



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2020; 6(9): 305-311
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 05-07-2020
Accepted: 16-08-2020

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The development and challenges of football in south Wollo zone and Dessie city administration of Amhara region: Focusing on Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik Kenema football Club

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to make an investigation on the development and challenge of football in south wollo Zone and Dessie city administration of Amhara region focusing on three city administration clubs (i.e. Dessie, kombolcha and Haik kenema). To achieve the intended objectives, the researcher employ questionnaires (open and close ended), interview (formal and informal), and focus group discussion as a tool to collect the required data. The researcher employed a descriptive survey with mixed approach (qualitative and quantitative) as a method of study. Because, this method provides the researcher with detail description of the existing condition about a problem under investigation. To collect the data, 94 participants were involved. These are 69 football players, 6 football coaches, 1 team leader, 2 youth and sport office heads, and 16 sport professionals, former players, youth and sport office employees and sport science teachers. The finding indicates that, lack of sufficient budget for annual competition, insufficient sport materials, absence of balanced incentives/ salary/,insufficient attention of South Wollo zone and Dessie city administration youth and sport office higher official, less sport professional motivation of youth and sport office employees, deficiency of player motivation, discipline and commitment, less peoples and institutions involvement in financial and material support, absence of sponsorship for the team, nonappearance of football projects at different age group, less cooperation between professionals, too less school sport activities were a critical factors affecting the development of football in South Wollo zone and Dessie city Administration in general and Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik Kenema football club in particular. Hence, it's concluded that, budget, sport facilities, lack of incentives, less players and coaches' commitment, lack of cooperation between sport expertise, less peoples' involvement in football support, less school sport activities and other related factors are the barriers that contribute to the declination of football in South Wollo zone and Dessie city Administration in general and Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik Kenema football club in particular. Thus, it is recommended that the club administrators and south wollo Zone and Dessie city administration youth and sport office need to look in to these problems in detail and take the necessary action. The regional and federal football federation, the people in Dessie area ought to pay attention to minimize these and other related problems in order to improve football of the study area.

Keywords: Team, club, football, coaching, coach

1. Introduction

Football is a famous and popularized sport loved by more and more people. It has attracted a large number of faithful fans that will do their best to support it. People will prefer to watch the exciting football game or even learn playing it. However, to those people who are novice to the game, it is necessary for them to know what the football game is all about. It is also a game which stands or falls on the facts that it is a game which requires skill and intelligence, the factor of speed, power and endurance become important as one grows older (Frank F. Declemente, 1968).

The origin of football can be founded in every corner of Geography and history. The Chinese, Japanese, Italian, ancient Greek, Persia Viking, and many more played a ball game long before our era. The Chinese played "football" games date as far back as 3000 years ago. The ancient Greece and the Roman used football games to sharpen warriors for battle. In south and Central America, a game called "Tilatchi" one flourished. But it was in England that footballs really begin to take shape. It all started in 1863 in England, when two football

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association (association football rugby football) split off on their different course. Therefore, the first football association was founded in England. The spread of football outside of England, mainly due to the British influence abroad, started slow, but it soon gathered momentum and spread rapidly to all parts of the world (Wikipedia free Encyclopaedia).

Even though Ethiopia is well re-known in Athletics world especially in long run sport, the football is the foremost appreciated sport among of the majority of the society. At the present time the Ethiopian football is affected by different factors and due to these indefinite reason, they loss good results but Ethiopian still love football game. The Ethiopian football federation has gotten recognition by the government in 1947 but the association has been established under the prince Sahile Selasie in 1943. After the English men had begun the first football game long years later, the Ethiopian also adapt the sport in love.

The first Ethiopia football championship was taken between five different clubs in 1943. Those five clubs were the Ethiopian kidus Giorgis football club, the Britain troops football club, the Italian fortitude football club, the Armenian Ararat football club, and Greek Olimpiakos. The first Ethiopian national team friendship match was done against the Djibouti national team at the field Jan-Meda in 1947. On that game Ethiopia won 6 to 0. And the Ethiopian first abroad game was with the Greece and lost 0 to 3.

Ethiopia is one of the founders of cup of African federation /CAF/ by the interior Yidenekachew Tesema. And the three founder countries are Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan and also probably South Africa. Ethiopia won the third CAF championship tournament in 1961 which has taken place in her own field. At the present time the rank of Ethiopia football performance is grouped in the worst one. But the Ethiopian footballers have adequate technical ability and they play attractive game but have poor tactic form and lack of effective forwards (attackers). In fact, Ethiopian football players have physical fitness problem. Naturally they are short and thin as compared to other countries (Wikipedia free Encyclopaedia).

