Kamash and metakel zone and to suggest possible recommendation to the problems the youth footballs have faced. To get researchable answer for the basic research questions raised in chapter one, different data collection method were employed. And the collected data were analyzed through percentage. So that, based on the listed finding the general summery of the research were drawn as follows;

1. Absolute majority (100%) of the coaches, athletes and football federation executive committee involved in the program were male where female participation as coach, as trainees and federation members were limited. This shows that the longstanding gender inequalities in coaching as an athlete and federation members.
2. The majorities of the coaches took the short term course which has no relation with coaching youth footballers based on their age brackets. In addition, the courses they took did not incorporate the methodology of coaching and all game components to train the youth. .
3. The absolute majorities of the coaches (100%) were given the coaching manual by the concerned bodies. Even though the coaching manual was given for the coaches, half of the coach were (50%) use the coaching manual during practice, but some times. And the other half is evenly split between those who use the coaching manual regularly or not at all. In addition the majority (75%) of the coaches responded that the coaching manuals contain only contents such as technique, tactics and physical fitness, excluding psychological aspects but were not incorporated the methodology of coaching, while two (25%) coaches responded that they had no knowledge of the four contents of training and methods of coaching. And majorities of the coaches that ranges to 87.5% agreed that the coaching manual does not contain age related coaching system.
4. As long as competition is concerned, majorities of the coaches,' athletes, football federation executive committee prove that the level of competition available for the youth football was widely at national level. In addition, majorities of the coaches, athletes and concerned bodies agreed that there was no match organized per a year to assess the level of performance of youth footballers and projects, as well.
5. With respects to number and duration of training session majorities of the coaches that ranges to 87.5% prove that training days went for three days per a week. But 13.5% of the youth footballers agreed that the training goes four times per a week. Regarding duration of training session, the opinion of the coaches and athletes were different. Majorities of the coaches suggested that duration of training session depends on content of training.
6. Supervision and evaluation players and project performance are a key role to perceive the strength and weakness of the projects statues. As the study indicates majorities of the coaches (62.5%), (75%), BG football federation executive committee and (37.5) sport officers suggested that there were no supervision. It shows that there was a serious problem as far as

supervision is concerned to provide support and evaluate the performance of the players and the projects.

7. With respect to facility and equipment, as the result of the study indicates majority of the study's group (62.5%) disagree the training courts were not convenient to conduct training though the training equipment provided for the program is not adequate, majority of the respondents proved that the quality of the equipments were very low.
8. Coaching fees and coaching uniform are some of the factors that can motivate the coaches and the trainees as well. As the study shows majority of the coaches that ranges to (87.5%) agreed that they were not given coaching uniform. In addition, concerning the caching fees, the result of the study shows (62.5%) of the coaches responded as less payment and 37.5% said very less payment
9. The study revealed as the that the most important factors which hinders and obscure the development of youth for balers are lack of overall support, lack of good communication among stakeholders low attention given for the program, knowledge of the coaches and scarcity of training materials.

## **Conclusion**

Though the researcher of this study does not dare to make generalization relaying on small sample population, giving attention on the production of youth athlete seems to be a highly influential and national wide matter. Therefore, based on the major finding of the study, the following general conclusions were drawn

1. The study found that the majority of the youth involved in youth football project training were male. The attention given to involve the female counterpart is so poor that it is against Ethiopian sport policy.
2. As long as the educational background of the coaches and sport officers were concerned, most of them had passed through a recommended educational background except a few of the coaches. Youth football coaches who were assigned to coach youth footballers have got the first and 2<sup>nd</sup> level coaching license to coach, most of them were not given the opportunity to upgrade and improve their coaching competence. In addition the coaching course they have attended were not incorporated methodology which helps the coaches to communicate and to conduct the training.

