

Qualitative Research In Football: Challengers, Possibilities And Contribution.

Mohar Kassim ¹, Shhrulfadly Rustam², Jorry Jakiwa ³, Mohd Fadhil Abdullah⁴ & Ahmad Bisyri Husin Musawi Maliki⁵

Author Affiliations

¹Defence Fitness Academy, National Defence University of Malaysia (UPNM)

57000 Kem Sg. Besi Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

⁴ Faculty of Sport Science and Coaching

Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI)

35900 Tg. Malim Perak , Malaysia

Author Emails

- a) Corresponding author: mohar@upnm.edu.my
- b) sharulfadly@upnm.edu.my
- c) jory@upnm.edu.my
- d) fadhil@fsskj.upsi.edu.my
- e) bisyri@upnm.edu.my

Abstract

Football is widely recognized as the single most popular sport in the world. This sport has a lot of history since the beginning of the establishment of the Malaysian national football team managed by British colonial officials in 1905. Integrity and political factors are among the popular issues that are closely related to political involvement in sports such as the struggle for positions and leadership crises in the football association. Based on the problem of the study, it focuses on the performance of national sports which is declining or not so outstanding when compared to the performance of national sports in the 70's and 80's. In line with the objective of this study is to identify the challengers, possibilities and contribution factors influence performance football in Malaysia. The analysis of this study are used a qualitative methodology, which is through interviews analysis related to the study. The study sample consisted of (n=10) football coaches. This study has the potential to have a positive impact on the development of football. In conclusion, management, coaching, sports science and development play an important role an improving football performance in Malaysia.

Introduction

Football is widely recognized as a single most popular sport in the world. It is also not just a famous sport, it is a huge commercial industry as shown in the combined annual income of all 20 Premier League clubs which is now estimated at over £2.300 billion.

In Malaysia, football is also the number one sport in terms of its popularity (Kassim. M, 2018). This sport was introduced since the arrival of the British to Malaya. This sport has a lot of history since the beginning of the establishment of the national football team managed by British colonial officials in 1905 (KBS, 2014).

Since then, football has been growing and the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) now governs football in Malaysia. Malaysia has four major national football competitions: the Malaysian Super League (MSL), the Premier League, the Malaysia Cup and the FA Cup. The MSL was established in 2004 to succeed the M-League. It is a privately owned league, with a private business, MSL Sendirian Berhad (MSLSB), responsible for the promotion and marketing of the league.

Football was an effective vehicle for improving social relations within and across countries, particularly through the establishment of national league systems and subsequent continental and inter-continental tournaments (European club championships of the 1950s), which were broadcast on radio and television. Football also unites significant social and political disputes, especially along ethno-religious, nationalist and class lines, as shown in Spain by the clash between the dominant Basque, Catalan and Castilian cultures.

According to Kassim.M (2008), one of the reasons why soccer is the most popular sport is because the player only needs a reasonable level in all areas, it does not require extraordinary capacity in any of these areas of performance. . But according to the results of research from Kassim.M (2008), stating that this football sport is the main sport in financial movement and is important for economic survival. According to Rustam.S & Kassim.M (2018) also, professional sports are growing into a significant economic sector, with financial flows comparable to other economic sectors of the country.

Football has been a social force of globalization in two ways. First, increasingly complex and cosmopolitan transnational social interactions have emerged between various supporter groups, with the Internet now facilitating the deepening of these routine connections. Second, football is increasingly involved in the emerging "global civil society"; many national and international government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and "corporate social responsibility" departments use soccer to promote global development and peace (Giuliatonni, 2012).

The decline of the Malaysian national team comes alongside the decline of the local league. Many Malaysian fans blame a corruption scandal in 1994 as a catalyst, but the popularity of TV subscriptions also shifted most Malaysian football fans from live broadcasts of local matches to high-profile Europe matches. With a lack of interest and funding, Malaysia's national football is still miles away when compared to the heyday of football in the 1970s and 1980s.

Research Problems

Based on the performance of the country's sports which is decreasing or not so outstanding when compared to the performance of the country's sports in the 70s and 80s. The sport that has seen the most decline is football. There are many factors that affect the current performance of national football. Hence, lack of application sport science in football (Kassim.M. 2013) especially, physiological demands such as aerobic and anaerobic capacity (Atan, S.A. & Kassim. M. 2019). Thus, the main key measurable fitness in football include agility, strenght, mobility, endurance and flexibility (Rustam.S & Kassim.M. 2018). For such reasons, there was a need for a study to be carried out to see what factors strongly influence the football performance.

Research Objectives

1. To identify the extent the factors affect the performance of football.
2. To produce a special guidelines of football development.
3. To see the extent to which component play a role in the performance of football in Malaysia.

Research Questions

1. What are factors that affect the performance of football?
2. What are the best guidelines to develop a football performance?
3. Which component play a role in developing the performance of football in Malaysia.?

Methodology

The methodology of this study uses a qualitative approach which is through the interview technique of data collection. The reason interview technique has been used to make researcher can simply watch as an individuals act and speak and this enables the researcher to collect first hand data. This study involves (n=10) football coaches. The data obtained from the interview have been analysed in accordance with phrase of analysis. For the purpose of description of the analysis, it begins with the interview transcript and progressing to the creation of 'tags', to 'properties', and then finally to the highest order 'categories'. The interview was in semi-structured interview with each respondent lasted between one or two hours or three hours and took place in the conducive environment. The interview sessions were carried out 6 times until the researcher felt enough data to enable answer the research questions.

