

## **GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AS PREDICTORS OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA**

**OMOBHUDE, SUNDAY PETER**

Department of Kinesiology, Sports Science and Health Education  
Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria  
**Email: [sunnypeteroigiangbe@gmail.com](mailto:sunnypeteroigiangbe@gmail.com)**

&

**OYEDELE, AKINSANMI OPEOLUWA**

Department of Kinesiology, Sports Science and Health Education  
Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria  
**Email: [opeoyedele@gmail.com](mailto:opeoyedele@gmail.com)**

### **Abstract**

*Grassroots football lays the foundation of the game of football and its primary aim is to increase participation for children, youths and those with physical disability. However, its development in Nigeria is low and did not accommodate the perspectives on which the foundation of grassroots football development was laid. Nonetheless, there is a paucity of studies on grassroots football development strategies recently in Nigeria. This study therefore, examined grassroots football development strategies as predictors of professional football development (PFD) in Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted, while self-developed and validated questionnaire was used for data collection from 647 respondents. The descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were used to analyse the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. While the descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages, mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the research questions. However, inferential statistics of multiple regressions was used to test the hypotheses 1 and 2 at 0.05 alpha level. The result revealed that, the level of professional football development was low in Nigeria (weighted mean=1.77). There was a joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies of club networks, modern facilities, male and female participation on PFD in Nigeria ( $F_{(4,642)}=115.695$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). Modern facilities ( $\beta=-0.394$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), male ( $\beta=-0.493$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) and female participation ( $\beta=0.581$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) had relative prediction on PFD in Nigeria, while club networks ( $\beta=-0.053$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) did not. The study concluded that, there was significant joint and relative influence of grassroots football development on professional football development in Nigeria. Recommendation was made that, Nigerian Football Federation should collaborate with other relevant stakeholders in the football industry to ensure that football is more developed from grassroots in Nigeria; with emphasis on both male and female football.*

**Keywords:** *Grassroots football, Development strategies, Professional football development*

### **Introduction**

Grassroots football development is the bedrock for meaningful football improvement in all the football nations of the world (Jeannette, 2024). Grassroots football lays the foundation of the game of football, and its primary aim is to increase participation for children, youth, amateurs, veterans, those with physical disabilities, cerebral palsy, visually impaired and even the socially disadvantaged (Abigail, 2025). Grassroots football development in Nigeria cannot be said to have accommodated the perspectives on which the foundation of grassroots football development is laid. A number of indicators for professional football development are still inadequate in Nigeria; hence, professional football development is relatively low in Nigeria. On the contrary, the Federation of International Football Association's (FIFA) grassroots philosophies states that football should be for everyone regardless of age, gender, religions and level of fitness while its primary focus in grassroots football development is to promote football for boys and girls, age six to twelve through community, school and club initiatives (Bitrus, 2025; Adewale, 2019; Ojo, 2018).

Many factors have been viewed to predict professional football development, among which are grassroots development factors. Grassroots football development indicators include male participation, female participation, modern facilities and club networks to mention a few. While FIFA talent development scheme includes but not limited to expertise, training and education, knowledge exchange and funding. Male participation in the game of football dates back to as old as the game which started about 2000 years ago, and it is played by nations all over the world, on the streets for recreation and on playground and stadia for competition (Jia et al., 2021). The passion for Nigerian football has grown to an enviable level amongst many Nigerians such that many Nigerian football lovers wish that the national team qualifies for every available international football tournament.

Female football participation in Nigeria is in reference to the level of female football players involvement in the game of football in Nigeria as much as their male counterpart and which currently is relatively low both at the grassroots and consequently at the professional level when compared to the level of Nigerian male football participation and the level of female football participation development in Europe, Brazil and America (Abubakar, 2021; Viladrich & Alcaraz, 2023). The Nigeria national female team, nicknamed the Super Falcon, has represented Nigeria in several international competitions including the FIFA women's world cup held jointly in Australia/New Zealand 2023.

Furthermore, another important factor of professional football development is modern football facilities. Football facilities across Africa football nations including Nigeria are in bad state particularly with poor maintenance where these football facilities are available with the exception of few countries such as South Africa and Morocco that can boast of world class stadia and football facilities (Ojomo & Olomjobi, 2021). Good and modern football facilities enhance professional football development. Many African football nations including Nigeria stadia are lacking

modern football facilities and are grossly inadequate when compared to modern football stadia in Europe and America (George, Carsten & Stig, 2020).

