

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICES AS DETERMINANTS OF SELECTING COACHES FOR NATIONAL SOCCER TEAMS

BY

Nkechiyere Veronica OKAFOR (Ph. D)
Department of Human Kinetics Education,
University of Ibadan, Ibadan
nkechiyereadim810@gmail.com

Adekunle Adelaja ABDUL (Ph. D)
Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education,
Lagos State University of Education, Otto/Ijanikin with a Campus @ Noforija, Epe
abdulaa@lasued.edu.ng

Adewale Olugbemiga ADELEYE (Ph. D)
Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education,
Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago – Iwoye, Ogun State
adewale.olugbemiga@oouagoiwoye.edu.ng

&

Ayobami Alade OKUNDARE (Ph. D)
Department of Human Kinetics & Health Education,
Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago – Iwoye, Ogun State
ayobamiokundare@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research work focused on the socio-economic indices as determinants of selecting coaches for National soccer teams. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design. Purposive sampling technique was used to select five hundred (520) respondents from the National Sports Commission (NSC), Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and Nigerian Premier League (NPL) in Federal capital (Abuja). The instrument used for the study was a self-developed and validated questionnaire with reliability value as 0.72. Data were analysed using non-parametric statistics of chi-square to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. Eight (8) hypotheses were tested, four were found to be significant while four were not. The findings revealed that there was no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the national soccer teams and personality ($X^2_{crit}=7.81$, $X^2_{cal}=1.446$, $P>0.05$), peer influence ($X^2_{crit}=12.60$, $X^2_{cal}=1.665$, $P>0.05$), religious background ($X^2_{crit}=12.60$, $X^2_{cal}=6.345$, $P>0.05$) and Remuneration ($X^2_{crit}=12.60$, $X^2_{cal}=12.60$, $P>0.05$).

calculated 3.735, $P>05$) It was therefore recommended among others that coaches should be selected based on their capability to do the job rather than the use of quota system so as to achieve optimal result, and also get the best coaches for the National teams. It was also recommended among others that they should be educated to a level that they are able to communicate the right thing to the National teams.

Introduction

The selection of National team Coaches for Nigerian national teams is becoming more problematic by the day. The criteria with which coaches are selected for the national team job is one that is giving the leadership of the Nigerian Football Federation food for thought. Most of the time coaches for the National teams are selected based on quota system. It behooves administrators of sports in Nigeria to come up with strategies that will be acceptable in the selection of National team coaches. Prist (2011) opined that sports promote spirit of social interaction, cooperation and friendship and foster desirable social behavior like loyalty, honesty, fair play, trust, respect for others and constituted authority. According to Ofili (2018) sports have generally assumed great significance in both the ancient and the modern times because it has great potential for all round human development.

Bamitale, Jaiyesimi, and Ajisafe (2018) stated that sport is an international language that build bridges between people, help overcome cultural differences and spread an atmosphere of tolerance. They went further that sport world is far from perfect, it is being used to develop a sense of community and common purpose. According to Kabido (2000) coaching is defined as the phase of physical education and sports that utilizes skills that have already been learned. He maintained that coaching is that aspect of sports that accept establish technique and add to them by instilling knowledge of strategy, desire to excel and self-discipline involving performance under stress and competitive situations. He further stated that coaching is a specialized area of teaching that usually involves the formal institutions of organizing sports and team members requiring qualified assistance in order to perform skillfully for personal and organizational purposes. Similarly, Ikhioya (2002) posited that coaching profession is one that has been unnecessarily influenced by anybody who feels he knows what sports is about and not necessarily a professional in sports.

In the view of Kienka (2001) most Nigerian coaches got their jobs because they were champions in their sports in the early days of sport development in Nigeria. This class of coaches according to him does not have the mental capacity to cope with the increasing complex strategies for scientific coaching of their sports. He maintained that they have instead constituted themselves more of a clog in the wheel of sports development in Nigeria. He is of the opinion that this is attributed to the fact that those coaches have not only held on to their jobs but created themselves into an institution based on the erroneous assumption that without them there can be no other better and competent coaches in Nigeria. He asserted that this category of coaches has further been assisted by the federal Ministry of Sports and social development which has virtually guaranteed the jobs of unproductive coaches simply because they operate under the civil service rules.

