

Relationship between Socio-Economic Factors of Sporting Careers and Rural-Urban Drift among Grassroots Footballers in Lagos State

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Abstract

Rural Urban-drift is the movement of people from one geographical rural region to urban region which may be on temporary or permanent basis. People migrated based on the prevailing conditions such as socio-economic factors and the reasons for it vary from one person to another, depending on the situation that brought about the decision. There has been a large movement of grassroots footballers from rural areas to urban centers in recent times. Perhaps, this movement may be as a result of some socio-economic factors affecting the players in the rural areas. Thus, this study was carried out to examine the relationship between socio-economic factors of sporting career and rural-urban drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State, Nigeria. Four sub-variables from independent variables (i.e. quest for greener pastures, professional safety, unavailability of adequate sporting facilities, coaches and dart in sports psychologists) were used to formulate four hypotheses. The researchers adopted a correlation research design. A multi-stage sampling technique was used for the study. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 8 grassroots football clubs from each of the five divisions in Lagos State i.e. Ikorodu, Badagry, Ikeja, Lagos Island and Epe (IBILE), making a sum of 40 grassroots football clubs while simple random sampling technique was used to select 40 grassroots football players from each of the sampled clubs from the divisions which amounted to 320 grassroots football players from each division and the total respondents used for the study were 1600 grassroots footballers. Self-structured questionnaire with reliability coefficients of 0.75 was used to collect data from the respondents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, a parametric statistics type was used to test the formulated hypotheses. Findings revealed that players quest for greener pasture, professional safety; unavailability of adequate sporting facilities, coaches and dart in sports psychologists had significant relationships on rural-urban- drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos state. It

was therefore recommended that government at grassroots level should make available all necessary sporting resources, either material or human that will encourage these grassroots footballers to stay and play at home. Competent and qualified coaches and sports psychologists should be employed by these club owners, among others.

Key Words: Grassroots Footballers, Rural-Urban Drift, Socio-economic Impacts, Sporting Career

Introduction

Migration is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis (Adewale, 2005) People migrate based on the prevailing conditions and the reasons for it vary from one person to another depending on the situation that brought about the decision. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics. The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Nigeria (Amrevurayire & Ojeh, 2016).

Wang, (2007) described Rural-urban migration as both a socio-economic phenomenon and a spatial process involving the movement of people from rural areas into cities, either permanently or semi permanently. At present, it occurs mainly in developing countries as they undergo rapid urbanization. Job opportunities created by industrialization attract the surplus rural labour to the cities to seek higher salaries through employment in the industrial sector. Rural-urban migration results from movement from rural to urban in the search for opportunities due to rural-urban inequality in wealth or better quality of life found in urban centers. Rural-urban migration is widely considered an inevitable component of the development process, though it has a broad range of consequences and implications. Migration to urban areas is placing increasing pressure on local government's ability to respond to social service needs of urban populations. This is a worldwide challenge; in 2008 over half of the world's population will be urban, and in Africa the urban population is set to double between 2000 and 2030 (UNFPA, 2007)

The movement poses some problems in the rural areas as well as in the urban center even though; there are benefits derivable from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity (Mini, 2000). These arise mainly due to excessive drain of youth from the rural populace thus leaving only the older and aged members to constitute the labour force of the rural area.

In different parts of Africa, migration is considered as a means to escape economic, social, political problems and challenges and it is a survival strategy (Sandar, 2005). The reason varies from non-conducive geographical environment in Mali coupled with severe poverty (Sandar, 2003). Nigeria is confronted with different migration patterns and dynamics, which have significant political and socio-economic complex consequences of action for the country, over time, the age range of people migrating out of their current residence are majorly youth and have increased to large extent.

A pull factor is impressive relating to the place a person migrates to. It is by and large a good thing that attracts people to a certain place. Anydiko (2015) stated that, it as to the young's 'Bright lights' syndrome the move of young /rural youth from rural areas in seeking of better opportunity in cities. High possibility of access to employment, enhanced way of life, and adequate provisions of social services medication, education, electricity,

piped-borne water delivery and others are the root cause of people migrating from rural to urban areas. Also states of feeling safe, recreation, relative's relation are considered as some of the pull factors for rural urban migration. Cities are the centers of different attraction like a relative high wage, an advanced soft and hard infrastructure. Facilities and services provided in the city enhanced the cultural expression and way of life of individuals residing there (Anydiko, 2015).