Equally viewed as a factor of professional football development is the football club networks. This is the characteristic of individual football player's behaviour and of clubs' in the game of football. An explanation igniting new perspective supporting this assertion in a separate study, noted that there are distinct types of football networks that comprises of different individuals as football players and football clubs (Kehinde, 2024; Adler & Bluecoated, 2024). For instance, in football, networks by football players on the field of play of football games, each ball passes onward for attack is not made by the shooter alone but with the teamwork of numerous other football players for a successful passage and in the same manner, a football player's transfer is not done in the vacuum but with a chain of offices and football personnel positive end results. In another study, it was noted that football transfers are usually done through negotiations and deals between football clubs through club networking.

Nigeria has always been recognised as a powerhouse in African football, producing talented players who have made a name for themselves on the global stage. Yet, the nation's grassroots football system remains largely underdeveloped, (Emmanuel, 2024). There are several challenges bedevilling Nigeria grassroots football ranging from; inadequate funding, lack of qualified coaches, poor infrastructure, poor talent identification and development structure and weak community-based initiatives for football development, as these are general barriers to grassroots sports development. Really, underdevelopment of grassroots football has negatively impacted on football development by hindering talent identification and development, inadequate structured football programmes, slow player skill progression, poor football career development and failure of provision of structured pathway to the professional (elite) level. When compared to western football development standards, it has also created a dysfunctional football environment where untapped talents, potential and financial instability are common occurrences that has impacted grassroots football negatively in Nigeria. Therefore, this study investigated grassroots football development strategies as predictors of professional football development in Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Nigeria football is fraught with the problems of underdevelopment (Oladele, 2021). The continued underperformance of African teams over the years particularly Nigeria national teams at international football tournaments has become a yardstick to measure the stagnant nature of the game in Nigeria. The local leagues and clubs on the continent are largely run unprofessionally except in very few countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria with accusations of match fixing are abound. Comparatively, the level of professional football development in Nigeria is low when compared to that of Europe and America. These are attributed to reasons such as absence of formalised functional grassroots football development plan involving both the male and female participation for progressive transition to elite football development. The Nigerian grassroots football requires professional football management, aggressive youth football development for male and female, better coaching experience and training, infrastructural facilities development at the

grassroots football level. There is an urgent need to revamp grassroots football development factors to measure up involving both male and female football participation at all levels of professional football development in Nigeria. In spite of these, there is scarcity of studies on grassroots football development strategies related in Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study was to investigate influence of grassroots football development strategies on professional football development in Nigeria.

The objectives of this study are to:

1. assess the level of professional football development in Nigeria
2. examine the joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks) on professional football development in Nigeria.
3. examine the relative prediction of grassroots football development factors of male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks on professional football development in Nigeria.

### **Research Question**

1. What is the level of professional football development in Nigeria?

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 significance level.

1. There is no significant joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, and club networks) on professional football development in Nigeria.
2. There is no significant relative prediction of male participation, female participation, modern facilities and club networks on professional football development in Nigeria.

### **Methodology**

The descriptive survey research design was used for this study. Consequently, data were collected from the football stakeholders that are associated with the game of football in the sports industry in Nigeria. The population for this study included all the football stakeholders that are associated with the game of football in the sports industry in Nigeria. The sample size for this study was six hundred and seventy nine (679) respondents. These football stakeholders were drawn from three NSC sports zones in Nigeria. However, the researchers were able to administer a total of six hundred and forty seven (647) questionnaires. A multi-stage sampling technique of simple random sampling technique, census and disproportionate stratified sampling technique were used to select six hundred and forty seven (647) respondents. The researchers obtained approval for the study from the authorities of the selected bodies or sports organisations. Similarly, consents of the respondents were sought for before the instrument was administered.

Questionnaire was used as instrument for this study. The instrument was titled Grassroots Football Development Strategies and Professional Football Development

Questionnaire (GFDSFPDQ). The questionnaire was subjected to reliability test using Cronbach’s Alpha; which yielded coefficient value of 0.84. The researchers used four research assistants per state to collect the data. The descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were used to analyse the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages, mean and standard deviation were used to analyse the research questions. Inferential statistics of multiple regression was used to test all the hypotheses 1 and 2 at 0.05 alpha level.

