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# **IJAD**

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## IMPACT OF ECONOMIC RECESSION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CLUBS IN NIGERIA PREMIER LEAGUE

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### Abstract

The study examined the impact of economic recession on the performance of professional football clubs in Nigeria Premier League. A descriptive research design of survey method was used for this study. The population for the study comprises of all management staff and registered professional football players in Nigeria league. Eighty (80) respondents were selected using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. The instrument used for data collection was a researchers structured questionnaire which was validated by the experts in the field of Human Kinetics Education, and Department of Economics, University of Ilorin. A correlation co-efficient of 0.87r was obtained through test re-test method using Pearson Product Moment correlation. The instrument was administered by the researchers and four trained research assistants. The data collected were analyzed using inferential statistics of chi-square method to test the hypotheses postulated for the study at 0.05alpha level of significance. In all three hypotheses were formulated and tested. The findings of the study revealed that lack of fund have significant impact on the performance of professional football club's in Nigeria premier league. Based on the findings, the researchers recommends that the responsibility of funding football clubs should not left in the hands of government alone, other stakeholders should be encouraged to provide financial support to our football clubs league. As a matter of policy government should put up the shares of football clubs for sales to the public through the stock exchange market and corporate bodies should be allowed to advertise their product with clubs and players as an avenue to generate fund.

**Keywords:** Impact, Economic Recession, Professional Football Club, Premier League, Nigeria and Performance

### Introduction

Economic impact in sporting events can be defined as the net change in an economy resulting from sport event. The change is caused by activity involving the acquisition, operation, development and use of sport facilities services (Soonhwan, 2008). These in turn generate visitors spending public spending, employment opportunities and tax revenue, specifically the economic impact of expenditure are composed of direct, indirect and induced effects (Dawson & Blahna & Teltt & Howard & Crompton, 1995). Direct effects are the purchases needed to meet the increased demand of visitors for goods and services while indirect effects are the ripple effect of additional rounds of re-circulation the initial spectators dollars the induced effects are the increase in employment and household income that result from the economic activity fueled by the direct and indirect effects (Dawson et al 1995).

According to Soonhwan (2008) the impact of economic on the administration of professional football club's is one of the important topic of discussion and debates in sport marketing or management fields because estimating the economic impact of professional football clubs into the nations economy often enhances smooth and growth of general economy.

Taylor (2010) opined that professional football club's are service enterprises that engaged in the business of performance, entertainment and financial profit. Developing young player by the professional football clubs often lead to both sporting and financial rewards to player and football agents. However, the connection between the cities economic feature and their football teams usually determine the success of the player and even the team of large (Hoffmann & Ramasamy, 2002).

Osemene(2016) observed that the seasonal aspect of time describes a particular time in a year when events or remarkable programmes take place. It is also known as a period of the year marked by special events or activities in some fields or sectors of the economy just like football that offers various teams the opportunity to compete in the premier league. According to Faleti (2006) seasonal disputes often occur during the time of the football league called the Nigeria premier football league season. In Nigeria seasonal disputes within the context of football refers to those issues that manifest between clubs owners, administrators and supporters which they strategies on ways of resolving disputes for stability and transparency in the football league.

However, the growing Economic Recession in our country may have contributed to the poor performance of some of our professional football clubs in Nigeria in their respective football league in the 2015 & 2016 football league season especially government own football clubs (Oniyangi, 2016). Premier league in Nigeria is often sustained by only the government which sponsors some clubs, that also attracts some level of involvement by individual and cooperate organizations especially those in the communication sector. It was also observed that government in football administration in Nigeria is responsible for the unsuccessful efforts designed which aimed at repositioning clubs as a result of government inability to pay their workers salaries due to current economic situation in the country. According to Abasi (2012) the continuous management of football club's is predominantly by state government which also hamper the creative and sustainable administration of the professional football club in Nigeria. The federal ministry of sports regulates the football affairs in the country the Nigeria football federation which has a unit called the Nigeria premier league while state governments manage their clubs through the ministries of sports at the state level (Chiweshe, 2014).

According to Okpara (2014) the issue of sponsorship is critical because not all corporate bodies are involved and government's bureaucratic procedures and NFF's operational oversight sometimes delay the funding of football. In a situation where government's funding is inadequate, club face challenges that downplay their efforts in building formidable teams that would win tournaments. Football is one of the sports in Nigeria in which youths actively participate while elders watch to entertain themselves. Nigeria football league coordinates the premier leagues which is regulated by Nigeria football federation. Premier league s the highest football level in Nigeria, twenty teams participated annually and these clubs could be relegated or promoted depending on their performance.