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (2013) buttressed that the reasons for youth migration vary. Often, a combination of several major factors leads to the decision to migrate. Personal considerations, socio-economic circumstances, and the political situation in the country of origin may be important contributing factors. Often, the main driving force behind youth migration (particularly international migration) is the magnitude of perceived inequalities in labour market opportunities, income, human rights and living standards between the countries of origin and destination. Some young people migrate to escape conflict, persecution, or environmental threats. The decision to migrate is often related to important life transitions, such as pursuing higher education, securing employment or getting married. This phenomenon has led to social, cultural and demographic transformation of the communities of origin and destination (UNICEF, 2013).

People mobility from rural to urban areas has been considered as, one of the problems for the achieving of the development efforts of the cities. At the same time, the Nigerian government is concerned that rural urban migration makes it more challenging to improved welfare for urban residents, especially in the provision of housing, employment and public service (Wang, 2007).

Grassroots football is the basis of every nation football which is quintessential to the present stratum of football in that country. Preparation at the lowest level of the game reflects even at the highest level. The African football player as a popular icon, ambassador and mediator is invested with a triple role, which is often difficult for him to assume indeed, of the multitude of young candidates who exile themselves for football, only a handful of them manage to pursue a successful career. However, due to the prevailing context of media over exposure of football, millions of Africans dream of leaving their country by playing for clubs in western countries (Olasoji, 2014).

Grassroots sports has for more than a decade successfully used the power of football to educate, inspire, and mobilize communities to migrate from their locality to urban centers and the thirst for these Grassroots footballers to become professionals and international players in foreign clubs is a vital factor that contributes to rural urban-drift amongst grassroots footballers

Grassroots soccer is currently implemented in over 500 sites in Lagos, and has more than 50,000 young graduates so far. According to Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative (2013), the program adapted highly effective football training for development model piloted by YEDI's international NGO partner, Grassroots Soccer for Nigeria.

Four categories of factors are perceived as responsible for rural-urban drift among Grassroots footballers which include those related to the need for contract with foreign football clubs, availability of adequate facilities, qualified and experienced coaches and job security.

Olasoji (2014) described the word "coach" in Nigeria as sacrosanct and it however, strictly captures its essence even at the grassroots level. Developing potential professionals at grassroots level should definitely go beyond the normal on-field coaching practices and to an extent into their personal lives which are evidently done most in first world football countries. Successful and illustrious footballers are not only the best coached but perfectly managed. However, to turn the ideology behind the more restricted coaching capacity into more efficacious man managing, it calls for great empowerment mainly from the game's

governing body in the nation (NFF). A coach lacking financially and materially would find it thorny to take to an extent the father figure of team(s) at his disposal. Incentives also will reduce the level of nepotism corrupt practice and negativity that continually mars the development the football sector craves.

According to official data of International Labour Organization (2014) the youth unemployment rate was high in Nigeria where it increased from 29.7 to 30.5 percent between 2012 and 2014 (ILO, 2015). Globally, the unemployment rate is three times higher for youth than for adults (ILO, 2015). Hence, the grassroots footballers belong to the category of the entire populace experiencing unemployment as they are unable to secure a concrete professional job opportunity in their locality. This prompts the grassroots' footballers to seek for employment opportunities in developed countries where there is occupational safety and safe healthy living. Also, absence of world class technology based sport facilities and infrastructure give rise to movement of grassroots footballers in pursuance of efficiency and discovery of hidden potentials that makes them fit into the class of world professional footballers.

Statement of the Problem

Casual observation shows that there has been a large movement of grassroots footballers from rural areas to urban centers in recent times. Perhaps, this movement may be as a result of inadequacy or lack of some socio-economic factors in the rural areas which includes, quest for greener pasture, inadequate sporting facilities, unqualified coaches and sports psychologist and professional safety. It is in the light of this that the researchers seek to ascertain the relationship between Socio-Economic factors of Sporting Careers and Rural-Urban Drift among Grassroots Footballers in Lagos State.