Jackson (2001), submitted that the most essentially required in developing top level athletes is the availability of a world class coach. He maintained that the quality of coaching and the athlete-coach relationship are essential features in developing athletes. He is of the opinion that the quality of coaching determines the quality of training environment. He also asserted that athletes will not develop without quality coaches creating and directing an intelligent training plan. However, of significance to selection of coaches is administration. According to Ekpo (2017) Administration is a way of developing and implementing policies in an organization through the efforts of individual members towards achieving its purpose and goals. The researcher went further that Administration exists in order to carry out the policies that had been developed by the duly constituted policy makers.

Fasan (2000), administration is the activities which are intended towards the development of sports in general and carried out by specific people trained in the administration of sports. He opined that administration is a formulation of plans and programmes to serve as guideline in the execution of programmes that are sports oriented. He maintained that administration is the act of managing programmes, human and material in the sports organisations so as to achieve the best result and satisfy the demand and expectation of the management and interest of the general public.

In view of the above submission there is need for effective management of sports through formulation of policies in order to achieve optimal input from national team coaches. Bucher and Krotee (2002), stated that efficient management of sport requires the establishment of sound policies if it is to achieve its goals. They opined that policies serve as a standing plan or guide in general terms of how sports organisation will run and how its activities are to be conducted. They submitted that policies shape the procedures, rules and regulations of an organization. They believed that without policies, there is little to guide the activities and conduct of the organization in the conduct of its goals. They argued that with well-reasoned policies, the organisation and its members will better understand what is expected of them and as such may serve to head off potential or unwholesome behaviour.

Interestingly, sports has been seen as a major force in the socio-economic development of any nation, Nixon and Jewett (2002), see sport as an institutionalized competitive activity that involves vigorous physical exertion whose participation is motivated by a combination of the intrinsic satisfaction associated with the activity itself and the external rewards earned through participation. They further stated that sport faithfully re-enforces the esteemed societal values, thus a powerful weapon of socialization in the society.

Awosika (2002), stated that sports in Nigeria as at today has been quite revealing as it is bounded up with the nation's history and tradition, geography, trade, politics, religion and even the nation's wealth. He posited that it has been discovered for long that the nation devotion to sports is one of the most powerful denominators to top national political stability. Thus Asagba (1999) while elucidating on the imperative for quality coach for the national team maintains that all modern avenue is to be utilized in team preparation especially in the game of soccer.

Statement of the Problem

Before now, the national soccer team coaching job had been the exclusive preserve of foreign soccer managers. While Nigerians clamour for the use of indigenous coaches for the plum job of the national soccer teams, the authorities - saddled with the responsibility of employing coaches for the national teams felt otherwise. The leadership of successive Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has so much believed in the tactical efficiency of foreign managers over the indigenous managers.

They, in conjunction with some sports journalists as well as some Nigerians have always believed that the national teams will do well if they are managed by a foreign soccer tactician. This assertion could be somehow true based on the exploit of the super eagles and the under 23 national team (dream team 1) at both the USA 1994 and Atlanta 1996 Olympics games respectively. It will be recalled that both teams were managed by Dutchmen Clemence Westerh of and Bonfere Joe respectively.

However, the recent appointment of coach Samson Siasia as the senior national team manager as well as the secondment of Augustine Eguavon to the under 23 National team has again brought to the fore, the imperative of giving the indigenous coaches the opportunity to prove their mettle. Therefore, the researcher embarked on this study to examine the socio-economic indices as determinants of selecting indigenous coaches for the national soccer teams.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

- H01:** There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer teams and level of Education.
- H02:** There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer Team and Personality
- H03:** There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer teams and remuneration.
- H04:** There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer Team and Peer Influence
- H05:** There will be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer teams and Religious background.

