AN ASSESSMENT ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES SPORT FESTIVAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN ETHIOPIA

Shumetie Agonafer Babu
Research scholar, Debre Markose University, Ethiopia
Email: shumetiea@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The rationale of the study was to appraise the contribution of Ethiopian public Universities Sport Festival for the development democracy in Ethiopia. Data was serene through questionnaire, interview and photography. 378 respondents participated as the spring of data. 216 players (Athletes), 75 coaches, 26 team leaders, 45 spectators and 15 arbiters be participated in the study. The design of the study was the descriptive survey technique. The statistics collected were organized, analyzed, tabulated and interpreted via SPSS. The foremost findings of the study were indicated that, Ethiopian public universities sport festival is important for strengthen the cohesion and social net work; foster the economic and social development of the community; avoiding discrimination; reflecting diversity; cultural and ethnic development; a power full tool for community development; reflecting nation and nationality unity and equality; fostering the socioeconomics group of the country; a tool for mobilization; develops independent and self confidence among life of participants; reduced disagreement or conflict; foster national peace; develop cooperation and multi-cultural exchange; empowering of women's; develops physical health, cognitive and academic development and mental health and create community solidarity, public behavior, social equity, health awareness and individual quality. On the bases of the findings of the study recommendations were drawn; all the concerned bodies should have to give a great emphasis for this sport festival since it has Social, economical, health, political and educational value of the country which is for sustainable development of democracy in Ethiopia.

Keywords: Universities; Sport Festival; Democracy

INTRODUCTION

Today sport is a global in scope and sporting events are followed with great interest by the people of many countries. A sport is an international tool for politics and nationalism. As such, it has a means of obtaining recognition and giving attention in the desire of the people (Omoruan, 1992). And also sport is the single most important form of leisure across the globe in participation and spectatorship. Sports excite the passions of billions of people, with profound effects on everyday lives, on moral ideas, on views of the body, race and gender, on the individual and society and on conceptions of time and space. International competitions like the Olympic Games and soccer’s World Cup are behemoths in global affairs, generating capital flows in the billions of dollars and producing powerful cultural and political reverberations. Sport is not just play, separate from “real life”; it is intertwined with matters of serious import at the local, national and international levels.

Sports and physical activity are supposed to fulfill significant social functions in our late modern societies. First, sports are seen as important contributions to peoples’ physical health (Lüschen et al., 1996). Next, sport is often presented as an activity providing pleasure, fun, excitement or meaning for those involved (Elias & Dunning, 1986; Novak, 1994; Mandelbaum, 2004). A third function often
ascribed to sport is social integration in a wide meaning of the term: as an arena where people meet, culture is communicated and individuals are socialized (Harris, 1998; Jarvie, 2003; Kirk & MacPhail, 2003). Fourth, given that many sports are organized and practiced in voluntary organizations, are also often expected to generate social capital; social networks; generalized trust and political and social interests of importance outside the field of sport (Uslaner, 1999; Seippel, 2002). At the same time, sports in modern societies are heavily criticized for not fulfilling these visions (Prettyman & Lampman, 2006).

Sport is a social agent that brings different people of different ages and religious background together, either as a sport producers or consumers, so that both can make good use of their leisure time. The players are usually referred to as primary producers who engage in sporting activities in order to entertain the spectators, while secondary consumers watch them perform (Babalola and Oyeniyi, 2003). According to Olajide (2003) sport is an institutionalized physical activity which operate by rules fixed externally. Sports as activities with clear standard of performance involving physical exertion through competition, governed by norms, definitions and role relationships, typically performed by member of organized group, with the goal of achieving some rewards through defeat of others competitors. Therefore the purpose of this paper is to assess contribution of Ethiopian public universities sport festival for the development of democracy in Ethiopia.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Ethiopian public universities sport festival was time-honored since 2007 in the new form and takes place for the first time by the hosting of Mekel University at 2008. Ethiopian public universities sport festival were takes place the previous eight years with successfully and also the festival participant universities furnish greater attention to festival and transport their participants to the hosted university in each time. The participants that approaching from the different universities of Ethiopia, represents their university and reflecting the culture of the society that is accessible (living) around each university . Hence, this makes the Ethiopian public universities sport festival becomes exceptional; eye-catching and interesting. For that reason to realize the festival sustainability conducting research is a very crucial action. Based on this circumstance different researches were conducted for the development of Ethiopian public universities sport festival computation in relation to sports. Even if different researches were studied, there were no research through on the democratic aspects of sport in Ethiopia; no one study the effects of sport on democracy in Ethiopia; no studies conducting with this similar title in the Ethiopian public universities sport festival and no research shows the contribution of sport for the development of democracy in Ethiopia. Due to these reason the researcher desires to conducted the research and draw the following leading questions

