

Challenges and Prospective Development of Basketball in Oromia Regional State

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Abstract

The central objective of this study is to assess the challenges and prospective development of Basketball in Oromia Regional State. The research made Jimma, Adama and Asella 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. Instrument of data collection included questionnaire, interview and document analysis. Pertaining to the sample population for the study, Basketball Players Coaches, and Sport Administrators (N=69) were involved. The result indicates that there are huge gap as regards to the development of basketball. According to the finding of the study, there are lack of trained man power sound policies and strategies. The result also revealed a shortage of budget, facilities, equipments and other necessary materials at the sample zones of Oromia Regional State. Problems of communication and continuous material, logistic and moral support from Region Sport Commission and National Federation were identified be side. Furthermore the study revealed the training system is not up to date and scientific and they don't use training aid material in order to support, the training that delivered by coaches .finally of absence of basketball clubs, and shortage of basketball competitions at various sex and age categories. To this end Oromia Region Sport commission and Federal sport authorities have to make all necessary provision urgently to develop and expand basketball sport, in order to produce talented and outstanding athletes both at regional and national level.

Key word; Basketball, Challenge and Prospect

1. Introduction

Now a day's sport has become a popular activity among the youngsters and adults in Ethiopia. Above all interest Basketball has been grown in the country over the years. Basketball is a game which played by two teams with five players each (FIBA 2010). Unlike baseball, football, soccer, ice hockey and all the other major team sports, basketball cannot claim a history of evolutionary development that began back in ancient or medieval times. Basketball was literally created overnight, the result of an assignment posed by a physical education teacher in December 1891 at a Young Men's Christen Association (YMCA) training cover in spring field, Massachusetts. A Canadian student, James Naismith (1861-1939), rose to challenge of constructing an active indoor winter game that would prove attractive to young men. He typed up a rudimentary set of rules, has a janitor nail up peach baskets along the railing at each end of the spring field gym, and invited his colleagues to toss soccer ball into one of the two baskets. Basketball also went visible international in 1930s. At the hands of YMCA Enthusiasts, the game had been introduced all over the world shortly after its creation. By 1930, fifty nations had adopted the sport. Despite the economic hard ships, representatives from Asia and Africa as well as Europe convened in 1932 to form the International Federation of Amateur Basketball (FIBA). Chinese and Japanese students who had learned the game from YMCA missionaries before World War I introduced basketball at the University of Berlin in the mid-1930s. Nazi propogandists over looked the game's YMCA origins and gave it their stamp of approval on the grounds that basketball required not only speed and stamina but also an aggressive spirit that allegedly characterized the true Germany.

In Oromia Regional State also Basketball is one of the popular sports that played at various age, sex and categories level. This popular sport has a lot of social, economical and psychological significance in producing physically and mentally developed generation.

Basketball can contribute to the development of personal and social values that are very important in the educational process of the child and youngsters. This includes commitment, perseverance, and personal responsibilities within the group, team work, respecting the rules, respecting others, and learning to compete (Maurizo, 2001).

This, rapidly increasing popularity of basketball has created a high demand for further expansion and development. An Oromia Regional state is known as main sources of many outstanding athletes and strong competitive region in sport like athletics football volleyball and basketball in Ethiopia. However in recent year unlike other sports such as athletics football and volleyball basketballs weaken from time to time. Different scholars mention various factors that can hinder the development of sports According to Sahile (2001), availability of sport facilities and equipments, sport talent identification and developments has a tremendous effect on the development and popularity of a given sport

Basketball could be developed and expand further when government administrators, scholars official, community and other stakeholders work jointly. However, in the absence of research finding, in the area of Basketball development Ethiopia and Oromia regional state in particular. Efforts were made to explore challenges and prospective development of Basketball in Oromia region. In this, endeavor attempts are also made to briefly consider the theoretical and practical conception to examine the challenges of Basketball in Oromia.

This study would therefore, attempts to suggest some attainable alternatives of to develop basketball in the region. It is expected that, this study would provide valuable support in improving the development of Basketball in Oromia Regional State.