Methodology

Research Design

The descriptive survey research design was used for this study. Administrative staff, footballers, sports journalists and coaches of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) and Nigeria Premier League (NPL) in Federal Capital (Abuja) were the population used for the study. Purposive sampling technique procedure was adopted for selection of 520 respondents for the study. The research instrument used for this study was a self-developed structured questionnaire. This questionnaire was in to sections A and B. Section A dealt with the demographic characteristics of the respondents, while section B collected information on variables

under study. The research instrument was administered to twenty respondents who were not part of the study for the reliability testing of the instrument. The coefficient values of 0.72 were obtained to establish the dependability of the tool and cronbach alpha method was used to analyze the data. The self-developed questionnaire was distributed to 500 respondents with the assistance of 10 competent research aides, while 500 duly filled were retrieved after some days. The data were analysed by using statistics of frequency count non-parametric statistics of chi-square to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion of Findings

This study investigated the Socio-Economic indices as determinants of Selecting Coaches for the National Soccer Teams.

The results of investigation carried out in this study were presented. It was divided into two parts. The first part dealt with demographic data while the second part dealt with the research hypotheses generated for this study.

Demographic Data

Section A: Demographic information of the respondents

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by selected demographic variables

LEVEL	FRIQEUNCY	%
Gender		
Male	330	66.0
Female	170	34.0
Total	500	100
Qualifications		
SSCE	40	8.0
NCE/OND/Diploma	140	28.0
Degree/HND	250	50.0
M. Ed/M.Sc	60	12.0
Ph. D	10	2.0
Total	500	100
Status		
Coaches	10	2.0

Footballers	160	32.0
Administrative Staff	230	46.0
Sports Journalists	100	20
Total	500	100

Table 1 above showed that 330 (66.0%) of the respondents sampled were male while 170 (34.0%) of the sample were females. This is an indication that majority of the respondents sampled were males. Concerning qualifications, 40 (8.0%) of the respondents sampled were SSCE holders, those who have NCE/OND certificates were 140 (28.0%), 250 (50.0%) had Degree/HND, those who are Masters among them were 60 (12.0%) while 10 (2.0%) of the population sampled were others who have other qualification that is not in the list. This implies that the respondents were literates. With regards to status the respondents comprise of coaches, footballers, administrative staff and sports journalists their frequencies and percentage are 10 (2.0%), 160 (32.0%), 230 (46.0%) and 100 (20.0%) respectively.

Hypotheses Testing

Research Hypothesis 1: There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the national soccer teams and government policy.

Research Hypothesis 1:

There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer teams and level of Education.

Table 2: Chi-square table showing the relationship between selection of coaches and Level of Education.

Variable	Capacity Building				Total	X Crit	X ² Cal.	DF	P
	D	SD	A	SA					
Education is important in the discharge of duties for a national soccer team coach			230 46.0%	270 54.0%	500 100.0%	12.60	14.413	6	.000
Education enhances	20	10	220	250	500				

optimal performance of a national soccer team coach	4.0%	2.0%	44.0%	50.0%	100.0%				
Education should be a pre-requisite in the opportunity of national soccer team coach	20 4.0%	40 8.0%	310 62.0%	130 26.0%	500 100.0%				
Total	40 2.7%	50 3.3%	760 50.7%	650 43.3%	1,500 100.0%				

The table 2 showed that there was significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer Teams and level of education.

X^2 -critical-12.60, X^2 -calculated-14.413, P-c05). The X^2 -critical is less than the X^2 -calculated. The Null hypothesis is therefore rejected.

According to Kabido (2000) coaching is that aspect of sports that accept establish technique and add to them by instilling knowledge of strategy, desire to excel and self-discipline involving performance under stress and competitive situations. He further stated that coaching is a specialized area of teaching that usually involves the formal institutions of organizing sports and team members requiring qualified assistance in order to perform skillfully.

Research Hypothesis 2

There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer teams and remuneration.

Table 3: Chi-square table showing the relationship between selection of coaches Remuneration.

Variable	Remuneration				Total	X Crit	X ² Cal.	DF	P
	D	SD	A	SA					
Good pay package is a requisite for dedication		10 2.0%	200 40.0%	290 58.0%	500 100.0%				

to duty of national soccer team coaches						12.60	3.735	4	.443
Good welfare packages will enhance the performance of national soccer team coaches			240 48.0%	260 52.0%	500 100.0%				
Prompt payment of emolument will enhance the performance of national soccer team coaches			270 54.0%	230 46.0%	500 100.0%				
Total		10 0.7%	710 47.3%	780 52.3%	1,500 100.0%				

The table 3 above showed that there was no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National soccer teams and Remuneration. (X^2 -critical-9.49, X^2 -calculated-3.735, $P>05$) meaning that the X^2 -critical is greater than the X^2 -calculated. The Null hypothesis is accepted.

