

**ASSESSMENT OF TALENT IDENTIFICATION AND PLAYERS
SUCCESS RATE: WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ADDIS ABABA
BASKETBALL PROJECTS.**

BY: AYENALEM MECHALO

**A thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa
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of Science in sport science (Basketball Coaching Specialization)**

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ADDIS ABABA**

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APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

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**MAY 2016
ADDIS ABABA**

Declaration

I, the undersigned, graduate basketball coaching Sport science student declare that, this thesis is my original work in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of basketball coaching.

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Date of Submission: _____

This proposal work has been submitted for examination with my approval as university advisor(s).

Advisors

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation is to assess talent identification and players success rate of basketball projects under Addis Ababa city. Cross-sectional study design was best suited to carry out the study and qualitative and quantitative research method was also employed. The total populations of this study were 200 players and 10 project coaches from different basketball projects of Addis Ababa. Among the total population, 100(50%) project participants were selected using simple random sampling method and 10(100%) of coaches were selected using purposive sampling method by considering their coaching experience. Therefore to realize the objective of the study primary data were gathered from basketball project coaches as well as players. In addition to this document analysis was employed to observe personal profile of players. Questionnaire of talent identification developed by Rutten et al (2005) and Wegnear et al (2011), as well as structured interview was the main information gathering tools in the course of the study. Statistical analysis was carried out by using (SPSS) statistical package of social science version 20. Therefore quantitatively collected Data were analyzed through descriptive statistics, mean, standard deviation and data gathered through structured interview were analyzed by organizing similar verbatim in to common themes. Independent sample t-test was carried out to determine the mean score difference between the project coaches and players regarding to goal of talent identification, target of talent identification, the availability of sufficient personnel to carry out talent identification, cooperative work, financial resources and infrastructure and support from family and government. Therefore independent sample t-test indicated that there was statistically significance mean difference appeared between players and coaches regarding to target of talent identification, the availability of sufficient personnel to carry out talent identification, cooperative work and financial resources and infrastructure ($p < 0.05$). The final results of the study show that, common method of talent identification in most projects was visual assessment. There was low rate of player's participation in higher league or clubs after completing project engagement. Financial problem, limited number of personnel to identify material, low concern from family and government body and absence of equipment were the major problems that directly related with talent identification in Addis Ababa basketball projects.

Key word. *Talent, goal, target, success rate, visual assessment. talent selection.*

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the world and one of the most widely viewed. It is a team sport that involved two teams of 5 active players each trying to score points against one another. Different individual have different types of inherited personal talent those increases their willingness and motivation to participate in specific activity. This is also true in sport activity that requires different types of personal quality that makes an individual to perform effectively and easily coachable in particular training. In this regard identifying such types or personal attributes is very fundamental to future success and effectiveness of players.

Talent identification in sport can be a thought challenge from grass root to elite level, there are numerous scouts and coaches who attend games to try and uncover the hidden Game that no one else can spot. Within sport it is becoming more important than ever teams are desperate to try and these processes begin from a young age (Abbot & Collins, 2002). Talent identification to be effective and reliable, it is very important that all the possible criteria and requirements that play role in effective performance be precisely determined.

Gabbard, C. (1992) states that, peak performance in sport is achieved between the ages of 18 to 20 years, after about a decade of training, and that consequently basketball players with promise need to be identified between the ages of eight or nine years of age, before they undergo their growth spurt. The result obtained from talent identification process can help coach and sport trainer to differentiate players based on tangible performance indicator. In addition to this, light and potential reason for other talented individual being unnoticed in the talent identification process. Depending on the results of this prediction, the basketball players will be directed toward either a recreational program or an intensive training and development.

Identifying talented individuals from large number of participant us the best way but it consume time and it needs man power. Reginier et al., (1993), & Harre (1999), suggested that an initial consideration of talent identification is to put large number of youngsters through training programs.

Success in sport is dependent on three factors i.e., 1. Physiological capacity, 2) Morphological attributes, and 3) Motor capacity, that incorporates strength, power, endurance and perceptual,

motor ability. Psychological, morphological, environmental and perceptual-motor variables are considered to be the determinants that most likely contribute toward performance. In this task analysis, experts are consulted and the existing literature in the field or sport concerned is reviewed. Four indicators are used to determine the basketball player's talent for a sport, with the observations conducted while the child is participating in a sport specific training. The factors are 1) their response to the demands of training: 2) the degree of improvement in their performance, 3) their level of performance that they achieve in the development program and 4) their overall stability in performance under different conditions (Hare,E. 1999).

