

Roles of Government and Private Sectors on Football Organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This article provides insight on the roles of government and private sectors in the growth, development and sustainment of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The independence of football organisations cannot be achieved without the influence of departments/bodies who work hard to sustain it. Therefore, this paper provides explanation on the need for both government and private sectors to join hands in ensuring self-determination of football organisations due to its positive impact in Sokoto State. Football organisations are imperative to the growth, development and sustainability of soccer in the world. These organisations play a major role in introducing competitions at different levels. Hence, both government and private sectors should join hands together in order to promote developments such as stadium, dressing room, gym, training centre and referees training. This will also create job opportunity to the teeming unemployed youth, creating and promoting economic opportunity to the Nigerian youths. The growth of football organisation will give people a feeling of unity, joy, hope, solidarity, passion, social connection and love.

Keywords: sociological perspective on football, government sector, private sectors, system theory

INTRODUCTION

Football is considered as one of the most popular sport in the globe (Araújo, Miller, & Manner, 2014). The popularity of football has united the world into one single football nation (Akindes, 2013). The globalisation of different countries in the world with regards to perception on football has change the dynamic nature of social interaction of many countries of the world. Moreover, this opportunity opened ways for social interaction which tends to bring the world very close to each other in positive forms of interaction. Also, a football club or team can travel from one country to

another for the aim of playing a friendly or competitive game. Given this, the gap that existed before in the society on issues related to race, religion, citizenship and language barriers has been reduced (Sterkenburg & Spaaij, 2014). This is because most of the rules and regulations practiced in football organisations across the globe are almost similar in nature (Müller, 2014). These rules and regulations governed the conduct of soccer in all parts of the human societies. Therefore, football institutions have become a universal phenomenon (Giulianotti & Robertson, 2004).

Nigeria is considered one of the promising countries in the world that has benefitted positively from the impact associated with football (Agwubike & Okunbor, 2010). The love associated with football sport is very high among Nigerians. Other than that, Nigerian youths are enthusiastic about soccer sport to the extent that they spend too much time discussing issues related to it than their academic studies (Babikkoi, Abdul-Razak, & Sulaiman, 2012). This love of football sport among Nigerian youths is very interesting and encouraging due to the bond it creates among its patrons. Therefore, it is the duty of football organisations to explore various options to sustain soccer sport due to its positive impact in human society. However, it is imperative to know that the growth, development and sustainment of football organisations that runs football sport depend on the effort of different bodies such as government and private sectors, who invested their resources such as money and physical structure in order to promote the institution forward. Thus, the objective of this article is to provide insight on the roles of government and private sectors in the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

IMPORTANCE OF FOOTBALL ORGANISATIONS

The growth and development of football institutions in the world have changed different aspects of life of its patrons. The existence of strong and capable organisations in the world to run football competitions across the globe has generated quite a number of achievements. Football organisations were able to motivate and encourage peace among its patrons (Anneke, 2010; James & Day, 2014). Supporters tend to develop peaceful coexistence with other fans of different ethnicity, culture, language, race and country. In addition, understanding and good relationship among football fans in the society is surprising. Football fans show understanding and good relationship to patrons that share similar supporting clubs with them. Rojo-Labaien (2014) posits that football sport helps in creating understanding among group members. Similarly, football tends to create unity and

solidarity among its enthusiastic supporters. Fans of different country tend to celebrate when the club they are supporting win a competition. This is done to show unity and solidarity to the club and supporters living within the country where the club or team is located.

Football organisations promote important characteristics in football competitions that could help in the growth and development of human society. Football organisations encourage openness, discipline, cleanliness, respect and transparency among club or team members and their supporters (Ahrne & Brunsson, 2008). These characteristics are encouraging and could go a long way in maintaining a credible and developed society. Each member of a club or team and their supporters must abide by the rules and regulations of football that govern players, officials and supporters behaviour in football competitions. This rules and regulations are most of the time in line with the basic norms of human society. Hence, football sports helps directly or indirectly in teaching players, officials and supporters on morals of how to become respectable members of the society (Sadeghloo & Mokarrami, 2015). This is why system theory argued that the coming together of two independent bodies to assist in the development of another independent department is more productive. Therefore, it is imperatives for government and private sectors to join hands together in the growth, development and sustainment of football organisations due to their positive motivations towards members of the society in general.

