

## STATUS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECT OF YOUTH SPORT TRAINING CENTERS IN SOME SELECTED REGIONS IN ETHIOPIA

**GEMECHU BEKER TUFA**

*Department of Sport Science, Jimma University, Jimma, ETHIOPIA.  
Email: geme.ok@gmail.com*

**How to cite this article:** Tufa, G.B. (March, 2015). Status, challenges and prospect of youth sport training centers in some selected regions in Ethiopia. Journal of Physical Education Research, Volume 2, Issue I, 32-39.

**Received:** January 24, 2015

**Accepted:** March 20, 2015

### ABSTRACT

*The intent of this study is to assess the status, challenges and prospect of Ethiopian youth sport training centers in some selected regions. The research was made Oromia, South Nation Nationalities and People regional state, Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa as the sites of this study. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches particularly a descriptive survey were employed as they were found to be appropriate for answering the basic research questions. Pertaining to the sample size of population for the study (N=522) athletes, coaches, sport experts and Sport Administrators were participated. Concerning instruments of data gathering interview, questionnaire, focus group discussion and observation were be triangulated to enrich the validity of the tools. Data gathered by these instruments were organized in form table and frequency and percentage were used. The finding of study indicates that all athletes in the youth training centers were selected from sport competitions and there is no scientific methods of selecting sport talents in those sport training. Even though school and residence areas are special place for youth sport training for many Ethiopian youth currently sport playing ground around this area are used for different building construction. Scarcity of facilities, equipment and materials in the training centers also limit the performances of the centers. Furthermore sport organizations such national federations and sports clubs are not highly involving in youth sport training as the needs of the country. Therefore it is very important to follow scientific methods of talent identifications and development in order to produces outstanding athletes and sport commissions ,sport federations ,sport clubs and all stake holders should work together to establish new youth training policies structures and development in all parts of the country.*

**Keyword:** Youth sport training status, challenge, prospect.

---

**Correspondence:** Gemechu Beker Tufa, Lecturer, Department of Sport Science, Jimma University, Jimma, ETHIOPIA, Tel: +0913109862, Email: geme.ok@gmail.com

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Recently sport have been recognized as a powerful means to promote education, health, culture sustainable development and peace by many organizations including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and United Nations Office of sport for Development and peace Numerous policy papers claim that sport contributed to society in terms of social inclusion and development of social capital for example, interview paper, Bailey (2005) identified the five areas of physical health, cognitive and academic development, mental health, crime reduction of truancy and distention as area where sport makes contributes to society.

Sports can contribute to the development of personal and social values that very important in the educational process of the child and youngster. These included commitment, perseverance, personal responsibilities within the group, team work, respecting the rules, respecting others and learning to compete (Maurizo, 2000). Apart from the values already mentioned above, sport can help young future adults to acquire psychological resource such as cognitive development self –controls , self- esteem and self- confidence that can be very useful not only in sports but also in their life in general.

Thus, rapidly increasing popularity of sport has created a high demand for further expansion and development. Currently they are many youth sport training centers in Ethiopia .these youth sport training centers found almost in all regions. However, the majorities of centers found in Oromai, South Nation Nationalities and peoples, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administrations .

These sport centers encompass different sport events including athletics, basketball, football, handball and others. however currently there are only three sport events (athletics, basketball and football) in which the trainings are undergoing in different age categories as a result of popularity of these events while the other are getting weaken from time to time. Sport could be developed and expand further when government, administrator’s police makers, scholars, & others stake holders work jointly .however there are huge gap between these stake holders .this includes absence of well organized sport strategies and polices ,shortage of sport infrastructure such as sport courts and track, lack of sport materials and equipment, absence of scientific training procedures and talent detection methods .in addition there are shortage of well trained man power and weak administration and supervision. Furthermore there is no sufficient research finding in the area of youth sport training centers in Ethiopia particularly in these four regions (Oromia, South Nation Nationalities and Peoples, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa City administrations).

However in the absence of sufficient research findings in the area of youth sport training development in Ethiopia efforts will made to assess, current

status, challenges and future prospective youth sport training centers. Therefore this investigation will play very crucial role in creating awareness about youth sport training centers in Ethiopia. In this endeavor attempts were made to briefly consider the theoretical and practical conception to examine the challenges of youth sport training in Ethiopia. It's also expected that this study will provided valuable support in youth sport training in Ethiopia for further investigations and studies.