Interestingly, sports have been as a major force in the socio-economic development of any nation. Nixon and Jewett (2002), see sports as an institutionalized competitive activity that involves vigorous physical exertion whose participation is motivated by a combination of intrinsic satisfaction associated with the activity itself and the external reward.

Hypothesis 3

There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer Team and Personality

Table 4: Chi-square table showing the relationship between selection of coaches and Personality.

Variable	Personality				Total	X Crit	X ² Cal.	DF	P
	D	SD	A	SA					
Integrity of a coach will	90	20	250	140	500				

reflect in his performance as the national team coach	18.0%	4.0%	50.0%	28.0%	100.0%	12.60	3.735	3	.695
The virtues imbibed from home will rob off on the performance of national soccer team coaches	70 14.0%	40 8.0%	280 56.0%	110 22.0%	500 100.0%				
Total	160 16.0%	60 6.0%	530 53.0%	250 25.0%	1,500 100.0%				

The table 4 above showed that there was no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National soccer teams and personality (X^2 -critical value=7.81, X^2 -calculated value =1.446, $P>05$). The X^2 -crit is greater than the X^2 -calculated value. Therefore, null hypothesis is accepted.

This finding is in agreement with Fasan (2004) who stated that the personality in terms of qualification, experience, exposure, resourcefulness and dynamism determines the selection of coaches for the national teams.

Research Hypothesis 4

There would be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer Team and Peer Influence

Table 5: Chi-square table showing the relationship between selection of coaches and Peer Influence.

Variable	Peer Influence				Total	X Crit	X ² Cal.	DF	P
	D	SD	A	SA					
Coaches are always influenced	130 26.0%	40 8.0%	150 30.0%	180 36.0%	500 100.0%				

by their friends						12.60	1.665	6	.948
Peer influence is paramount in the selection of national soccer team coaches	130 26.0%	60 12.9%	170 34.0%	140 28.0%	500 100.0%				
Peer influence has a positive effects on the performance of national soccer team coaches	110 22.0%	70 14.0%	160 32.0%	160 32.0%	500 100.0%				
Total	370 24.7%	170 11.3%	480 32.0%	480 32.0%	1,500 100.0%				

The table 5 above showed that there was no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National soccer teams and peer influence (X^2 -critical value 12.60, X^2 -calculated value=1.665, $P>05$). The X^2 -critical is greater than the X^2 -calculated. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Research Hypothesis 5

There will be no significant relationship between selection of coaches for the National Soccer teams and Religious background.

Table 6: Chi-square table showing the relationship between selection of coaches and Religious Background.

Variable	Religious Background				Total	X Crit	X ² Cal.	DF	P
	D	SD	A	SA					
Selections of national	250	110	120	20	500				

soccer team coaches are influenced by religion	50.0%	22.0%	24.0%	4.0%	100.0%	12.60	6.345	6	.386
Religion plays a vital role in the affairs of coaches for national soccer team	150 30.0%	150 30.0%	180 36.0%	20 4.0%	500 100.0%				
National soccer team coaches put so much emphasis on their religion for success	240 48.0%	130 26.0%	100 20.0%	30 6.0%	500 100.0%				
Total	640 42.7%	390 26.0%	400 26.7%	70 4.7%	1,500 100.0%				

Table 6 above showed that there was no significant relationship between selection of coaches for National soccer teams and religious background (X^2 -critical value= 12,60, X^2 -calculated value 6.345, $P>05$). The X^2 -critical value is greater than the X^2 -calculated. This implies that Null hypothesis is accepted.

Religion and sports are two major institutions that compose the social landscapes in the lives of many. Eitzen and Sage (2007) proposed that religious values are inherent in sport ideology. In this sense, "Sports embodies religious values including character development, hard work, and perseverance, and, like religion, it promotes and inculcates these qualities and behaviours".

Conclusion

Based on the findings in this research the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Government policy, personnel, capacity building and level of education do not significantly affect the selection of indigenous coaches for Nigeria national teams.