According to Paul (2008) a recession is a general down turn in any economy. A recession is associated with high unemployment, slowing gross domestic product and high inflation. According to Emmanuel (2016) economic recession is a period of general economic decline and is typically accompanied by a drop in the stock market, an increase in unemployment and decline in the housing market. Generally, a recession is less severe than a depression. The blame for a recession generally falls on the federal leadership, either by the president himself, the governors of state or the entire administration. According to National Bureau of Economic Research (2016) recession as a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting for more than a few months normally visible in a real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) real income, employment, industrial production and wholesales to retail sales.

Despite the efforts of the federal government of Nigeria in releasing bailant subventions to the state government as a way out of these economic mass, yet many football clubs are still finding it difficult to pay their players salaries and match allowances, these may have negatively contribute to the poor performance of some football club in the Nigeria professional football league for the year 2016 especially government own club's such as Warri wolves ducly finance by the deltas state government, Ikorodu united football club also own and finance by the local government shooting stars of Ibadan own by Oyo state government, Kwara United football club own by Kwara state government heartland football club own by the Imo state government and lot more.

### Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study

1. Will lack of fund have any impact on the performance of professionals football clubs in Nigeria Premier League?.

2. Will ownership of clubs by government have any impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria Premier League?
3. Will lack of sponsors have any impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria Premier League?

### Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested for this study.

1. Lack of fund will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria Premier League.
2. Ownership of club's by government will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria Premier League.
3. Lack of sponsors will not have significant impact on the performance professional football club in Nigeria Premier League

### Methodology

A descriptive research design of survey method was employed for the study.

The population for the study comprises of both club management and registered football players in the Nigeria premier league. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the sample size for the study. 20 respondents were randomly selected from Kwara United football club, 15 football players were randomly selected from shooting star football club, 20 players were also randomly selected from Abubakar Olushola Saraki football club, 15 players were randomly selected from MFM football club of Lagos and 10 football players were randomly selected from crown football club of Ogbomosh. In all purposive sampling technique were used to select 80 respondents for this study. A likert rating scale format questionnaire was used to gathered relevant information for the study. The instrument was validated by the experts in the field of sports administration in the Department of Human Kinetics Education and Department of Economics, University of Ilorin. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained using test re-test method through Pearson Product Moment correlation. A correlation coefficient of 0.87r was obtained. The instrument was administered by the researchers and four trained research assistants. The data collected were analyzed using inferential statistics of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) method to test the postulated hypotheses set for the study at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**Hypothesis one:** Lack of fund will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league.

**Table 1:** Shows the chi-square result on impact of lack of fund on the performance of professional football club in premier league

| S/N | Item                                                                                                                                                               | SA        | A         | D          | SD         | Row Total  | Cal. $\chi^2$ value | df | Crit. $\chi^2$ value | Remarks |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|----|----------------------|---------|
| 1.  | Lack of fund to pay player salaries and their allowances usually enhance their performance on their respective club matches.                                       | 10        | 20        | 33         | 17         | 80         |                     |    |                      |         |
| 2.  | Lack of funds to pay players salaries and match allowances is a way of psyching the players to performs well in the respective club's matches.                     | 14        | 15        | 21         | 30         | 80         |                     |    |                      |         |
| 3.  | When there is fund, the players will be motivated to perform better on the fields of player especially during their league matches.                                | 5         | 25        | 35         | 15         | 80         |                     |    |                      |         |
| 4.  | Lack of fund often contribute to smooth administration of football which usually enhance the performance of football players on their respectively club's matches. | 7         | 13        | 20         | 40         | 80         |                     |    |                      |         |
| 5.  | Most football club's who are owning their players their salaries due to lack of fund usually outplay their opponent who are well paid.                             | 11        | 16        | 34         | 19         | 80         |                     |    |                      |         |
|     | <b>Column Total</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>47</b> | <b>89</b> | <b>143</b> | <b>121</b> | <b>400</b> |                     |    |                      |         |

Table 1 shows the calculated  $\chi^2$  value of 28.11 against the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 21.03 with 12 degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level of significance, since the calculated  $\chi^2$  value is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value, hence the null hypothesis that stated that lack of fund will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league was hereby rejected. This means that lack of fund have significant impact on the performance professional football club in Nigeria premier league.

**Hypothesis two:** Ownership of club's by government will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league.

Table 2: Indicates the chi-square result on impact of ownership of club's by the government on the performance of professional football club in premier league

| S/N                 | Item                                                                                                                                         | SA        | A         | D          | SD         | Row Total  | Cal. $\chi^2$ value | df | Crit. $\chi^2$ value | Remu |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|----|----------------------|------|
| 1.                  | Ownership of club's by the government often contribute to good performance of football players in their respective club's matches.           | 30        | 10        | 19         | 21         | 80         |                     |    |                      |      |
| 2.                  | Ownership of club's by the government makes these club to be outstanding in term of their performance in their respective league .           | 12        | 5         | 35         | 28         | 80         |                     |    |                      |      |
| 3.                  | Government own football club's usually perform better than those own by the individual or cooperate bodies.                                  | 8         | 22        | 20         | 30         | 80         |                     |    |                      |      |
| 4.                  | Ownership of football club's by the government usually contribute to poor performance of professional football club's in the premier league. | 15        | 17        | 38         | 10         | 80         |                     |    |                      |      |
| 5.                  | Most professional football club's in our respective league are own by government and as such it usually affect their performance             | 18        | 16        | 24         | 22         | 80         |                     |    |                      |      |
| <b>Column Total</b> |                                                                                                                                              | <b>83</b> | <b>70</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>111</b> | <b>400</b> |                     |    |                      |      |