Furthermore discussion can be made on just one performance referring back to the identification process, finding that, spark of talent can be difficult hence the reason why many discussion on players are made on physical attributes or the success of their performance during that specific time. It is important to understand the fundamentals and foundations in which to build psychological and technical skills. So those, the player can thrive with in the development environment. Coaches and teams will want different things from their talent identification process. Therefore each process will differ from team to team as they will want from their players and to ensure they fit in with the clubs philosophy, (Abbot& Collins, 2002).

So that identifying players talent in at early stage is very fundamental process to provide sport specific training and a chive considerable improvement for further development of player performance success. In Addis Ababa there are a number of basketball project in different sub cities, but accordingly in this project limited number of players becomes the participant of higher league. Therefore this investigation was conducted in Addis Ababa city youth basketball projects to assess the existence of talent identification practice and players success.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Talent identification in any sport or in basketball and especially amongst young participants is importance to make sure players are guided to the kind of sport or specific event which will suit them best ,Appropriate support and training are essential if talented individuals are to full their potential. Partly for that reason, the early identification of talented basketball players is an increasingly important consideration for researchers and practitioners like. Consequently, an effective talent identification system is an essential precursor to talent development, as it will direct support to those individuals who have the greatest potential to achieve senior international success in sport.

There are numerous researches on talent identification and development that strengthen the importance of multivariate approach through which potentially reach athletes are identified and developed. According to Birhanu (2005) there is problem of talent identification and development in the area under the study and there is no research conducted and, hence no finding and conclusion drawn on the talent identification and development of Basketball players of Addis Ababa Basketball federation clubs. So through identifying problems behind this area and forwarding some sort of scientific justification play great role to overcome such types of problem around basketball project.

As stated by different authors and review of literature talent identification is the basic element in sport to select players based on their sport specific personal quality. Selecting project participants in different basketball projects based on their closeness to project area or because of the absences of other options to recreate in their break time or interest to participate in the projects may lead to low improvement rate of performance during training. To this regard among ball games those require special talents; basketball is one of popular ball game in the world as well as in our country. Despite of this fact the progressive development of basketball is very passive in our country and very limited numbers of players have been known for they have been project participant of basketball. This is due to absence of selecting players at the grass root level based on sport specific talent identification method.

Therefore researcher intended to examine the existence of scientific talent identification practice in the basketball project and success rate regarding to their involvement under Addis Ababa city basketball clubs and higher league competition.

1.3 Research question

This investigation intends to answer the following hypothesis in the progress of the study

1. Do basketball coaches select project participant based on success oriented goal?
2. How basketball coaches identify player's talent at grass root level?
3. Does previous success rate of basketball project participant go in line with expected out come from offered talent identification method?
4. Is their family, government body and other stakeholder contribution in talent identification of basketball project participant?
5. What are the major factors that hider talent identification of basketball players in Addis Ababa projects?

1.4 Objectives of the study

This research has the following general and specific objective.

1.4.1 General objective

The general objective of this study is to assess talent identification and success rate of player with Specific reference of Addis Ababa city youth basketball projects.

1.4.2 Specific objective

- ❖ To determine the selection of project participant based on success oriented goal or not.
- ❖ To identify methods of talent identification used by project coaches at grass root level.
- ❖ To examine the previous success rate of basketball participant will go in line with expected out come from previously used talent identification methods.
- ❖ To look the contribution of family, government body and other stakeholders in talent identification of basketball project of Addis Ababa.
- ❖ To find out the major factors that hinder talent identification of basketball players in Addis Ababa projects.

1.5 Significance of the study

Talent identification provides specific predictive skill of player so it is very fundamental for coaches who participate in coaching profession. To this end, this study has the following major significances.

- ❖ It provides scientific explanation regarding to talent identification that helps coaches and stakeholder working with youth.
- ❖ It forward scientific criteria that helps coaches and stakeholder to select talented players in basketball.
- ❖ It clearly indicate how talent identification related with player success rate.
- ❖ It may initiate other research to be conducted in similar topic and helps us a source of reference.

1.6 Limitation

In the course of the study the following obstacles faced the researcher to limits the investigation; Lack of related published literatures, Shortage of time, Absence of well-organized documents of player's personal profile.

1.7 Delimitation

To make the study manageable the researcher delimited the scope of the study in Addis Ababa city under 17 male basketball projects and ideally also it was delimited on assessment of talent identification method and player success rate. (How basketball coach identify player talent, accurate talent identification method in youth basketball project, player selection criteria, the existence of talent identification and major problem that hinder talent identification process)

1.8 Operational definition of terms

- **Talent**:- is a quality or substance that a person or group has, that sets them apart from other people.(Gulbin 2001)
- **Talent identification**;- refers to the process of recognizing the potential to become an elite player, among a current group of participants(Williams and Reilly 2000)
- **success**;- is a peace of mind which ids direct result of self satisfactions in knowing to made the effect to do the best which to are capable.(Smoll ,2015)