The important of society in an attempt to establish an independent football organisation cannot be underestimated. The elements in the football organisation are part and parcel of the larger society. Therefore, it is imperatives for the above organisation to contribute in promoting unity and solidarity among football lovers in the external environment. Hence, the needs to encourage clubs and teams to institute unity, solidarity, discipline and transparency in their attitude towards other clubs, football lovers in the society and the organisation in general. This effort will help in uniting individuals and society and serve as a means for growth and development of the country in the long run.

FOOTBALL ORGANISATIONS IN SOKOTO STATE

Sokoto state is located on latitude 40° to 60° North and longitude 11° 30' to 13° 50' East and North (SSG, 2009). Sokoto State is situated at the North-western part of Nigeria, and it is considered as the centre for Islamic learning and jurisprudence. Sokoto State was a former headquarter of Islamic caliphate of 1804 historic jihad. Moreover, Sokoto State is

predominantly a Muslims community. Sokoto State was transformed into Northern region of Nigeria in 1903, subsequently, North western state in 1967. Later, it was divided into Sokoto and Niger State in 1976. Likewise, Kebbi and Zamfara State were carved out in 1991 and 1996 respectively (Inuwa, Yusuf, & Saibon, 2014). Presently, Sokoto State has 23 local government areas within its domain. The nerve centre of government is situated in the urban Sokoto, which was also divided into three local government areas. These local government areas include Sokoto North, Sokoto South and Wamakko. This article focuses on the Sokoto North local government. The main reason for choosing Sokoto North is because of the presence of State Team, time square and the large number of football organisations such as Grassroots, Association of Football Amateur Gidan Igwai and Youth Form among others that run different forms of soccer competitions in Sokoto State.

Football organisations are critical to the growth, development and sustainability of soccer in Sokoto State. These organisations tremendously help in organising different forms of competitions. Some of these competitions include league for the under 17, 20 and 23 levels, champions league among other activities. These competitions among clubs help in uniting individuals and groups of different ethnicity, religion and educational level. Sometimes, members of a club tend to come from different parts of the city and unite themselves under one umbrella. These members and their officials use everything possible within their reach to protect the aims and objectives of the club. In addition, fans of different clubs feel joy, passion, hope, love and socially interact with each other. This is similar to the findings of Wachelke and Rech (2008) that football fans show emotion and are able to express themselves through watching the game. This means that fans show passion and enjoy watching their club showcasing their talent. Therefore, it is imperative for the government and private sectors to join hands in the growth, development and sustainment of football organisation in Sokoto State due to the passion and love it gives to its spectators.

CHALLENGES OF FOOTBALL ORGANISATIONS IN SOKOTO STATE

Football organisations of Sokoto State played a dominant role in providing various forms of soccer competitions. However, they are faced with the challenges of being unable to provide a sound gift to the winner of any given competition. This issue has been creating a serious conflict between football organisations and the clubs that participated in the

competition. The clubs are complaining a lot because they spend huge amount of money before the end of a competition but the compensation they received did not worth it. Riley (2005) argued that compensation structure played a major role in workers motivation. This means compensation is very important and motivates workers to work very hard. Similarly, football clubs spend money on transportation, referee and his logistics (yellow card, red card and money fines). Hence, the compensation they received will not be able to cover half of what they spend during the competition.

Football organisations in Sokoto State are facing the challenge of infrastructural development. Infrastructures are important to the growth, development and sustainment of football sport (Malfas, Theodoraki, & Houlihan, 2004; Swinnen & Vandemoortele, 2008). Infrastructural development includes stadium, gym, training field and dressing room. These equipments are important and directly or indirectly help football players to achieve their goals. However, lack of the aforementioned infrastructural development is affecting the growth, development and sustainment of football organisations in Sokoto State. The football organisations are supposed to make sure that the above developments are in place before registering a club in a competition. Lack of the above infrastructural developments is detrimental and could de-motivate clubs to work out of this kind of competition. Therefore, this problem is militating against the growth and development of soccer in Sokoto State. In addition, this particular issue is challenging the sustainability of football institutions in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The aforementioned problems prompt the research on the roles of government and private sectors to the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State. The government, through the commissioner of sport need to evaluate this issue and provide a prompt response to this particular problem. Similarly, private sectors need to help in providing financial support and gifts to be presented to a club that won a particular competition.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