**Results and Discussion of Findings**

The results and discussion of findings are stated as follows:

**Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents:**

**Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents by Sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	446	68.9
Female	201	31.1
Total	647	100.0

Table 1 reveals that almost three quarter of the respondents (68.9%) were male, while female constituted 31.1% of the sample size.

**Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Age**

Age	Frequency	Percent
30 years and below	231	35.7
31-40 years	155	24.0
41-50 years	90	13.9
51 Years above	171	26.4
Total	647	100.0

Table 4.2 reveals that over one quarter of the respondents (35.7%) were 30 years and below, 24.0% were in the age range of 31-40 years, 26.4% were over 51 years, while a few (13.9%) were in the age range of 41-50 years.

**Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents by Professional Status**

Professional Status	Frequency	Percent
NFF Board members	12	1.9
State FA Board member	78	12.1
Management Staff (NPFL, NNL & LMC)	38	5.9
State FA Secretary	158	24.4
Coach	128	19.8
Players	150	23.2
Sport Writer	40	6.2
Corporate Organisation Staff	43	6.6
Total	647	100.0

Table 3 reveals that less than one quarter of the respondents (24.4%) were State FA Secretaries, 23.0% of the respondents were players, a few were coaches (19.8%) and State FA Board members (12.1%) respectively. Also, few were Corporate Organisation Staff (6.6%), Sport Writers (6.2%) and Management Staff of NPFL,

NNL & LMC (5.9%) respectively; while NFF Board members constituted 1.9% of the sample size.

**Research Question**

The following research question was answered.

**Research Question One:** What is the level of professional football development in Nigeria?

**Table 4: Descriptive Analysis on Level of Professional Football Development**

S/n	Statement	A	S	R	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
1.	Nigeria’s talent identification programmes at the grassroots unlike other western football nations cannot boost football professional development	155 (24.0%)	296 (45.7%)	164 (25.3%)	32 (4.9%)	2.11	1.82
2.	Age grade football structure (U-15, U-17, U-20, U-23 football teams) for elite football development is not encouraging and affecting professional football development	467 (72.2%)	102 (15.8%)	72 (11.1%)	6 (0.9%)	1.41	1.72
3.	Youth football development programmes that serve as breeding grounds for elite football development in Nigeria is not adequate	245 (37.9%)	295 (45.6%)	84 (13.0%)	23 (3.6%)	1.82	0.79
4.	Nigeria age grade football structure is not properly funded to enhance football development	344 (53.2%)	247 (38.2%)	36 (5.6%)	20 (3.1%)	1.59	0.74
5.	Present Nigeria football infrastructures can’t adequately enhance grassroots’ football development	263 (40.6%)	310 (47.9%)	48 (7.4%)	26 (4.0%)	1.75	0.76
6.	Nigeria football programmes and competitions at various levels/stages is not boosting football development	332 (51.3%)	220 (34.0%)	77 (11.9%)	18 (2.8%)	1.66	0.79
7.	Structure of Nigeria national football league programme is not aiding high level of professional football development nationally	261 (40.3%)	238 (36.8%)	130 (20.1%)	18 (2.8%)	1.85	0.83
8.	Nigerian coaches’ expertise is not adequate compared to foreign coaches; and this cannot aid professional football development	350 (54.1%)	170 (26.3%)	118 (18.2%)	9 (1.4%)	1.67	0.82
9.	Fans attendance at football matches is low in Nigeria	217 (33.5%)	354 (54.7%)	47 (7.3%)	29 (4.5%)	1.83	0.75
10.	Nigeria do not have better playing conditions like the European league clubs; thus it can affect professional football development	294 (45.4%)	183 (28.3%)	132 (20.4%)	38 (5.9%)	1.87	0.94
11.	Nigeria age grade football programmes compared to European obtainable standards is not adequate for professional football development in Nigeria	297 (45.9%)	185 (28.6%)	76 (11.7%)	89 (13.8%)	1.93	1.06
12.	Presence of elite footballers in the league is not boosting professional league development in Nigeria	311 (48.1%)	207 (32.0%)	129 (19.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1.72	0.78
						Weighted mean = 1.77	