3. Coaching manual is one of the coaching aid materials that help the coaches to navigate from one step to another or to coach in a logical progression. Even though, the coaching manuals were dispatched to the coaches; half of the coaches use it during practice, but only sometimes. But half of them were evenly split between those who use it regularly and not at all. In addition, the coaching manual does not incorporate modern methods of coaching and age related coaching systems.
4. Competition is a central element in a player development and helps the coaches to know the level of performance of athletes. As the result of the study ascertained, the amount of competition and match organized for the program were below the recommended numbers per a year. The recommended numbers of the game for these age levels about thirty times per a year as indicated in chapter two.
5. Although different literatures in the area have recommended number of training per a week and duration of the training session, the number of training days per a week and length of training session lacks uniformity and inconsistency for the same age groups.
6. The study has found that the problems that hinders and obscure the development and success of youth projects are lack of overall support, lack of communication among stakeholders, low attention given, and knowledge of the coaches and scarcity of training materials.
7. The provision of Equipment and convenience of the facilities of coaching to conduct training and quality of materials had been found as poor. This can enforce the players to miss technical and tactical elements that they suppose to acquire. Therefore, the program is week in this regard
8. The study has found that there was a serious problem with respect to supervision and follow up of the program from the concerned bodies. Supervising the program helps to know the weakness and strength of the program. As a result, it is one of the challenges in the development of youth football

### **Recommendation**

This section deals with directing and recommending positive ways of solving the problems and challenges that affect the development and success of youth football projects indicated by the study.

1. As long as educational backgrounds of the coaches are concerned, most of the coaches

have good educational background and 2<sup>nd</sup> level of coaching license. From the time they allotted to the program as a coach, they have not given upgrading courses to improve their coaching competency. Therefore, it is recommended that the concerned bodies have to facilitate the upgrading course to acquaint the coaches with contemporary methods of coaching and methodology of coaching.

2. The research finding has shown that the attention given to supervise and evaluate the program by the concerned bodies is very poor. Evaluating the activities of the coach, knowing the current level of the program, and providing immediate remedies for the challenges in program implementation has not taken place adequately through supervision and follow-up by the concerned bodies. From this point of view there is a gap between coaches and stakeholders in relation with supervision and evaluations as it is the best method to perceive the strength and weakness of the program to come up with new plans for the achievement of the set objectives. Therefore, it is recommended that each of the stakeholders has to inculcate the program of supervision and evaluation in their annual plan to supervise, evaluate and communicate to provide feedback to the coaches for the success of the program.
3. The study has indicated that the convenience of the training court and the adequacy of the training equipment are very poor along with their poor quality. Lack of training materials and inconvenience of training facilities paves a way for the declining of the program performance and encourage drop out of youth from the program. The concerned bodies

have to search a mechanism to solve the problems through raising awareness of the society at large, dealing with different government and non-government organizations and searching for sponsorship to tackle the problems of facilities and equipment.

4. In relation with the number of competitions and match organized, as Richard Alagich(1995:136,263,318 and 411) have recommended amount of the game for the age group between 11-17 years of age is 30 organized game per a year. But in Benishangul-

Gumuz region, there are very few competition recommended for youth soccer program per year as illustrated in this study. Therefore, it is recommended that the concerned bodies should plan and work on this issue seriously by allocating sufficient budgets to solve the problems related to the absence and less number of organized competitions.

5. It is obvious to perceive that how the provision of training-uniforms and appropriate amount of coaching fee can inspire and motivate the coaches to carry out their task effectively and efficiently. Lack of them is seen as a serious problem as identified in the result of this research finding. Therefore, the concerned bodies have to find a way to provide coaching-uniforms on timely and develop a mechanism to improve the coaching fee for the coaches. Otherwise it could make the coaches to give low attention and ultimately to quit the tasks.
6. The study has found that the problems that hinders the outshine and successfulness of youth footballers are lack of overall support, lack of communication among stakeholders, low attention given, knowledge's of the coaches and scarcity of materials. Therefore, it is recommended that the provision of appropriate training materials and organizing appropriate facilities, planning together to foster the program, allotting scheduled meeting program among stakeholders to evaluate the status of the program and facilitating further training for the coaches to improve his/her competency can help to tackle these huge problems of youth football program.
7. The result of the present research vividly shows that the coordination among administrative bodies for the success of the youth football is very week and possible to judge that they are not doing things jointly. Therefore the cooperation of BGFF, BGEB, BG sport commission, parents, coaches, and qualified person in the field of sport may have a paramount importance for the improvement of the program.
8. Finally, the problem under investigation is not as such an easy task to be studied by inexperienced investigators. Thus, the researcher would like to recommend the concerned and interested individual or groups to carry out profound and wider research work on the problems and prospective of youth football program.

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