## **2. METHODS AND MATERIALS**

### **2.1 Research Design**

The nature of the data generated to undertake this study lends itself to both qualitative and quantitative approaches particularly to cross-sectional study design. The researcher employed descriptive survey as his method of the study because it provided the research with detailed description of existing conditions about the problem under investigation.

### **2.2 The Research Context**

As regards the research context, the researcher chosen federal Democratic Republics of Ethiopia and thus four Regions namely Oromia, South Nation Nationalities and People, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa city administration will include in the study. These four areas were selected based on their high numbers of youth sport training centers and contributions of athletes for Ethiopian national team particularly in these three events (athletics, basketball and football).

### **2.3 Population of the Study**

The research population included a range of respondents, namely four regions (Oromia, South Nations Nationalities and Peoples, Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa City Administration youth training centers athletes, coaches, federal and regional sport Administrators and sport experts from respected centers and some higher institution.

### **2.4 Sampling Techniques**

In order to select sample from the target population, the researcher were used two sampling strategies the first strategies is random sampling techniques. This used to select number of athletes. The athletes were selected based their participation on regional and national sport competitions and festival. The second sampling

techniques were availability sampling methods for coaches, sport administrator and sport experts' accordingly.

## **2.5 Data Gathering Instruments**

There is deep conviction that there is merit in using more than one instrument as they supplement each other to general credible data accordingly, the researcher were employed questionnaires interview, focus group discussion and observation as tools of requisite information procurement.

### **2.5.1 Questionnaire**

Questionnaires with closed ended of open-end items was developed for both athletes and coaches. The questionnaires were raised different questions concerning youth sport training, particularly about current status, major challenges, problems and future of fate these centers.

### **2.5.2 Interview**

To supplement information procured through questionnaires the researcher adopted a semi-structural interview. Semi-structured interview were held with federal and Regional sport administrators or leaders.

### **2.5.3 Focus Group Discussion**

Focus group discussions were held with expert and scholars of sport science on the issues of youth sport training principles and procedures with reference to scientific approaches. In addition this document that supposed to provide the necessary information about: training manuals, polices strategy, plan, budget, result, profile, rank of trained man power were discussed with those experts and scholars.

### **5.5.4 Observation**

Observations were focus on sport infrastructures, facilities and equipments that related youth sport training centers. Observation check list was prepared to increase the reliability of the data and conducted for three days each in all selected training centers.

## **2.6 Validation of Instruments**

To ensure the validity of the instruments questioners and interview will prepared in three languages namely English Amharic and Afan Oromo, this is because language diversity of participant particularly athletes. In addition the researcher was invited language experts for their comments and criticism. Based on the feedback obtained from experts some improvement and modification was made.

Furthermore, this four data gathering tools, namely, questionnaire interview focus group discussion & observation will be triangulated for the purpose of enhancing the validity & verification of data generated.

## **2.7 Procedures of Data Gathering**

Indoor to obtain valid data from research participants the investigator was used three assistant data collectors with qualification of MSc (one person) and BSc (two persons) degree holders.

## **3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

According to response of athletes' all athletes (100%) were selected to join sport training centers through competitions. No single athlete joins the training center through talent identification process. The response from coaches and sport scholars also strengthen this point since there are no trends to select sport talents from childhood like the experience of other country. Even, the new established Ethiopian youth sport academy also still following the old methods of selecting athletes for training in different categories.

This indicates that those athletes who cannot get chance of competitions could miss the chance to join the youth training centers.

As noted from respondent athletes 155(43.6%) of the athletes are involved in sport activities begin to involved residence area while 200(56.4%) of them start playing sport in school. This shows that both residence and school areas play important roles for talent identifications & decadent of the athletes.

Concerning youth sports training centers absolute majority of the athletes response are not satisfy with facilities and comfortable of youth sport training since 250(70%) strongly disagree, 100(28%) disagree and only 5(2%) agree. From the observation of youth sport centers in some parts of Ethiopia it's noticed the almost all of training centers are not comfortable and well equipped in all appropriate materials and facilities. 190 (52%) strongly disagree, 150(42%) disagree and only 15(5%) agree on the availability of materials and equipment. Athletes also asked about the security and safety training centers and responds 100(28%) strongly disagree and 205(72%) disagree. According the interview response of sport administers in some youth sport training centers some problem were existed this includes unnecessary pregnancies of youth athletes in few

centers and difficulty of continuous supervision. Shortage budget, scarcity of materials and facilities.