**Decision rule:** 1.00-1.49=Very low, 1.50-2.49=Low, 2.50–3.49=High, 3.50-4.00=Very high

**Key:** Always (A), Sometimes (Occasionally), (S) Rarely (R), Never (N)

Table 4 reveals that 24.0% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria's talent identification programmes at the grassroots unlike other western football nations cannot boost football professional development, 45.7% mentioned sometimes, 25.3% indicated rarely, while 4.9% stated never. Moreover, 72.2% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that age grade football structure (U-15, U-17, U-20, U-23 football teams) for elite football development is not encouraging and affecting professional football development, 15.8% mentioned sometimes, 11.1% indicated rarely, while 0.9% stated never. Similarly, 37.9% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that youth football development programmes that serve as breeding grounds for elite football development in Nigeria is not adequate, 45.6% mentioned sometimes, 13.0% indicated rarely, while 3.6% stated never. Likewise, 53.2% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria age grade football structure is not properly funded to enhance football development, 38.2% mentioned sometimes, 5.6% indicated rarely, while 3.1% stated never.

Furthermore, 40.6% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that present Nigeria football infrastructures can't adequately enhance grassroots' football development, 47.9% mentioned sometimes, 7.4% indicated rarely, while 4.0% stated never. Additionally, 51.3% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria football programmes and competitions at various levels/stages is not boosting football development, 34.0% mentioned sometimes, 11.9% indicated rarely, while 2.8% stated never. Also, 40.3% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that structure of Nigeria national football league programme is not aiding high level of professional football development nationally, 36.8% mentioned sometimes, 20.1% indicated rarely, while 2.8% stated never. Similarly, 54.1% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigerian coaches' expertise is not adequate compared to foreign coaches; and this cannot aid professional football development, 26.3% mentioned sometimes, 18.2% indicated rarely, while 1.4% stated never.

Similarly, 33.5% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that fans attendance at football matches is low in Nigeria, 54.7% mentioned sometimes, 7.3% indicated rarely, while 4.5% stated never. Furthermore, 45.4% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria do not have better playing conditions like the European league clubs; thus it can affect professional football development, 28.3% mentioned sometimes, 20.4% indicated rarely, while 5.9% stated never. Equally, 45.9% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria age grade football programmes compared to European obtainable standards is not adequate for professional football development in Nigeria, 28.6% mentioned sometimes, 11.7% indicated rarely, while 13.8% stated never. Additionally, 48.1% of the respondents indicated always on the fact that presence of elite footballers in the league is not boosting professional league development in Nigeria, 32.0% mentioned sometimes, while 19.9% indicated rarely. It was further revealed that, on the average, the respondents' responses on the level of professional football development in Nigeria had a weighted mean of 1.77; indicating that it was low. This implies that the level of professional football development was low in Nigeria.

**Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks) on professional football development in Nigeria.

**Table 5: Summary of Regression Analysis of Joint Prediction of Grassroots Football Development Strategies on Professional Football Development**

R=0.647							
R <sup>2</sup> =0.419							
Adj. R <sup>2</sup> =0.415							
Std. Error=2.62734							
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig. (p value)	Remark	
Regression	3194.536	4	798.634	115.695	0.000	Significant	
Residual	4431.665	642	6.903				
Total	7626.201	646					

As shown in table 5, it was found that the linear combination of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, facilities) on professional football development in Nigeria ( $F_{(4,642)}=115.695, p<0.05$ ). The result yielded a coefficient of multiple regression of 0.645 and multiple R-square of 0.419. The result also revealed that adjusted R<sup>2</sup>=0.415; indicating that about 41.5% of variance was accounted for by the independent variables. This means that, there was a significant joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, facilities) on professional football development in Nigeria. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant relative prediction of male participation, female participation, modern facilities and club networks on professional football development in Nigeria.