In this ever-changing world, sport and sport-related activities have wide impact on society and community at various age and sex. Among different sports basketball play important role in creating social interaction between diverse societies, recreations, health and well being respecting rule and opponents leisure and high participation and success in international competition and tournaments.

In regional state of oromia basketball sport plays a central part in life of the society for long years .However , in recent year some gap exist in basketball sport popularity and the result of the regions in national sport competition there is no scientific finding and information concerning basketball sport in the regions . Therefore, this study will benefits regional governments who can create or revise sport polices based upon the results .National and regional sports federations, sports clubs, sport associations, government and non government sports organization, will also benefits from the finding of the study
Basketball has multi dimensional hindrances that could affect its rapid developments and popularity.

Due to these above reasons, the researcher believed that the proposed study which addresses the challenges and problems of basketball development in Oromia Regional State is timely and relevant.

Research Questions

1. What are the major factors that hinder the development of basketball in Oromia Region?
2. Are there necessary and appropriate equipments, facilities and resources in sufficient amount?
3. Are there appropriate support and communication between sport administrators and stakeholders?
4. What are the current statuses of basketball development in the region?

2. Review of Literature

2.1. Basketball Origins

Unlike basketball, football, soccer, ice hockey and all the other major team sports, baseball cannot claim a history of evolutionary development that began back in ancient or medieval times. Basketball was literally created overnight, the result of an assignment posed by a physical education teacher in December 1891 at a Young Men's Christen Association (YMCA) training cover in spring field, Massachusetts. A Canadian student, James Naismith (1861-1939), rose to challenge of constructing an active indoor winter game that would prove attractive to young men. He typed up a rudimentary set of rules, has a janitor nail up peach baskets along the railing at each end of the spring field gym, and invited his colleagues to toss soccer ball into one of the two baskets.

Most of Naismith's original thirteen rules where designed to prevent players from running with the ball and tackling, blocking, triggering or hitting each other as they had learned to do in outdoor football. A "foul" sent a player momentarily to the sideline, and three consecutive foul counted a goal. The first game consisted of two 15 minute halves, with 5 minutes rest between. Naismith's physical education class numbered 18, so game played on each team. Players had to pass the ball; no dribbling was allowed at first

2.2. Development of Basketball

Within its first decade basketball underwent dramatic change, dribbling quickly become an acceptable means of moving the ball around the court. Standard team size was readjusted to seven, and finally set at five. The value of a field goal, originally set at three points was changed to two point focus shots, too counted three at first but were soon changed to one.

Equipments also changed. By 1895 the old soccer ball was replaced by a slightly larger leather covered basketball. Peach baskets gave way to mesh-wire baskets with springs and pulleys that releases the ball and finally to a bottomless cord fixed to iron rim.

This consolidation of basketball rules and style of play occurred despite several early changes of the administrative guard. For the game's first four years, James Naismith over saw the development of his creation. In 1895, however, Naismith left spring field for Medical school and a YMCA job in Denver, largely leaving the supervision of basketball to his old spring field colleague, Luther Gulick (1861-1918). Within the following year, Gulick and the YMCA pass the Mantle of guardianship over the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Committed to amateur "gentlemanly" sport, the AAU required players and teams to pay a fee and "register" their intention to comply with the amateur code and to compete only against other registered teams

2.3. Basketball in Africa

Though it is not documented when and where basketball was first played in Africa. It is estimated that it was introduced by missionaries possibly Americans. It was a favorite and enjoyable game for African's that the game was popular in a short period of time.

2.4. Progress of Basketball in Africa

The rate of development of basketball popularity and playing techniques within the African countries varies with geographical location. The Arab Nation in the north had a time advantage over the countries of south Sahara. The earlier introduction of the game in the northern part of the continent is due to undoubtedly, to its proximity to Europe where the sport has been developed to a high degree of proficiencies for several years. Closeness to Europe allows also for more international competition with neighboring European for Mediterranean countries such as Italy, France and Spain where the game played over a longer period of time.

The competition or matches played with teams from those countries were not often won by the Africa players but the teams profited from their exits in offense and defense strategy.

