

Impact of Fund Utilization on Performance of Professional Football Clubs in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to find out the impact of fund utilization on the performance of professional football clubs in Northern Nigeria. To achieve this objective, The population for this study comprised of all players and staff of the professional soccer clubs in the selected states of Northern Nigeria that were fully registered with NFA/NFL, professional league board since 1990. One hundred and eighty three (183) respondents were selected using purposive sampling technique. The respondents include the players, coaches, administrators and managers. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of mean and standard Deviation and inferential statistics of t-test, to test the 6 hypotheses that were formulated. The findings of this study revealed that there was significant impact of funds on performance of football players. It was therefore recommended that sign-on fees ,Match bonuses and allowances should be paid to football players and officials promptly by the entire functional professional football clubs, for effective performance to be maintained.

Keywords: Fund, Impact, Performance Professional, Utilization

Introduction

The tremendous followership and financial gains in soccer throughout the world seem to have made it assume the number one sport in the world. Infact soccer has developed to the extent that, it is often used as an instrument for propagating socio-political and economic emancipation of individuals, institutions and nations (Amusa, 1988).The game of soccer is dynamic as manifested by the keen rivalry exhibited by nations which culminate in the struggle to excel in sport first by European countries and recently by African countries.

The achievement of the Nigeria under 21 team at Russia in 1985, the under 17 kodak cup in China in 1985, the Saudi 1989 World Youth Championship, the 1996 under 23 Atlanta Olympics , that of 1997 UEFA/CAF Meridian cup , under20 World Cup 2005 and World Youth Championship are all attestations to the fact that, proper management of teams ,

players and provision of modern facilities , coupled with the exposure of the players to these resources might have contributed to their successes (Achike, 2009)

In recent years, professional soccer clubs in Nigeria have experienced tremendous challenges which could lead to their rejuvenation and consequently, improved acceptability both locally and internationally. Taking a cue from the above investigation, it can be inferred that Nigerian Professional Football clubs seems to be in the same line of argument. The wide spread of clubs from the North to the Southern parts of Nigeria have the same perennial problems. Well-funded clubs seem to perform well in the local league and in continental championships compared to the underfunded ones. Hence, reasons for the good performance of the peoples Elephant – Eyimba Football club of Aba can be traced to the funds and other incentives always made readily available by the state government. Beside this, they own a stadium for added revenue generation and a handsome sign-on-fees and match bonuses (Crawford, 2005).

Every soccer club in the professional league should be able to have its own assets for effective performance in soccer competition and for marketing purposes. It is in recognition of this that a study of this nature funds allocation and utilization by professional soccer clubs in Northern Nigeria is carried out (Dan, 2002).

Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to find out :

1. Whether funds realized by clubs are been utilized by sports managers
2. If funds realized are managed judiciously for effective performance of players
3. If sign on fees enhances effective performance of clubs
4. Whether training and equipment enhances effective performance of clubs.
5. Whether insurance policies enhances effective performance of clubs.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated for this study:

1. How are funds realized by football clubs in northern Nigeria utilized by the management team of the clubs?
2. Are the funds realized being managed judiciously for effective performance of players in northern football clubs?

3. Do the sign-on-fees given to players enhance effective performance of the clubs in the professional national league and other soccer competitions?
4. Do the training and equipment given to the players enhance effective performance of the clubs in the professional league and other soccer competitions?
5. Do the insurance policies provided for players enhance effective performance of the clubs in the professional national league and other soccer competitions?

Null Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were generated to guide this study:

1. Funds realized by clubs will not significantly influence their utilization by sports managers.
2. Funds realized by clubs will not significantly influence performance of players.
3. Sign-on-fees given to players will not significantly enhance players performance in the professional league.
4. Insurance policies provided to players will not significantly influence their performance.
5. Training equipment provided to players will not significantly influence their performance.

Methodology

This study uses the descriptive research design. The population for this study comprised of all players and staff of the professional soccer clubs in the selected states of Northern Nigeria that were fully registered with NFA/NFL, professional league board since 1990. One hundred and eighty three (183) respondents were sampled for this study using the purposive sampling technique. The instrument was validated by three (3) by three (3) experts in the field of sport management and physical education. Based on their recommendations, the instrument was used for the study. The questionnaire was administered by the researcher and research assistant to the sampled respondents. A modified Likert type Scale questionnaire was used to obtain information from the respondents necessary for the conduct of the research. The data gathered were computed and analyzed using descriptive statistics of Mean and Standard Deviation . Statistical analysis using t-test was used to find out the level of significant difference among the variables.