In the history of Ethiopian football club, the Sait George beer /kidus Giorgis/ football club and the Ethiopian coffee have many supporters better than the other. However, now a day the English premier league two clubs, Arsenal and Manchester united dominated the Ethiopian football game lovers.

Historically football emerged in Ethiopia many years ago. History tells us Ethiopia football team was one among the football team established in Africa. But the development of could not be exhibits the expected improvement.

In case of south wollo zone and Dessie city Administration there are football clubs who are registered and organized in official way. Among these 8 of them are participants of Wollo League, Amhara League, National League and Supper League. But there is no club in the study areas who participate in Ethiopian premier league.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Description of the study area

2.1.1 Dessie

Dessie Town is the central city of South Wollo zone. Geographically the district is situated at $11^{\circ} 8' 0''$ N, latitude and $39^{\circ} 38' 0''$ E longitude. The district has 10 sub cities and 6 Kebele and it is considered as one of the town's district

with high poverty and unemployment, the district covers a total land area of 16,000 Hectare and it is bordered by the Woreda of Dessie Zuria, Kuta Ber, Tehule Desie and Kombolcha Town (Dessie Town Micro and Small enterprise office, 2010).

2.1.2 Kombolcha

Kombolcha (Amharic: ኮምቦሊቻ) is a city and woreda in north-central Ethiopia. Located in the South Wollo Zone of the Amhara Region, it has a latitude and longitude of $11^{\circ}5'N39^{\circ}44'E$ with an elevation between 1842 and 1915 meters above sea level. Some guide books describe Kombolcha as the twin city of Dessie which lies some 13 km to the northwest. The town is located in northern Ethiopia, in Amhara National Regional State, South Wollo Zone, at a distance 377 Km from Addis Ababa, and 505 Km from Bahirdar the regional capital. Its astronomical location is $11^{\circ} 06' North Latitude$ and $39^{\circ} 45' East Longitude$. Kombolcha town was founded during the Italian occupation in 1935-1940. Kombolcha is one of the reform towns in the region and has a town administration, municipality and 5 kebeles. The town has a structure plan which was prepared in 2010.

2.1.3 Haik

Haik (Amharic: ዛይቅ) is a town in northern Ethiopia. It is named after Lake Hayq, which lies two kilometers east of the city and is the home of Istifanos Monastery, an important landmark in Ethiopian Church history. Located 28 kilometers north of Dessie in the Tehuledere woreda of the south Wollo Zone of the Amhara Region, the town has a latitude and longitude of $11^{\circ}18'N39^{\circ}41'E$ and an elevation of 2030 meters above sea level.

Telephone service reached the town of Hayq at some point between 1954 and 1967. Notable landmarks include the churches Hayq Timhirt and Hayq Yohannis. Near the town is the church of Haik Tekle Haymanot, founded according to tradition in 862 by Saint Kalae Salama during the reign of king Dil Na'od.

2.2 Research Design and type

The nature of the data generated to undertake this study lends itself to both qualitative and quantitative approaches particularly to the descriptive survey. The researcher employed descriptive survey as a method of study because it provides the researcher with detail description of the existing condition about the problem under investigation.

2.3 Population and sample strategy

The research population included a range of respondents, namely football players, coaches, South Wollo Zone and Dessie city Administration Youth and sport heads, Youth and sport office employees, team leaders, former players, fans and football referees. In order to select sample from the target population, the researcher adapts purposive and simple sampling techniques Altogether, there are 8 football clubs in South Wollo Zone and Dessie City Administration who are participant of, Amhara League, National League, and Supper League. Among these, three of them namely: Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik, kenema were the target teams as shown in the table below. The researcher selects these clubs based on their participation in Super, National and Amhara league and their seniority as compared to other clubs in south wollo Zone.