- What are the contributions of Ethiopian Public Universities Sport Festival for the development of democracy?
- What is the effect of sport to the development of democracy?
- What is the relationship of sport and democracy?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of this study are momentous in identify the contribution of Ethiopian public Universities Sport Festival for the development of Democracy in Ethiopia and as a result give clue to policy makers in relation to contribution of sport for development of democracy. It furthermore indicates the values of sport on the advance of democracy. In addition to these the research likely to show the integration of sport and democracy and create consciousness for peoples towards democracy through sport. Moreover, the finding is significant for other studies as a base line in the prospect more than ever for those who are concerned.
SCOPE OF THE STUDY
This research is lone focusing on the Ethiopian public Universities Sport Festival. This is because of time; financial resources and for easily managing the paper.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

General Objective Of The Study
The universal objective of this study was intended at assessing the contribution of Ethiopian public universities sport festival for the development of democracy in Ethiopia.

Specific Objectives Of The Study
The specific objectives of this study were to:
1. To assess the contribution of sport for the development of democracy;
2. To know the effect of sport on the development of democracy and
3. To identify the relationship of sport and democracy.

RESEARCH DESIGN
This study explored the contribution of Ethiopian Public Universities Sport Festival for the development of democracy in Ethiopia. To this, descriptive Survey scheme was engaged.

SOURCES OF DATA
The prime sources of data were players, coaches, sport commission officers (experts), team leaders, spectators and arbiters. In addition to these the researcher was also used documents and photographs as secondary sources of information to realize the research findings.

SAMPLING AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES
The sampling technique that the researcher were used a straightforward arbitrary sampling techniques; to decide on the coaches, players, sport commission officers, spectators and arbiters; for the reason that of giving equal probability for all of the sport festival participant (candidates); through a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes at which a 95% confidence level, P=0.5 and e=5% of the precision level (Yamane, 1967).

\[ n = \frac{N}{1+N(e^2)} \]

Where, \( n \) is the sample size,
\( N \) is the population size,
\( e \) is the level of precision

Out of 7,000 the festival participants, 378 subjects were participated to gather the necessary data. These are 216 players (Athletes), 75 coaches, 26 team leaders, 45 spectators’ and 15 arbiters. The researcher assumes that these subjects are fit to give enough information on the topic under the study.

DATA GATHERING INSTRUMENTS

Questionnaire
To acquire the necessary information from players, coach, team leaders, spectators and arbiters about the contribution of Ethiopian public Universities Sport Festival for the Development of Democracy in Ethiopia a questionnaires was arranged. open and closed ended form. In addition to this, to make privacy, the respondents were not asked to set their names on the questionnaires. As a replacement for, they were gently requested to indicate the frequency of their participation in the sport festival, their role (acting as) in the festival (duty), age, current educational status and Sex.
Interview

An interview was conducted to commissioners and authorized person due to their petite number. Ahead of starting the interview, the interviewees were clued-up about the function of the study. What is more, for the purpose of ethical consideration, they were informed that no hurt would be come to them because of their participation in the study. On top of this, they were informed that they would remain anonymous in the presentation and discussions of the results of the study.

Photography

As well to questionnaires and interview, photography is used to enlarge, maintain and realized the information that is collecting on the contribution of Ethiopian public Universities Sport festival for the Development of Democracy in Ethiopia.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The information obtain from estimation gathered through questionnaire were ordered, structured and framed to outfit analysis and conclusion. When interpreting the data SPSS statistical method was use to questions that require quantitative dimension. Information generate from the interviews, open questions and photography were presented and illustrate qualitatively.