Results

Null Hypotheses 1: Improper utilization of generated funds by sports managers will significantly influence clubs performance

Table 1: One sample t-test on sports managers utilization of funds on clubs performance

Variable	Mean	SD	SE	Calculated T-value	df	P	t-critical
Fund Utilization	2.40	.42	.035	2.65	141	.009	1.96
Fixed mean	2.500						

The result in table 1 did not reveal that sports managers utilization of funds without regard to the welfare of the players and clubs could effectively enhance the performance of the club. This means that except funds are utilized for the clubs, performance could not be expected to be enhanced. The null hypothesis was rejected.

Hypotheses 2: Judicious management of funds realized by clubs will significantly influence players and clubs performances.

Table 2: One sample t-test on judicious management of funds on players and clubs performance

Variable	Mean	SD	SE	Cal.t Value	df	P	t-critical
Judicious use	2.84	.44	.037	9.11	141	.000	1.96
Fixed mean	2.50						

The mean score in the table indicated that the respondents agreed with the notion that judicious management of funds realized by clubs will significantly influence players and clubs performances. The observed t-value 9.112 compared with 1.96 which stands for the

critical value at 0.05 level of significant. This therefore shows that the hypotheses was retained.

Hypotheses 3: Sign-on-fees to players will significantly enhance players performance in the professional league.

Table 3: One sample t-test on sign-on-fees to players and clubs performance .

Variable	Mean	SD	SE	Cal. T value	Df	P	t-critical
Sign-on-fees	3.44	.46		24.40			
			.038		141	.000	1.96
Fixed mean	2.50						

The t-value (24.40) in the table was greater than the critical value of 1.96 and the observed level of significant is 0.000. This means that the respondents agreed that sign-on-fees to players could significantly enhance players performance in the professional league. The hypotheses was therefore retained.

Hypotheses 4: Insurance policy provided to players will significantly influence professional football players performances in the professional league and other competitions.

Table 4: One sample t-test on effect of insurance to players on clubs performance .

Variable	Mean	SD	SE	Cal. T.value	df	P	t-critical
Insurance policy	2.77	.54					
			.453	5.95	141	.000	1.96
Fixed mean	2.50						

The result in the table above revealed that the respondents agreed that insurance policy provided to players could significantly influence their performances in the professional

league. The observed t-value was 5.95 and the level of significant was 0.000(p 0.05), therefore the hypothesis was retained.

Hypotheses 5: Training facilities and equipment provided for players will not significantly influence their performance in the professional league and other competitions.

Table 5: One sample t-test on effect of facilities and equipment on players and clubs performance

Variable	Mean	SD	SE	Cal. T.value	df	P	t-critical
Facilities/equipment	2.42	.48					
Fixed mean	2.500			t.746	141	.083	1.96

The result in the table above did not reveal any significant difference between the observed mean and the fixed mean. The observed t-value was lower than 1.96 and the level of significant was 0.083 (P 0.05). Hence, the hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion

The findings shows that except funds are utilized for the clubs, performance could not be expected to be enhanced. This findings was supported by Adesanya (1992)who explained that huge amount of money usually spent in sporting programmes makes strict accountability mandatory. The findings also indicate that judicious management of funds realized by clubs would no doubt improve club performance. The findings indicate that insurance policies provided for the players and officials have significant influence on their performance. This is in line with the views of Adesanya (1992), that insurance policies are necessary for optimum performance. The findings also showed that sign on fees to players have significant impact on players while facilities and equipment also plays a significant role .

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. That there is proper utilization of generated funds by sports managers
2. That there is judicious management of funds realized by professional soccer clubs
3. That there is adequate prompt payment of sign-on fees to some professional soccer clubs
4. That the insurance policies provided to professional soccer clubs are adequate.

5. There is inadequate provision of training equipment and facilities provided are sub-standard.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. That sign-on fees, match bonuses and allowances be paid to players and officials promptly
2. Comprehensive insurance policies should be subscribed by the clubs to take care of their players when incapacitated through active service to the club.

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