Table 1: List of Football clubs in South Wollo Zone and Dessie city Administration who Participate in Amhara, National and Supper league level (Since 2016 -2018 G.c/

	Name of the club	Participation level	Remark
1	*** Dessie Kenema Football Club	Participant of National league until 2017 G.c	Participant of Supper league since 2018 G.c
2	*** Wollo Kombolcha Football Club	Participant of Supper League	
3	*** Haik Kenema Football Club	Participant of Amhara League	
4	Harbu kenema Football Club	Participant of Amhara League	
5	Degan kenema Football Club	Participant of Amhara League	
6	Wollo kombolcha B Football Club	Participant of Amhara League	
7	Borena kenema Football Club	Participant of Amhara League	
8	Were-ilu Lege hida Football Club	Participant of Amhara League	

***Sample clubs

Source: South Wollo Zone Youth and sport office (2017/2018 G.C)

In its totality 94 subjects were participated from a sample clubs as well as from Dessie, Haik and kombolcha town to give the necessary data. These are 69 football players, 6 football coaches, 2 sport higher officials, 1 team leader from Dessie kenema football club and 10 youth and sport workers and sport science teachers. In addition to these respondents, there are also 6 individuals who involved in informal interview. The researcher assumes that these subjects are fit to give enough information on the issue under the study and they are acquainted to sport.

2.4 Data gathering instruments

One approach of collecting valid data employed is triangulating information of key items using various means. According to Hagan (2003: 277-78), triangulation assumes use of multiple methods to measure the same phenomenon. The purpose of triangulation “using different methods and/or techniques” (questionnaires, interviews, experiment, observation, and/or documentary analysis is to ascertain the validity of data findings. Accordingly, the researcher employed questionnaire (open and close ended), interview (formal and informal), and focus group of discussion as a tool of requisite information procurements.

2.4.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires were used for coaches and players. The questionnaires have an open and close-ended type of question which deals with the development and challenges of football in South Wollo Zone in general and to Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik in particular. In Addition, it also deals with different issues related to football development and challenges in Dessie city administration and south wollo zone. This includes club budget, Sport facilities, Team management, and coaching styles and training etc. To respond the questionnaire without language barrier and any other related problem the questioners were designed in Amharic

2.4.2 Interview

To supplement information procured through questionnaire, the researcher adapts formal and informal interview. The formal interview was held with South Wollo zone and Dessie city administration Youth and sport office head. The selection of these people was by considering certain criteria; first these people has a deep knowledge and information on sport in general and football in particular, secondly, currently these people has a long experience on coaching,

officiating and leading a team and so on. And the informal interview was held with people in Dessie town who have sport coaching experience and Exposures. This group includes former players, Coaches, fans, Youth and sport workers, Amateurs and Sport science teachers.

2.4.3 Focus group discussion (FGD)

The study strongly needs certain groups of people to be gathered and discussed on certain issues. For the sake of gaining detail information and triangulation mechanisms, different people were involved in the discussion to investigate the realities on the development and challenges of football in South Wollo zone in general and Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik in particular. To do so, 10 individuals from the study area (i.e Dessie, kombolcha and Haik town Youth and sport office workers) and sport science teachers were involved in the discussion.

2.5 Data collection procedure

First, the questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion (FGD) guided questions were prepared in Amharic. Before distributing the questionnaire, the researcher has made first contact with Dessie kenema Assistance Coach, Deputy Head of Haik town youth and Sport office and Kombolcha kenema Football team head Coach to have permission and Cooperation. Following this, the researcher has made another contact with head of Dessie city administration and South Wollo zone Youth and sport office Deputy Heads for interview purpose. And finally, the group discussion was conducted by purposive selections of sport professionals from Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik youth and Sport office employees and sport science teachers who have coaching and teaching experience to collect additional data for the issue under study.

2.6 Method of Data Analysis

As far as data analysis is concerned, both qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed. Qualitative method was used to provide detail explanation of the data to help the researcher to explore and discover inherent facts, while quantitative approaches was quantifying data generated in terms of frequency and percentage. To analyse the data, the following procedures were followed. First the number of respondent for each item were added and then changed to percent to get the necessary information. This can be done for all the available data.

3. Results

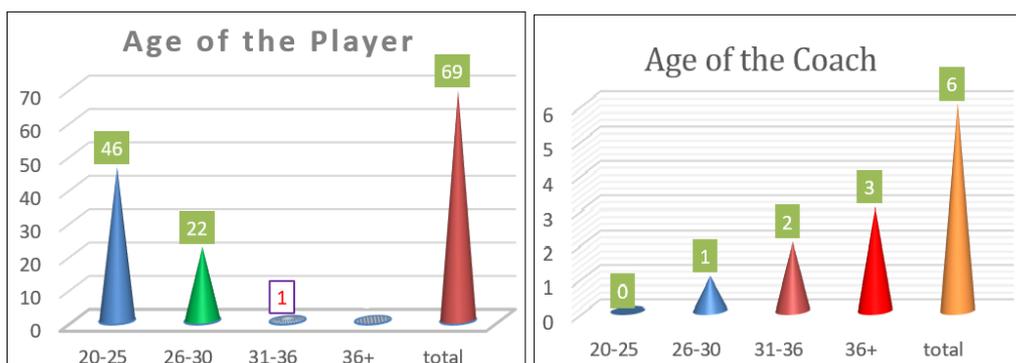


Fig 1: Age of the Respondents

Regarding the respondents age, 46(66.66%) of the players, 22(31.89%) of the players and 1(16.67%) of the coaches, 1(1.45%) of the players and 2(33.33%) of the coaches and