Research Questions

1. Is there any relationship between quest for greener pastures and rural-urban drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State?
2. What is the relationship between professional safety and rural-urban drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State?
3. Does unavailability of adequate sporting facilities has any relationship with rural-urban drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State?
4. Is there any relationship between dart in coaches and sports psychologists and rural urban-drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State?

Research hypotheses

- H_{o1}: There is no significant relationship between quest for greener pastures and rural-urban rural urban-drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State
- H_{o2}: There is no significant relationship between professional safety and rural-urban rural urban-drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State
- H_{o3}: There is no significant relationship between unavailability of adequate sporting facilities and rural-urban rural urban-drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State
- H_{o4}: There is no significant relationship between dart in coaches and sports psychologists and rural urban-drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos State

Methodology

The researchers adopted a correlation research design. The population for the study comprises all grassroots footballers in Lagos State. Multi-stage sampling technique was adopted for the study. A purposive sampling technique was used to select 8 grassroots football clubs from

each of the five divisions in Lagos State i.e. Ikorodu, Badagry, Ikeja, Lagos Island and Epe (IBILE), making a sum of 40 grassroots football clubs selected for the study. The purposive sampling technique was used in selecting the grassroots footballers to ensure that each category of respondents in the club have the same trait as specified in the population, while simple random sampling technique was used to select 40 grassroots football players from each of the sampled clubs from the divisions which amounted to 320 grassroots football players from each division and the total respondents used for the study was 1600 grassroots footballers. The instrument used for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire tagged “Questionnaire on Socio-Economic Relationships of Sporting Careers on Rural-Urban Drift” (QSERSCRUD), to ensure the validity of the instrument; the self-structured questionnaire was subjected to content and construct validity for clarity, through the help of colleagues in the department. For the reliability of the instrument, the reliability co-efficient was obtained by calculating the correlation using the Spearman rank correlation coefficient formula ‘r’, and 0.75 was derived. This was found to be adequate in establishing the reliability of the instrument. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, a parametric statistics type was used to test the formulated hypotheses.

Presentation and Interpretation of Results

The researcher collected the data and subjected it to Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient a parametric statistics type in testing the formulated hypotheses. The result of the analysis is presented below:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between Quest for greener pastures by sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players.

Table 1: Summary of correlation analysis of Quest for greener pastures by sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.(2-tailed)	Remark
Quest for greener pastures	1600	32.56	3.54	0.74	0.029	Significant
Rural urban drift	1600	23.87	2.51			

Table 1 above shows a positively strong r-value of 0.74 significant at 0.05 alpha level ($P < 0.05$) hence the null hypotheses is rejected, while the alternative which stipulates that there is a significant relationship between Quest for greener pastures by sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players is retained. The result from this finding however, was in support of Wang (2007) who opined that Rural-urban migration is both a socioeconomic phenomenon and a spatial process involving the movement of people from rural areas into cities, either permanently or semi permanently. At present, it occurs mainly in developing countries as they undergo rapid urbanization. Job opportunities created by industrialization attract the surplus rural labour to the cities to seek higher salaries through employment in the industrial sector. He buttressed further that Rural-urban migration results from movement from rural to urban in the search for opportunities due to rural-urban inequality in wealth and better quality of life found in urban centers. The present study also support the study of Anydiko (2015) who found that high possibility of access to employment , enhanced way of life , adequate provisions of social services medication, education ,electricity, piped water delivery and other state of feeling safe, recreation, relatives relation

are considered as some of the pull factors for rural urban migration among the youths. Cities are the centers of different attraction like a relative high wage, an advanced soft and hard infrastructure with connection cities facilities and services, enhanced city cultural expression and way of life.

H0₂: There is no significant relationship between professional safety of sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players.