Results

The findings of this research identified a challengers, possibilities and the contributions football in Malaysia. For purpose of interview data analysis, it begins with the interview transcript and progressing to the creation of ‘tags’ to ‘properties’ and then finally to the highest order, ‘categories’. (refer table 1)

Table 1: List of Tags

Leadership
Management System
Coaching Education
Mission
Vision
Coach Maturing
Skill Development
Coaching Style
Politicking
Responsibilities
Integrity
Morale
Sincerity
Freedom
Autocratic
Democratic
Lasser-Faires
Players input
Parents
Fans
Spectators
Media

After listing and comparing the tags created in the first phase, similar tags were re-group and organized into certain categories that were referred to as ‘properties’. For example, the tag ‘Leadership’ was re-grouped with similar meaning unit into a large ‘property’ named “Growth Processes of Leaders”, as listed in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Amount of Tags in Property

Growth Process of Leaders	Coach -Centred Process	Organization
Responsibilities	Coaching Education	Media
Integrity	Players Input	Spectators
Autocratic	Parents	Fans
Democratic	Mission	Freedom
Sincerity	Vision	Politicking
Morale	Coach Maturing	Management System
Lasser-Faires	Coaching Style	
	Skills Development	

Challengers :

Challengers football in Malaysia who are mainly leaders in the football association either at the state level or at the national level. The issue is that not many leaders have sufficient knowledge in football itself. For example, they do not understand the wishes of the association whether it is the problem of players, coaches and the management team of the association. All they know is victory. They failed to ensure that the team was always on the right track in terms of the development of the football. Apart from that, there are some association leaders who are less sensitive to integrity problems, especially those related to the association's finances. This has led to the problem of inefficient financial management. There are also leaders who practice unprofessional leadership styles such as favoritism in choosing players, unfair salary payments between players, dropping players or coaches without making a discussion which ultimately leads to the deterioration of the team's performance and the migration of players and coaches to teams with better professional leaders.

From the aspect of coach development, the researcher found that there are some coaches who still use old methods during training. There are also coaches who do not understand sports science to be applied in football. They only reward players based on their experience as players. Indirectly, they fail to show a professional attitude, for example, they do not have a clear mission and vision, the selection of players is carried out blindly, there is no solid training plan, they fail to understand the players' wishes, they do not care about the parents of the players.

Based on this study, it was found that the organizational factor also shows the existence of problems that lead to the deterioration of the team's performance. Among the problems are politicking within the association itself, failing to serve the media professionally, an inefficient management system, not having a good relationship with supporters, adopting a biased management system or inefficient management.

Possibilities:

At the same time there are several possibilities that can be done to improve the team's performance. Among them is the selection of association leaders should be done professionally based on their knowledge, experience and willingness to sacrifice and always seek financial assistance for their team. Apart from that, the selection of the coach also needs to be done professionally not only based on his experience but also his knowledge, experience and academic qualifications. In addition, the communication factor with the players and the management also needs to be taken into account before he is appointed as a coach. The organization of the association also needs to be willing to make changes towards the development of its team in all aspects.

Contributions:

The results of this study also found that it has the potential to make a contribution to the development of national football. Among them can show the importance of football leaders who are needed to steer football teams and teams at either the state or national level. A guideline can be established that focuses on the development of football. Football performance whether at the grassroots level up to the national level will show excellent performance from time to time. Apart from that, the association's financial factor will be overcome due to the confidence of investors or sponsors who will be willing to sponsor the

football team without depending on the government. This situation will certainly bring high returns to associations, coaches and the national economy.

Conclusion

As this study further to understand the significant of qualitative research in football from challengers, possibilities and contributions perspective. This study has gone through an extensive data collection process and yielded findings that add to the literature in football. It has discussed the football process from challengers, possibilities and contributions perspective and it the first research in football to utilize qualitative methods and hope to become a breakthrough for future research in football education in Malaysia. Other than that, future research may want to embark on a study of other sports . It is hope future research can also focus on the coaches and players at various level. If this can be done, it is hope that a theory or guideline can be developed for the benefit of the development of football. Perhaps, it also can make some comparison study between Malaysia and other countries. These additional studies will help to provide a basis for comparative analysis of the development of football. It would also be beneficial in future to further study for football education programme being implemented at the national and international level.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank to the Ministry of Higher Learning (KPT) under FRGS research grant and excellent support from Research and Innovation Division of the National Defence University of Malaysia for this project.

References

- Atan.S.A. & Kassim.M (2019). Young Football Players Are Not Miniature Adults; Do Young Athletes Need Sports Drinks?: A Review of Literature. *ASM Science Journal, Vol (12)*.
- Kassim. M. (2013). Towards the Reflective Football Coach From Qualitative Analysis. *Journal of Human Sport & Exercise*. ISSN 1988-5202.
- Kassim, M.(2008). A Qualitative study of the relationship between the knowledge and behaviour of coaches in two football academies in Malaysia. Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, Loughborough University, UK.
- Rustam.S & Kassim.M. (2018). Physical fitness index for assess fitness speed among army reserve officer training unit cadet in Malaysia. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*.1020012009.