From response of, coaches, sport administrators and scholars of sport science concerning the youth sports training centers some challenges were identified. one of these challenge is shortage sport fields in residence and schools areas in the previous one they are a lot open field that were used as playing grounds of different sport events for many youths and adults. However these areas are now changed to different construction. According to information of sport administers in the capital city of the country more 40 open sport play grounds are now changed to building constructions the same is true for other town and village throughout the nation. The second challenges raised by participants of study were the curriculum of sport science in the primary and secondary school .according to some expert of sport science the curriculum primary and secondary school also influence the involvement of students in sport activities since there is only single period for primary and secondary school and the school the special place to find sport talents as experience of other countries. The third issues of where the structures and organization of Ethiopian sports institutions, sport academy and national sport organization like federation, sports clubs and sport associations are not function as expected.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

According to the finding of this study the following conclusion are drawn:

- All athletes of youth sport training centers selected from different sport competitions and there is no scientific sport talent identification development practice the country. Therefore athletes who have sport talents but did not get competitions opportunity will miss out.
- Absolute majority of athletes begin their sport career at residence and school however huge scarcity of sport infrastructures and facilities are occurred. Since many local sports playing ground and fields are changed to construction of different building in both schools and residence area.
- Only one sport academy there for eighty millions for population. This academy also train few athletes for short period of time and other youth sport centers is not equipped all necessary personal, materials and facilities as need of the country.
- Structures of National sport organization such sport federation and sport clubs are not highly involved in youth sport talent identification and development of athletes with various sport events and categories.

- The training methods and principle in most of youth sport training centers are more old traditional methods only limited training centers are practice scientific and up-to-date training.

## 5. REFERENCES

- Brustad, R.J. (1992). Integrating socialization influences into the study of children's motivation in sport. *Journal Sport and Exercise Psychology*, 14, 59-77.
- Coakley, J.L. (2004). *Sport and society: Issues and controversies* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). St. Louis: Times Mirror/Mosby.
- Côté, J., & Hay, J. (2002). Family influences on youth sport performance and participation. In J.M., Silva, & D., Stevens (Eds.), *Psychological Foundations of Sport* (pp. 503-519). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
- Csikszentmihalyi, M., Rathunde, K., Whalen, S., & Wong, M. (1993). *Talented teenagers: The roots of success and failure*. NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Ericsson, K.A. (1996). *The road to excellence: The acquisition of expert performance in the arts, sciences, sports, and games*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Ewing, M.E., & Seefeldt, V. (2002). Patterns of participation in American agency-sponsored youth sports. In F.L. Smoll, & R.E. Smith (Eds.), *Children and Youth in Sport* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.
- Gould, D., & Petlichkoff, L. (1988). Participation motivation and attrition in young athletes. In F.L. Smoll, R.A. Magill, & M.J. Ash (Eds.), *Children in sport* (3rd ed.). (pp.161-178). Champaign IL: Human Kinetics.
- Hellison, D. (1995). *Teaching responsibility through physical activity*. Champaign IL: Human Kinetics.
- Hill, G.M., & Simons, J. (1989). A study of the sport specialization on high school athletics. *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*, 13(1), 01-13.
- Hodge, K.P. (1989). Character-building in sport: Fact or fiction? *New Zealand Journal of Sports Medicine*, 17(2), 23-25.
- Howe, M.J.A. (1999). *The psychology of high abilities*. Washington Square, NY: New York University Press.
- Malina, R.M., & Cumming, S.P. (2003). *Current status and issues in youth sports*. Monterey, CA: Coaches Choice.
- Seefeldt, V., Ewing, M., & Walk, S. (1992). *Overview of youth sports programs in the United States*. Washington, DC: Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development.
- Weiss, M.R., & Ferrer-Caja, E. (2002). *Motivational orientations in youths sports*.

Tufa, G.B. (March, 2015). Status, challenges and prospect of youth sport training centers in some selected regions in Ethiopia. *Journal of Physical Education Research*, Volume 2, Issue I, 32-39.

---

In Horn, T. (Ed.). *Advances in sport psychology* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) (pp. 101-183)  
Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

## **6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First of all author would like to thank Jimma University, College of Natural Science for the financial support made to undergo this study. My deep appreciation also goes to my wife and my kid for their encouragement and patience while I am using their time in writing this paper.

JOPER