Table 2: Summary of correlation analysis of professional safety and rural urban drift among players.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.(2-tailed)	Remark
Professional safety	1600	38.39	3.09	0.85	0.036	Significant
Rural urban drift	1600	23.87	2.51			

Table 2 above shows a positively strong r-value of 0.86 significant at 0.05 alpha level ($P < 0.05$) hence the null hypotheses is rejected, while the alternative which states that there is a significant relationship between professional safety and rural urban drift among players is retained. The result of this study was in consonance with the findings of Owuoye, Odunaiya, Akinbo and Odebiyi (2008) who observed that the popularity of different sports activities has increased during the last three decades; a development that has been considered beneficial in many respects for the society as well as the individuals involved. They furthered that sports at urban area serves as a major avenue for global peace and unity, offers employment, a medium of cultural exchange among nations, tourism, means of discouraging juvenile delinquency and crime. But one of the deleterious effects of this development however, is increased number of sports injuries where athletes are not taken care of. Athletes at the elite level sustain injury and will depend on the sports medicine team to assess and manage their injuries as soon as possible for them to return back as safely as possible, and where this sport medicine team is lacking the life of the players is in jeopardy. When an athlete is injured it is important that the athlete be rehabilitated to the activity level where he or she was before the injury with the least risk of re-injury and maintain a high performance. Adeshina (2017) also supported that the unavailability of adequate medical care and insurance packages for athletes on national and club assignments has negatively affected sports in Nigeria.

H0₃: There is no significant relationship between unavailability of adequate sporting facilities of sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players.

Table 3: Summary of correlation analysis of unavailability of adequate sporting facilities of sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players.

Variable	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.(2-tailed)	Remark
Unavailability of adequate sport facilities	1600	30.30	3.55	0.79	0.006	Significant
Rural urban drift	1600	23.87	2.51			

Table 3 above shows a positively strong r-value of 0.79 significant at 0.05 alpha level ($P < 0.05$) hence the null hypotheses is rejected, while the alternative which states that there is a significant relationship between unavailability of adequate sporting facilities and rural urban drift among players is retained. The result of this study corroborates the findings of Olajide (2004) who pined that facilities are very central to meaningful sports participation whether in School sports, amateur, recreational or competitive status. They are as important to the athletes as the laboratories are to the scientists. Without facilities sports cannot take place. This does not however imply that sports facility is the only variable that is necessary for sports participation; others such as equipment, supplies, finance to mention a few are indispensable complements to sports facilities. He furthered that availability, adequacy, standard, funding, maintenance, supervision, safety, location and accessibility of sports facilities deserve adequate attention for sports facilities to contribute to excellence in sports participation. The thrust of this paper therefore is to discuss the problems sports facilities pose to school sports in Nigeria with the aim of drawing attention of the government to finding solutions to the identified lapses of sports facilities in school sports.

H0₄: There is no significant relationship between dart in coaches and sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players.

Table 4: Summary of correlation analysis of dart in coaches and sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players

Variable	N	Mean	SD	r-value	Sig.(2-tailed)	Remark
Dart in coaches and sport psychologist	1600	29.89	2.96	0.715	0.017	Significant
Rural urban drift	1600	23.87	2.51			

Table 4 above shows a positively strong r-value of 0.715 significant at 0.05 alpha level ($P < 0.05$) hence the null hypotheses is rejected, while the alternative which states that there is a significant relationship between dart in coaches and sports psychologists and rural urban drift among players is retained. The result from the finding was in conformity to the findings of Olosoji (2014) who corroborated by describing coach in Nigeria as sacrosanct and it however, strictly captures its essence even at the grassroots level. He furthers that developing potential professionals at grassroots level should definitely go beyond the normal on-field coaching practices and to an extent into their personal lives which are evidently done most in first world football countries. He therefore concludes that to turn the ideology behind the more restricted coaching capacity into more efficacious man managing; it calls for great empowerment mainly from the game's governing body in the nation (NFF). A coach lacking financially and materially would find it thorny to take to an extent the father figure of team(s) at his disposal. Incentives also will reduce the level of nepotism corrupt practice and negativity that continually mars the development the football sector craves.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings from the study, conclusions were drawn that players quest for greener pasture, professional safety; unavailability of adequate sporting facilities, coaches and dart in sports psychologists had significant relationships on rural-urban- drift among grassroots footballers in Lagos state, Nigeria. It was therefore recommended that government at grassroots level should make available all necessary sporting resources, either material or

human that will encourage these grassroots footballers to stay and play at home. Adequate and quality sports facilities and equipment should be made available for the grassroots footballers to have access to. Competent coaches and sports psychologists that understand the psychological demands of these footballers should be employed by the club owners. Lagos State league management committee and Football chairmen of each division should make the employment of qualified coaches and sports psychologists by the grassroots club owners a thing of priority.

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