3(50%) of the coaches' respondents were found between the age of 20-25, 26-30, 31-36 and above 36 years of old respectively

Table 2: The Development and challenges of football

Item	Respondent (Players) N = 69				
	Very high	High	Low	Very Low	Total
The Development of Dessie, kombolcha and Haike football club as compare its previous status	7(10.14%)	19 (27.54%)	27(39.13)	16 (23.19%)	69(100%)
	Respondent (Coaches) N = 6				
	-	3(50%)	1(16.67%)	2(33.33%)	6(100%)

The above table describes the overall development of football in South Wollo Zone and Dessie city Administration. As the data indicates, 7(10.4%) said that very High, 19(27.54%) of the players and 3(50%) of the coaches High, 27(39.14%) of the players and 1(16.67%) of the coaches Low and 16(23.19%) of the players and 2(33.33%) of the coaches said very Low. As the collected

data confirmed, the major problem and challenges of football in South Wollo zone and Dessie city administration includes financial problem, absence of technical advisor of the team, problem related team organization, absence of transparency in the team, absence of sufficient emphasis from higher bodies, lack of cooperation between football sport professionals, less players commitment and etc

Table 3: The Availability of football playing field and other sport facilities

No	Item	Responses	Respondents			
			Players (N=69)		Coaches (N=6)	
			No.	%	No	%
1	In what circumstance you can be joined this club?	A. Selected from different competition	20	28.98	-	-
		B. Invitation of coach and/or sport office	24	34.79	-	-
		C. Football projects	22	31.89	-	-
		D. Vacancy announcement	3	4.34	-	-
		E. According to any one's affinity or linkage	-	--	-	-
		F. If any	-	--	-	-
		Total		69	100	-
2	Does your club have well-constructed football field and other necessary sport facilities?	A. Yes, it has	6	8.70	2	33.33
		B. Partially it has	17	24.63	-	-
		C. completely it has not	46	66.67	4	66.67
		Total		69	100	6
3	As compare to others surrounding football club, the required material of the club fulfilled	A. Very High	13	18.84	1	16.67
		B. High	11	15.94	3	50
		C. Low	30	43.48	2	33.33
		D. Very Low	15	21.74	-	-
		Total		69	100	6
4	Is there any support from the surrounding people to your club?	A. Yes	31	44.93	5	83.33
		B. No	21	30.43	-	-
		C. I don't know	17	24.64	1	16.67
		Total		69	100	6
5	What kinds of support the society provides for?	A. Financial	19	27.53	2	33.33
		B. Material	8	11.60	-	-
		C. Moral	11	15.94	2	33.33
		D. Professional	20	28.99	-	-
		E. All	6	8.69	-	-
		F. Other/ if any.../	5	7.25	2	33.34
		Total		69	100	6

The above tables' describe respondents' responses on the Availability of Football playing field and other sport facilities. As indicated in the above table of item 1, 20(28.98%), 24(34.78%), 23(33.33%), and 3 (4.34%) of the player were joined the team from sport competitions, by invitation of coach and/or youth and sport office, football projects and through vacancy announcement respectively. And as we observe from the data no one join the team on one's affinity or linkage. This Shows that, coaches and Leaders believe that selection of players were only depend performance and former experience. And the coaches of teams also prefer to establish the team by invitation and calling of players from different area of the country

Similar table item number 2 shows that, availability of standard football fields. As the data shows 6(8.7%) of players and 2(33.33%) of coaches, 17(24.63%) of players, and 46(66.67%) of players and 4(66.67%) of coaches said that full availability, partially availability and fully unavailability of well-constructed sport fields respectively. The data clearly indicates that, the study teams/i.e Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik kenema/ faces serious of problem to have standardized football field and other sport facilities for competition and training.