The African Association of Basketball Federation was organized at a meeting in Cairo which took place from June 11-14, 1961. During this historic meeting representative were presented from the national basketball federation of Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Zambia, Sieraleon, Sudan, Togo, Upper Volta and Egypt. Egypt is one of those African countries who introduce basketball for the first time in Africa. In addition to this Egypt is the first African country to participate in International Basketball competition. In 1936 an Egyptian team took part in basketball competition that was held in Berlin Olympiad.

In Africa, the first International basketball competition was held in Egypt (Cairo) in the year 1949. And in that competition an Egyptian team was a champion.

Today, it is not surprising to see basketball courts being constructed in villages and cities in any part of Africa despite the lack of international experience in some sections.

As the younger generations becomes acquainted with this fast and excising sport.

2.5. Future of Basketball in Africa

The future of basketball in Africa is very promising. The dynamic force behind the development and growing popularity of the sport of basketball in Africa is organization known AABF which means the African Association of the Basketball Federation. (AABF), working in cooperation with FIBA. The International Amateur Basketball Federation, to promote Basketball on a National as well as international level.

2.6. Basketball in Ethiopia

Basketball was first introduced in Ethiopia in the year 1946-47 (1939 E.C). it was first played in the Teferi Mekonnen (Entoto Comprehensive) and Hailesilasse (Kokebe Tsebah) secondary schools. It was introduced by physical education teachers who came from Canada.

Beginning from 1950-51, basketball became popular in most primary and secondary school of Addis Ababa. To this effect, Addis Ababa Inter-school Association included basketball in the inter-school competition which was held every year during that time. Later on physical education instructors of Addis Ababa University College and other colleges, coupled with members of Juventus club organized the competition programs of basketball in Addis Ababa.

These programs were conducted in ancient cinema hall which was found in the present day Science Faculty of Addis Ababa University. This greatly contributed for an increased popularity of the game as well as number of participant teams. As a result, the Arat killo YMCA (now Arat killo sports training center). Organized a team and registered as an additional team members.

While the competition programs were expanded, the above motioned cinema hall was destroyed for some other purpose. Hence, the competition place was transferred to Etege Hotel compound (Now Awraris Hotel) where the present day National Lottery building exists. The basketball court which was made in this hotel was made of red ash and it had light even to serve at night.

The Addis Ababa Basketball Federation was established in the year 1950-51 (1943 E.C). Beginning from this year, the federation has been organizing the annual basketball competition in Addis Ababa. Following this then Arat Killo Y.M.C.A. and Olympics club (which was found at Bole road), prepared a basketball court for each of them. As a result of this, the competition place was transferred from Etege Hotel to these two places. And all the competition programs were conducted in these two courts inter changeably.

The Ethiopian Basketball Federation was established in the year 1953-54 (1946 E.C), since having five Federations is compulsory for a country to be a member of International Olympic committee (IOC) as participant member of the modern Olympic games. Consequently, Ethiopia became a member of International Olympic committee and participated in the modern Olympic games for the first time at Melbourne Olympiad in the year 1956 (1948 E.C).

Being established as a Federation, the Ethiopian Basketball Federation becomes a member of the Federation of International Basketball Association (FIBA). To this effect, Ethiopian participated in the first African Basketball competition in the year 1962 (1954 E.C). This was the first time for Ethiopia to participate in International Basketball Competition. Being a participant in the first African basketball competition, Ethiopia became one of the founding members of African Basketball confederation.

The Ethiopian basketball team who participated in the first African basketball competition brought unsatisfactory result. Following this, it is believed that the attitude of Ethiopians towards basketball declines.

In the year 1975-76(1968 E.C.) the Ethiopian sports commission was newly reorganized. Along with this, the Ethiopian basketball federation has been exerting persistent effort to make basketball more popular and favorite game for Ethiopians.

3. Methods and Materials

3.1 Research Design

The researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches particularly to a descriptive survey as his method of study because it provided the research with detailed description of the existing conditions and about the problem under investigation.