Table 2 revealed the calculated  $\chi^2$  value of 24.20 against the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 21.03 with 12 degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level of significance, since the calculated  $\chi^2$  value is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value, hence, the null hypothesis that stated that ownership of club's by the government will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league was hereby rejected. This implies that ownership of club's by the government have significant impact on the performance professional football club in Nigeria premier league.

**Hypothesis three:** Lack of sponsors will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league.

**Table 3: Shows the chi-square result on impact of lack of sponsors on the performance of professional football club in premier league**

| S/N          | Item                                                                                                                                                                                | SA | A  | D   | SD  | Row Total | Cal. $\chi^2$ value | df | Crit. $\chi^2$ value | Rema |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----------|---------------------|----|----------------------|------|
| 1.           | Lack of sponsor often makes some of the football club's to perform excellently in their respective league due to non-payment of the player salaries and match allowances.           | 20 | 5  | 19  | 36  | 80        |                     |    |                      |      |
| 2.           | Lack of sponsorship deal can only brings about effective finding of the football club's not to enhance their performance in the respective league.                                  | 4  | 10 | 32  | 34  | 80        |                     |    |                      |      |
| 3.           | Lack of sponsor is a way of boosting the performance of football club's due to the fact that players enjoying playing matches without money.                                        | 15 | 18 | 25  | 22  | 80        |                     |    |                      |      |
| 4.           | Lack of sponsors can only brings about effective management of a football club's which often lead to good performance of football club's in the league.                             | 13 | 27 | 15  | 25  | 80        |                     |    |                      |      |
| 5.           | Private companies and individual are afraid of investing into the running of professional football club's in Nigeria due to the economic situation which may lead to loss of profit | 11 | 13 | 21  | 35  | 80        |                     |    |                      |      |
| Column Total |                                                                                                                                                                                     | 63 | 73 | 112 | 152 | 400       |                     |    |                      |      |

Table 3 revealed the calculated  $\chi^2$  value of 34.15 against the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 21.03 with 12 degree of freedom at 0.05 alpha level of significance, since the calculated  $\chi^2$  value is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value, hence the null hypothesis that stated that lack of sponsors will not have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league was hereby rejected. This means that lack of sponsors have significant impact on the performance professional football club in Nigeria premier league.

### Discussion of Findings

The finding from tested hypothesis one revealed that lack of funds have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league. This result is in agreement with Emmanuel (2016) who affirmed that current economic challenges in the country make some of the clubs owners to be financially handicapped which has lead to nonpayment of salaries and allowances of players and officials. This has also contributed to their poor performance in their respective league. Similarly, Chiweshe (2014) observed that in a situation where governments funding is inadequate, club face challenges that downplay their efforts in building formidable teams that would win tournaments. The finding from tested hypothesis two indicated that ownership of football club's by the government have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league. This result supported the finding of Abasi (2012) who stressed that the continuous management of football club's is predominantly by state governments which also hamper the creative and sustainable administration of the

professional football club's in Nigeria. In the same vein Oniyangi (2016) stressed that the growing economic crisis in the country have direct effect on the administration and performance football club's in Nigeria due to the fact that most club's are predominantly own by the states and local government in Nigeria. The finding from tested hypothesis three revealed that lack of sponsors have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria premier league. This result tallied with the view of Faleti (2006) who observed that the issue of sponsorship is critical because not all corporate bodies are involved and government bureaucratic procedures on Nigeria football federation operational oversight sometimes delay the funding of football. However, the sponsorship deal of football club's need to be re-addressed so as to enhance good performance of the teams in their respective league.

### Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusion were made

1. Lack of fund have significant impact on the performance of professional football clubs in Nigeria Premier League.
2. Ownership of football clubs by the government have significant impact on the performance of professional football club in Nigeria Premier League.
3. Lack sponsors have significant impact on the performance of professional's football clubs in Nigeria Premier League.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were drawn.

1. The responsibility of funding football clubs in the premier league should not be left in the hands of government alone, other stakeholders should be encouraged to provide financial support in order to sustain the clubs.
2. Corporate bodies and individuals should be encouraged to invest their money into the administration of football clubs in Nigeria.
3. There is need to allow individuals or private bodies to partner with the management of football clubs in Nigeria by contributing their resources in term of buying shares at the stock exchange market and selling of club's jersey as a way of sponsoring and advertising their products.

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