Regarding the support of the surrounding people to the team, here is the collected data. As the data shows, 31(44.93%) of the players and 5(83.33%) of Coaches, 21(30.43%) of the players and 17(26.63%) of the players and 1(16.67%) of coaches Said "Yes", "No" and "I don't know" respectively. Regarding to the support, 19(27.53%) of the players and 2(33.33%) of the coaches have said financial, 8(11.60%) Material, 11(15.94%) of the players and 2(33.33%) of the coaches Moral, 20(28.99%) of players respondents replayed professional support and 6(8.69%) said financial, material and Moral support together. From this it can be concluded that, the football teams of south Wollo Zone and Dessie city administration have an access to get a support from the surrounding people and institutions.

4. Discussion on Finding

The ultimate purpose of the research is to make an investigation on the development and challenge of football in south wollo Zone and Dessie city administration of Amhara region focusing on three city administration clubs (i.e. Dessie, kombolcha and Haik kenema).

Followings are the discussion and findings based on the analysis and interpretation of the research. The Major outcome of the study indicates that, insufficient sport facilities, materials 'and budget for training and competition, deficiency of player motivation, discipline and commitment, unavailability of well organized football projects at different age group, less cooperation between professionals, too less school sport activities were a critical factors affecting the development of football in South Wollo zone and Dessie city Administration in general and Dessie, kombolcha and Haik kenema football club in particular.

Sport materials and adequate budget have their own contribution for the development of football sport. In this regard the Dessie, kombolcha and Haik Kenema have a problem of sport facilities, equipments and financial problems. As Cindy, K., Jeffrey, G. and Petersen, 2006 confirmed Sport facilities, equipment's and sufficient financial availability have a positive impact on the development of sport and to reduce sport challenges. Budget

is also one of the problem faces football teams in Dessie, kombolcha and Haik kenema football teams. Because almost all of the team in study area, the budget is financed by city administration. But this needs attention to support the available budget that helps the teams for competition. As the finding confirmed there is also no well organized a football projects at different age group and less cooperation of professionals are the challenges of the study area.

As the history of Wollo football confirmed, there were well qualified and disciple players and football teams in South Wollo Zone since 1960 to 1980. During this time there were famous football teams which are competent at the country level. Among the clubs in 1960s Meberat Hayle, Merha Tibeb, Dessie Negade, Tendaho, Awera Godana, Mebereq are the known one, And there are also other strong clubs between 1970s and 1980s. In this era like Soperal, Dessie Pepesi, Defense, police, Tena and etc. Among this team there were high competent Players who play in National team. For example Mulegata Kebede is one of the famous and model player who is arised from Dessie City administration. Birhanu Tekeyohanis, Seyoum Kebede, Girmay Geberay, Solomon Nigatu, Ashagere Asefa, Solomon Wole, Birhanu Feyara and etc are also some of the famous players from wollo in general. So, as compare to this, currently there is football problems and challenges which needs due attention from football stockholders in general including the players.

5. Conclusion

Based on the data that the researcher obtained and analysed, the following basic points were forwarded as a conclusion:

- Budget is one of the major resources who play a significant role in football club development. In this respect, clubs in South wollo zone and Dessie city administration in general, Dessie, kombolcha and Haik football clubs in particular faced serious budget problems to carry out the day today activities of the team and to fulfil various sport facilities. As a result, a football team which is found in South wollo zone and Dessie city administration in general, Dessie, kombolcha and Haik kenema football clubs in particular suffer a lot to show the expected development.
- As the finding shows, 56.52% of higher bodies of sport of South wollo zone and Dessie city administration give insufficient attention to football development. And, not all, but most youth and sport office leaders of South wollo zone and Dessie city administration also faced lack professional knowledge and skills. They also use their general leadership experience rather than sport leadership knowledge
- Regarding to sport facilities, the study shows, the sample clubs has a serious problem of sport equipment that is required for competition and training session. Among this facilities and materials, ball, cones, sport shoes and wear and etc are the major one who needs attention from the club administrator /owner. So, such types of problems also have its own negative impact on football progress directly or indirectly.
- As compared to the former similar football clubs in South wollo zone and Dessie city administration, Dessie, and kombolcha football teams exhibits slight progress in participating competitions at country level (i.e National and Supper league). They also exhibit an improvement on budget allotment, coaches and players

incentive as compared to the previous history of the team.