**Table 6: Summary of Regression Analysis of Relative Prediction of Grassroots Football Development Strategies on Professional Football Development**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.	Remark
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T		
(Constant)	26.421	0.382		69.215	0.000	
Male participation	-0.595	0.129	-0.493	-4.621	0.000	Significant
Female participation	0.846	0.065	0.581	12.950	0.000	Significant
Modern facilities	-0.480	0.111	-0.394	-4.307	0.000	Significant
Club networks	0.062	0.065	0.053	0.946	0.345	Not Significant

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 6 shows that male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, the unstandardized regression weight ( $\beta$ ), the standardized error of estimate ( $SE\beta$ ), the standardized coefficient, the t-ratio and the level at which the t-ratio was significant. As indicated in the table, male participation ( $\beta=-0.493$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), female participation ( $\beta=0.581$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), modern facilities ( $\beta=-0.394$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), while club networks ( $\beta=0.053$ ,  $p>0.05$ ) did not. This means that there was a significant relative prediction of male participation, female participation and modern facilities on professional football development in Nigeria. The null hypothesis which stated that there was a significant relative prediction of male participation, female participation and modern facilities on professional football development in Nigeria was therefore rejected.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The findings of this study on socio-demographic characteristics revealed that almost three quarter of the respondents were male, while female constituted 31.1% of the sample size. In addition, it was revealed that over one quarter of the respondents were 30 years and below, 24.0% were in the age range of 31-40 years, 26.4% were over 51 years, while a few (13.9%) were in the age range of 41-50 years. Furthermore, it was revealed that less than one quarter of the respondents were State FA Secretaries, 23.0% of the respondents were players, a few were coaches and State FA Board members respectively. Also, few were Corporate Organisation Staff, Sport Writers and Management Staff of NPFL, NNL & LMC respectively; while NFF Board members constituted 1.9% of the sample size.

The finding of this study on research question revealed that the level of professional football development was low in Nigeria. This was established through the weighted mean of the respondents' responses on professional football development in Nigeria; which indicated low based on the decision rule. It was further established through the respondents' responses of which most of them indicated always and sometimes on the fact that Nigeria's talent identification programmes at the grassroots unlike other western football nations cannot boost football professional development. Moreover, most of the respondents indicated always on the fact that age grade football structure (U-15, U-17, U-20, U-23 football teams) for elite football development is not encouraging and affecting professional football development. Similarly, most of the respondents indicated always and sometimes on the fact that youth football development programmes that serve as breeding grounds for elite football development in Nigeria. Likewise, over half of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria age grade football structure is not properly funded to enhance football development, while over one quarter of the respondents indicated sometimes.

Furthermore, many of the respondents indicated always and sometimes on the fact that present Nigeria football infrastructures can't adequately enhance grassroots' football development. Additionally, over half of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria football programmes and competitions at various levels/stages is not boosting football development, over one quarter of the respondents indicated sometimes. Also, many of the respondents indicated always and sometimes respectively on the fact that structure of Nigeria national football league programme is

not aiding high level of professional football development nationally. Similarly, over half of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigerian coaches' expertise is not adequate compared to foreign coaches; and this cannot aid professional football development, a significant number mentioned sometimes.

Similarly, some of the respondents indicated always on the fact that fans attendance at football matches is low in Nigeria, while over half mentioned sometimes. Furthermore, a significant number of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria do not have better playing conditions like the European league clubs; thus it can affect professional football development, many mentioned sometimes. Equally, many of the respondents indicated always on the fact that Nigeria age grade football programmes compared to European obtainable standards is not adequate for professional football development in Nigeria, while some mentioned sometimes. Additionally, many of the respondents indicated always on the fact that presence of elite footballers in the league is not boosting professional league development in Nigeria, while many mentioned sometimes. The finding of this study on low level of professional football development in Nigeria is contrast to the finding of a previous study which established that grassroots football is about participation at the recreational level involving both active and passive participants (Adetunji, 2013; George, 2020).

The finding of this study in hypothesis one revealed that the linear combination of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, facilities) on professional football development in Nigeria. The result further established that about 41.5% of variance was accounted for by the independent variables. This means that, there was a significant joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, facilities) on professional football development in Nigeria. This outcome established that the combination of grassroots football development strategies of male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, facilities had significant impact on professional football development in Nigeria. The outcome of this study on joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies is in contrast to the finding of a previous study which revealed that the way football organizations could impact the participation of women and girls in football has been exemplified through several interview, speeches and news reports (Adewale, 2019).