System Theory

System theory was developed from the work of Emile Durkheim on social systems as a whole (Robbins, Chatterjee, & Canda, 2006). Durkheim (1984) argued that complex social systems or organisation tends to depends on the division of labour in the maintenance of the whole. Moreover, to sustain the organisation or system as a whole, different parts that compose the system must perform their job based on area of specialisation. Hence,

this theory provides a sociological dynamic through which human social interaction are explained for the sustainability of the organisation. Therefore, the main objective of system theory is to establish a balance with regards to different parts that composed the organisation in order to achieve the aim and objective of the organisation. The existence of different bodies within a system or organisation prompts the needs for all the parts to play their role in ensuring the survival of the whole. Thus, this theory could be applied to the study of the interrelationship of government and private sectors to the growth, development and sustainment of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

Social scientists argued the importance of system theory in the study of interrelationship between different parts for the survival of the organisation as a whole (Friedman & Allen, 2011; Kast & Rosenzweig, 1972; Laszlo & Krippner, 1998). These parts perform their respective job in order to complement the survival of the whole. This relates with the idea of this paper that government and private sectors could join hands together in order to play a significant role in the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The argument of Durkheim was how societies maintained social cohesion which is build based on hardworking of individuals and institutions that hold the system together (Friedman & Allen, 2011).

Therefore, this article employed system theory to explain the impact of government and private sectors in the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria. Both the government and private sectors are two independent bodies that could join hands together in order to develop a single system call football organisation. This will significantly help in the growth, development and sustainment of football organisation as two heads are better than one. However, the inability of one of the above mentioned bodies to contribute positively to soccer organisation may directly or indirectly affect the survival of the football institution as a whole. The importance of each body (government and private sectors) cannot be underestimated in promoting football organisation at large. Therefore, system theory will provide insight on the importance of the interrelationship of government and private sectors to the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON FOOTBALL

The impact of soccer as a social game in human society cannot be

measured. Sociologists argued that soccer gives its patrons the feelings of solidarity towards one another (Bi, 2015; James & Day, 2014). The idea generated from watching football games nowadays is channels towards feelings of belongingness. Some fans tend to feel warm and connected towards some group of people that they have never met before. This, create impersonal social interactions between and among individuals and groups that are not related to each other. Football gives people feelings of connection and togetherness that is not available before. Moreover, it gives people some sense of belonging and love for one another. The social connection developed as a result of football games has dispersed across the globe. People don't feel threatened by travelling from one state to another in order to enjoy the most beautiful game in the world. The issue of racism has reduced tremendously due to the love of the same entertainment in the name of football. Football are delighting and at the same time capturing the minds of its followers in tremendous speed.

Promoting football by both government and private sectors is fundamental to the growth and development of human society. Nowadays, modern societies are becoming more individualistic in nature. Thus, the need for unity and solidarity is necessary for the growth and development of human society. Therefore, football as a game played by both sexes tend to provide youths with solidarity, unity and connection that they so wish (Anneke, 2010). Hence, football provides positive feelings of togetherness towards its patrons. It tends to connect, provide love and understanding among people who share the same goal. The bond created by soccer could exist at different level. First, between individuals, which simply means face to face interaction and second at group level, meaning interaction with external society. Finally, soccer as a game provide good understanding among its followers and at the same time play a major role in addressing conflict between individuals or at group levels. Therefore, the objective of this article is to define the role of government and private sectors to the growth, development and sustainment of football organisation for the betterment of human society.

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN FOOTBALL ORGANISATION

Government and Football Organisations

The effort of Government in growth, development and sustainability of football organisation in the world cannot be overemphasised. Government sector can be defined as publicly funded agencies, enterprises and other

entities that deliver public programs, goods or services (Dube & Danescu, 2011). Crompton (2004) argued that sometimes subsidy was provided to some major leagues in order to support them. Government across the world tends to invest heavily so as to promote growth and development in different organisations that are domiciled in the nation. In addition, Nigerian government show positive attitude by investing in different organisation that exist in the country so as to promote growth and development across the nation. The institutions that benefitted from Government investment are large in number and football organisations were not excluded. Moreover, they used their resources in building different forms of infrastructures such as good stadium, locker rooms, swimming pool that could be used for soccer related activities. Smith (2011) reported that the combination of reform and hard work from the government and Football Federation Australia (FFA) contribute to the development of football in the country. Hence, the government should do everything possible within its power to protect its investments in football. Football is viewed as a game of fashion and entertainment which need avenue that make it worth watching. This avenue sometimes serves as a centre for tourism attraction to the spectators who travel all over the world to watch the beautiful game of soccer. Thus, there is the need for Government to invest heavily in building accommodative infrastructures in order to provide favourable environment for both the local and international who want to play a soccer match. This will help in the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations that run soccer competitions. Football organisation depends on the infrastructural development for soccer games.