3.2 Participants

As regards the research participants, the researcher has chosen players, coaches and sports administrators' from three Oromia Regional states zones(Jimma ,Adama and Asella)

3.3 Population and Sampling Strategy

The research population included a range of respondents, namely Basketball coaches sport administrator, and Basketball players. Total population numbers of players are seventy five (75) and 60 respondents were selected from all the sample of the study sites with random sampling techniques with reference to their participation in all Oromian all games competition. That is 60 players (twenty from each zone) 6 coaches (two from each zone) 3 sport administrator (one higher official from each) one from Oromia Region Sport Commission was included.

3.4 Instruments of data collection

There is a deep conviction that there is merit in using more than one instrument as they supplement each other to generate credible data. Accordingly, the researcher employed questionnaires, interview and document analysis as tools of requisite information procurement. Questionnaires' with closed-ended and open-ended items were developed for basketball players. To supplement information procured through questionnaires, the researcher adopted a semi-structured interview for coaches. Print materials like magazines and brochures were collected to supplement to main data in document analysis.

3.5 Methods of Data Analysis

As far as data analysis is concerned, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed. Qualitative method was used to provide detailed description of the data to help the researcher explore and discover inherent facts, while quantitative approach was meant for quantifying data generated in terms of frequencies and percentages using tables.

3.6 Results

From the sampled players 35(75%) of player respondents respond that both region sport commission and national basketball federation do not provide appropriate support for the player and coach. (13)25% of the respondents said that to some extent they received some support from sport commission.

The data obtained from coaches also strengthen the player's response; since almost all of basketball coaches said that sport commission do not provide appropriate support such material, financial educational sport, concerning the course that important for coaches to upgrade their knowledge of the sport.

From the sampled players 58% of the player respondents responded that the support and motivation given to them by their coach is good 29% of the respondents very good, 13% of the respondents excellent and 2% of the player respondents said poor respectively.

From the sampled players explicitly elucidates that the absolute majority 52 (100%) of the respondents respond that there is no good communication and interaction between concerned sport administrators and members of the team. The response obtained from an interview conducted with coach interviewees are in agreement with this fact. According to this coaches said that the administrator's interaction is limited only during competition at zone or region

The current contribution of youth training centers (project) for growth and development of basketball in the region is very low. Since, these projects centers are limited to few areas and their productivity in producing outstanding athletes at regional and national level

In addition to this number of basketball competitions is only limited to all Oromian games hence there is no other competition at various, sex, and age categories level. This also affects the acquisitions of basketball talents at different residence and schools areas. Furthermore the training system is not up to date and scientific and they don't use training aid material in order to support, the training that delivered by coaches. Therefore this can hinder the growth and performance athletes' development in regions. Finally, almost all of basketball coaches have no any access of attending coaching course that enables them to improve and upgrade their knowledge of coaching basketball. In, general the development and growth of basketball in Oromia regional state is very weak and its future popularity and development

4. Conclusions and Recommendation

4.1 Conclusions

Based on the finding of this study, the following conclusion can be draw

- The current contribution of youth training centers (project) for growth and development of basketball in the region is very low. Since, these projects are not in good conditions.
- The number of basketball competitions is only limited to all Oromian games hence there is no other competition at various, sex, and age categories level.
- The training system is not up to date and scientific and they don't use training aid material in order to support, the training that delivered by coaches.
- Almost all of basketball coaches have no any access of attending coaching course that enables them to improve and upgrade their knowledge of coaching basketball. In, general the development and growth of basketball in Oromia regional state is very weak and its future popularity and development very doubtful.

4.2 Recommendations

Based on the finding and conclusion of this study the following recommendations are given:

In order to develop and expand basketball throughout the region the numbers of qualified coaches are very crucial. Therefore, Region and National Sport commission should work jointly in training, and producing outstanding coaches at various categories levels. Hence school is the best source for number of talented and outstanding athletes, it's important to built and fulfill infrastructures such as playing courts, gym, and other necessary facilities and equipments. It is very important for sport commission in working with Regional Education Bureau and Ministry of Education in strength the sport competition and other activities throughout the schools of the regions. It's better to strengthen the contribution of youth training centers (projects) for growth and development of basketball in the region by providing all necessary equipment, facilities and logistic support. In additional to this, the concerned body should open new youth training centers at different parts of the regions. Region sport commission and national federation should hold various basketball competitions at various sex, age and categories level, this enables to produce number of outstanding athletes

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