The outcome of hypothesis two revealed that male participation, female participation, modern facilities, while club networks did not. This means that there was a significant relative prediction of male participation, female participation and modern facilities on professional football development in Nigeria. It implied that each of male participation, female participation and modern facilities independently had significant impact on professional football development in Nigeria, while club networks did not. This means that the manner at which male and female footballers participate in competitions as well as in ability to provide modern facilities independently affected the professional football development in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

Conclusion was made in this study that, the level of professional football development was low in Nigeria. Conclusion was made that there was a joint prediction of grassroots football development strategies (male participation, female participation, modern facilities, club networks, facilities) on professional football development in Nigeria. It was affirmed that there was a significant relative prediction of male participation, female participation and modern facilities on professional football development in Nigeria.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. The Nigerian Football Federation should intensify efforts to ensure that professional football is well developed. This is to ensure that Nigerian professional football is improved upon from the present low level to an international standard.
2. The Nigerian Football Federation should collaborate with other relevant stakeholders like footballers, referee, sport writer and corporate organisation staff to ensure that football is developed from grassroots in Nigeria; with emphasis on both male and female football.
3. The authorities in charge of football at different Local Government Areas should ensure that male and female participation is encouraged and promoted at the grassroots across Nigeria.

### **References**

- Abigail, O., Unwana, S.A., Iniobong, C.N., & Cookey, O.O. (2025). Media Framing of 2022 NUGA Games in Quest for National Cohesion and Gender Equality. *In Discourses in Sport Communication in Africa and The African Diaspora*, pp. 170-189, 2025.
- Abubakar, G. O. (2021). Branding as a tool for customer loyalty: Globacom Telecommunication Ltd, Lagos Sate, Nigeria. <https://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi:amk-2021062116485>. Retrieved January 10, 2025.
- Adetunji, A. (2013). A discursive construction of teasing in football fandom: The context of the South-western Nigerian viewing centres. *Discourse & Society*, Vol. 24. No: 2, pp. 147-162. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24441509>. DOI. 10.1177/0957926512469392.
- Adele, K. (2016). Nigerian Premier League has grown. This day live. Retrieved 26 January 2024. <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016/07/30/awogu-nigerianpremier-league-has-grown/>
- Bitrus, K.A. (2025). The Role of Local Government Area Administrators in the Development of Football in Taraba State Nigeria, *Solo International Collaboration and Publication of Social Sciences and Humanities* 3. (01). Pp. 69-82.
- Emmanuel, A., (2024). Unlocking the Potential: Grassroots football development in Nigeria. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/unlocking-potential-grassroots-football-development-nigeria-adekunbi-mwief>. Retrieved on September 10, 2025.

- George, F., Carsten, H. L., Stig, A. S. (2020). Talent development environment in a professional football [in Norway](#).  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339166877>.  
Retrieved 7 may 2024.
- Jeannette, H. (2024). Levelling the Playing Field: An Ethnographic Study of Latinx Youth Soccer Leagues in Las Vegas. A *PhD dissertation*, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- Jia, Z., Abdullah, B.B., Dev, R.D.O. & Samsudin, S B. (2021). Influence of Football basic technical training on youth soccer players in Shanxi province, China. *Cypriot Journal of Educational Science*. 16.(2),777-788. <https://doi.org/10.18844/cjes.v16i2.5658>  
<https://eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1297024.pdf>. Retrieved on 7 May, 2023.
- Kehinde, O.M. (2024). Bureaucratic Processes and Economic Factors as Correlates of Availability and Utilization of Sport Facilities in Tertiary Institutions in Kwara State. *Master's Thesis, Kwara State University (Nigeria)*.
- Ojo, T. (2018). Changing the game in Nigeria: Appropriating internet and web 2.0 for sport communication. *Soccer & Society*, Vol.19 No.2, pp. 222- 235.
- Ojomo, O.W. & Olomjobi, O.T. (2021) Viewing the Game Textually: Online Consumption of Live Text Commentary as Alternate Spectatorship among Nigerian Football Fans. *Journal of Communication & Sport*, 9. (3). Pp. 496-521.
- Oladele, A. G. (2021). Branding as a Tool for Customer Loyalty: Globacom Telecommunications Ltd, Lagos State, Nigeria.
- Viladrich, O.L.C. & Alcaraz, S. (2023). Comparing three Observation Instruments of the Coach's Behaviour in Grassroots Football. *International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching*, 18. (6). Pp. 1901-1912.