FINDING

Background Characteristics of the Study Groups

Based lying on the responses gathered from participants 214 (56.61%) were males and 164 (43.39%) females. The educational status of the respondents show that 10.32%, 22.49%, 17.72%, 6.61%, 3.17%, 8.20%, 11.38%, 17.98% and 2.12% were 1st year student, 2nd year student, 3rd year student, 4th & above year students, Certificate, Diploma ,Degree ,Masters and PhD and above respectively. Out of 378 (100%) respondents 57.14%, 20.11%,11.90%,6.87% and 3.97% were Player ,Coach ,Spectator, Team leader and Arbiter simultaneously. In relation to the respondents age almost 79.23% were youngsters. More over 74.38% of the respondents indicates that they have an experience in the participation of in this sport festival.

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Under this slice the data that were gathered through the different data gathering instruments were at hand and interpreted.

Table 1. Reflect the diversity of experiences and give cultural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>strongly agree</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>91.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neutral</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>92.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As revealed in the table1,39.4%,52.4%,.8% and 7.4%of the respondents were answered that strongly agree, agree, natural, and disagree respectively. This indicates that the festival build an access for the participants to replicate the diversity of experiences and exchange culture to each others that come from each corner of the motherland universities.
Elsewhere of the respondents approximately 92.6% were said that the Ethiopian public universities sport festival has a superior value to strengthen the cohesion of students and enhance national tranquility (peace and clam). This implies that if the festival is managed sound, it is the greatest device for students unity for their country in diverse aspects.

Table 3. Reflecting nation and nationality unity and equality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>83.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>97.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>98.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

83.9%, 14% and 1.1% of the participants were place strongly agree, agree and neutral and disagree simultaneously. As of this spot of we can understand that this sport festival is crucial to reflect nation and nationality unity and equality among stuck between the participants. This enable also the participants becoming amalgamated.

Table 4. Improving the participation of women in sport (empowering)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>96.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neutral</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>98.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majority of the respondents were strongly agree (51.9%) and agree almost with similar tempo (45%). As a result from this data we can bench that the festival is one of the millennium development goal achieving apparatus to empowering of women through sport. To sum up women’s equality can be sustainable in the land of sport.

Table 5. Create an opportunity to the students to show their talent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>79.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neutral</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The participants of the festival were give their evidence, as indicated in the table 5, 79.1%, 17.5% and 3.4% said that strongly agree, agree and neutral consecutively. This shows that the Ethiopian public universities sport festival is one of the mean to offer a chance for the students to show their talent.
Table 6. Decrease in exposure to HIV/AIDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>98.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the respondents 74.3% were disagree for the diminish of participants in exposure to HIV/AIDS. Beginning this everyone can understand that the participants are more exposure to HIV/AIDS. Accordingly, it may be one crisis of the festival that should be given a great attention to make light of the participants in hazard to this drugless sickness by working the association with other apprehensive bodies, i.e. with governmental and non-governmental organization.

CONCLUSION

The study outcome showed that the Ethiopian public universities sport festival is vital for strengthen the cohesion and social net work; foster the economic and social development of the community; avoiding discrimination; reflecting diversity; cultural and ethnic development; a power full tool for community development; reflecting nation and nationality unity and equality; fostering the socioeconomics group of the country; as a utensil for mobilization; develops independent and self confidence among life of participants; reduced disagreement or conflict; foster national peace; develop cooperation and multi-cultural exchange; empowering of women’s; develops physical health, cognitive and academic development and mental health and create community solidarity, public behavior, social equity, health awareness and individual quality and for others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Seeing that a researcher recommended the following recommendations based on the finding of the study.

- The Ethiopian public university sport association is supposed to well organize in staff authority and equipments.
- The Ethiopian sport commission should give acknowledgment for the association.
- The Ethiopian public university sport association should have to vocation with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- The Ethiopian public university sport association should come across out incomes generating system (create financial independence).
- The Ethiopian public university sport association should capture be bothered of the cultural aspects of each university participants.
- The Ethiopian public university sport association should work on HIV/AIDS issues with the concerned institution of the country.
- All the participant universities should give great stress in besides to the teaching learning progression since it is one way of endorsement.
- All the participant universities should have to one club at last by one type of sport.
- The Ethiopian government ought to support Ethiopian public university sport association since it have Social, economical, health, political and educational charge of the country which is central for sustainable development of democratic state inside Ethiopia.
REFERENCES