- 83.33% of the current available coaches of Dessie and kombolcha kenema are well qualified and competent to train football clubs at national and supper league level. In addition to their qualification, 66.66% of the coaches also have enough years of football coaching and leading experience.
- As the data confirms, 83.33% of the coaches of study clubs don't satisfy with the incentives and salary they obtained. But as compared to the previous history of incentives of the sample team and its practices in South Wollo and Dessie city administration, the current incentives and salary of the player and the coaches has a progress. In general absence and/or presence incentives have its own impact for football progress and declination.
- Most of the coaches in south wollo Zone and Dessei city administration eager to work for the development of football. And they are ready to work with football expertise at the study area, but there is a problem from youth and sport offices in creating such favourable environment to work with these individuals.
- Football Coaches of Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik kenema and other similar clubs of south wollo and Dessei city administration mostly encounter different challenges while accomplishing their daily activities. Among these, insufficient support of sport expertise, professional skills deficiencies, lack of adequate sport facilities, interference of fan and etc. So, these directly or indirectly affect the development of football in south wollo Zone and Dessei city administration, football teams of Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik kenema.
- Football team of Dessie, Kombolcha and Haik kenema doesn't get all the necessary material, financial and professional support from the surrounding society. And the clubs also mostly established by governmental institutions, specifically on city administrations.
- Commitment and intrinsic motivation from the coach and player have a positive and significant impact on the development of football. But players of the study teams of South Wollo zone and Dessie city administration have a problem of internal motivation and commitment for their profession in order to achieve their and team long-term goals

6. Recommendation

On the bases of the finding of the study, the researcher forwarded the following points as a recommendation:

- In order to alleviate financial problems of all football clubs of south Wollo zone and Dessie administration, the team administration board of the team should design income generating mechanisms. The possible sources of finance could be searching for sponsors from the local community and abroad, or from governmental and non-governmental organization, preparing bazaar and etc. This can help the teams to fulfil the required sport facilities as well as to pay balanced incentives for players, coaches and coaching staffs
- To minimize the absence of cooperativeness between sport professionals/expertise, coaches, Club administrators, amateurs, club technique committees and others should work together at normal bases to solve frequently happened problems related to football.

And professional should also form professional association to strength their interaction.

- To upgrade professional skills of South Wollo zone and Dessie city higher officials, Youth and sport offices should prepare short term coaching training for sport leaders in collaboration with the regional and national football federations that help leaders to upgrade their football skill and knowledge.
- To have a favourable working environment with coaches, players and team leaders, the regional state youth and sport office should assign sport professionals in all corner of the country for youth and sport offices to lead the sport in general and football in particular.
- To solve the problem of football in general, South wollo Zone and Dessie city Administration youth and sport office should work and cooperate with the surrounding people in order to get the required material, professional and financial support.
- Having well-constructed sport fields has its own contribution for the development of football. So, to alleviate such problem, south Wollo zone and Dessie administration youth and sport offices should initiate and convince the surrounding People and organizations of Dessie, komblochah and Haik town for financial support to construct standardized football fields at Zone, woreda and sub-city level.
- To avoid problem of players commitment and motivation, the football team of South wollo zone and Dessie city administration should have annual plan for short term training on sport psychology that changes players attitude and motivation. And the team and youth and sport office should also invite professional in the area of football to advice players in specified time interval.
- To inspire and develop football of south wollo zone and Dessie city administration, Dessie, komblochah and Haike clubs should recruit best and experienced/senior players from the country at the whole.
- To minimize the absence of sport projects at different age group, Amhara regional state youth and sport office in collaboration with Ethiopia football federation should launch sustained football projects at zone level that train children at the grass root age to get well qualified players in the long run. And also assign budgets and well qualified and experienced coaches to the existed football projects in Dessie and kombolcha town for their sustainability
- To have and establish better foundation to football development in general and South wollo zone and Dessie city administration in particular, ministry of youth and sport of Ethiopia, Amhara regional state youth and sport office and South wollo zone and Dessie city administration youth and sport offices should create applicable policies and strategies to activate sport activities of the school.

7. Acknowledgment

I am very thankful to several people and institution for their support. First of all, I would like to thank Wollo University for financial support which was used to cover my expenditures incurred in the fieldwork and the compilation of the study deserve grateful acknowledgement.

Next, my deepest gratitude and appreciation goes to all my informants (i.e football players of Dessie, kombolcha and

Haik kenema) for their willingness and information. It is difficult to cite their names as they are many.

The last but not the least, I must thank all South wollo zone and Dessie city administration youth and sport office workers, fans, former players, and Wollo university sport science summer students who were helpful throughout my work on this study

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