Private Sectors and Football Organisations

The impact of private sector on football organisations cannot be underestimated. For a soccer team to be successful, they need a practice field, a gym, locker rooms, a dining hall, living quarters, medical equipments, swimming pool and any other necessity that will promote their goal (Araújo et al., 2014). Football as the number one most popular sport in the world needs resources for day to day activities. The growth and development of different football organisation in the world revolves around their ability to solicit for funds from investors. Thus, investors play a major role in ensuring the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations. Therefore, there is need for football organisation to tighten their grid to look for investors in different part of the world so as to promote their objectives. Lack of investment in football organisation leads to poor

infrastructure, and this may affect players' motivation and commitment towards achieving the aims and objectives of the institution (Pujals & Vieira, 2002). Besides that, quality of infrastructures was found to be a factor that influence high school athletics to perform positively in their events (Letawsky, Schneider, Pedersen, & Palmer, 2003). This indicated that the roles play by the private sectors in one way or the order help in addressing issues associated with football organisation.

Private sectors are important element in the growth and development of football organisation in Sokoto State. This group of people play a dominant role in supporting football organisation with financial help in order to address all issues related to the affairs of the committee (Franck, 2010). Piercey (2011) reported that when the Netherlands travelled to 2010 Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) World Cup in South Africa, they were sponsored by private sectors. Some of these private sectors include international sport wears companies, banks, energy suppliers, beer companies, car manufacturers and travel agents. This shows that private sectors provide football organisation with necessary support and motivation in running different programs of the institution. Hence, it is important to have private sector who engage in football related issues. The prompt effort of private sector into football organisation tends to help in addressing challenges face by the institution in running football competitions across the city. Thus, private sector effort in addressing issues related to football organisation help in attracting and retaining the spectators of the game. In a nutshell, private sectors are individuals or group of individuals who help in the growth, development and sustainability of football organisation. Therefore, this article provides insight on the roles of government and private sectors in the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State, Nigeria.

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTORS EFFORT IN FOOTBALL ORGANISATIONS

Government and private sectors play a major role in ensuring the independence of football organisation in the world. The combination of both organisations helps tremendously in the growth, development and sustainment of football activities in a given country. This includes:

1. Both government and private sectors help in the infrastructural development. This is evident in most countries where the most patronize sport is played.

2. Both government and private sectors join hands together in order to invest heavily in the sport competitions. Successful sport competition comes with economic opportunities.
3. Both government and private sectors helps in creating job opportunity among teeming unemployed youth. Infrastructure needs regular maintenance which opens an opportunity for job creation.
4. In addition, government and private sectors contribution to football sport can lay a background for other international bodies to join same. The contribution will serve as the image of the government and private sectors towards football sport in the country.
5. Finally, government and private sectors helps in promoting culture during football competitions. This is evident wherever a mach is being played among two different countries.

CONCLUSION

Football organisations are imperatives to the growth, development and sustainability of soccer in Sokoto State. These organisations play an important role in organising different forms of football competitions at various levels. They also involves in running day to day activities in the football institution. Football organisation encourages love, understanding, solidarity, unity and belongingness among members of the society that share the same passion. Despite the important role played by this institution, it is suffering from lack of support from both government and private sectors in Sokoto State. This problem is affecting the compensation received by clubs participating in various competitions across the state. In addition, lack of government and private sectors in football organisation in Sokoto State is challenging the quality of football fields, dressing rooms and training camp used in playing games. Therefore, the above problems are militating against the growth, development and sustainability of football organisations in Sokoto State. Therefore, there is the need for prompt response from government and private sectors in Sokoto State to address the above rising problems for the growth, development and sustainability of football games and society in general.

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