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Dynamic and Implications of Football Fans' Club and Fans' Fanaticism for School Violence Among Tertiary Students in Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study found out the dynamics of becoming football fans and supporting the chosen football teams by tertiary students in Lagos. Basically, the study discovered the readiness of tertiary students to involve in negative behaviour should their team lose

major football match. Using purposive sampling technique, 320 respondents who verbally declared as ardent fans of football teams were drawn from the population of students across tertiary institutions in Lagos State. Data were collected using a 3-section instrument titled: Football Fans' Club Membership Questionnaire (FFCMQ). Collected data were analyzed using percentages and t-test statistics. Findings revealed that a significant percentage of tertiary students in Lagos were ardent fans of foreign football teams (96.5%) rather than fans of local team (3.4%). Also, 62.55% of the samples never switch support for their chosen teams. In addition, 93.4% became football fans because of the performance of the entire team rather than performance of a particular player on the team. On the issue of football fanaticism, only 2.5% of the sample said they would violently protest if their team losses a match- this is against 92.5% that said they will not get involved in such. In fact, 62.8% would rather walk out of the scene of the game- though with non-offensive annoyance. Only 0.6% as against 97.8% would be willing to destroy facilities at the venue of watching the game. These levels of involvement in football fanaticism were however found to vary among the respondents on the basis of gender. Thus it was concluded that football fanaticism among tertiary students in Lagos State would hardly lead to violence in school environment or disruption of the peace of the society. It was however recommended that adequate measure should be taken to improve Nigeria football teams so as to make the team popular among the Nigerian youths.

Introduction

The most important thing in Game is not to win but to take part.... The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.

Adopted Olympic Game Creed

The above creed presents all kinds of game as what should be conducted in the manner of peace that is devoid of prejudice and spirit of winner-takes-all. Sports administrators, players and fans are expected to promote peace and spirit of goodwill and not fanaticism in sporting activities. This idea of 'game for peace and not violence' became prominent when, in 1896, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a 29-year-old Frenchman, proposed a renewed Olympic game that is devoid of crisis and spirit of chauvinism among fans and spectators (Awake, September 2008). No doubt, sporting activities may have become a global phenomenon; it has also become an avenue for some enthusiasts to vent violence and prejudice and along fans groupings (Saint-Aberdeen, 2010).

As sports get technical and popular, so do sports admirers get categorized. Some even become emotionally engrossed in the activities of sporting personnel and

groups so much that they will zealously display their admiration for players' skills and clubs' organization. This phenomenon is becoming common as sporting activities are becoming more accessible through the use of ICT facilities. For example, with the advent of hyperactive technological device, football in particular has been able to penetrate homes, groups and international circles. It has become a major sport that attracts individual to participate, market and socialize in the game.

Dross (2009) identified football games as one event that has proved potent enough to bring persons of different political, religious and socio-economic orientations together and make them relate within peaceful atmosphere and at the same time factionalize. No doubt, despite the efforts of international and national soccer governing bodies such as, Federation International De Football Association (FIFA), and NFA, national and international sporting actives such as Olympics Games, African Cup of Nation, World Cup and premier Leagues, on one aspect, have become positive rallying points for cross-border political and socio-economic relationship and in another aspect, an avenue for individualized delineation and sometime, prejudice.

Sporting activities are capable of these double-edged influences because they have potential of drawing human attention to participate either as a player or as a spectator. As spectator in football game for example, human beings are known to fragment into fans groups. As fans, they express their support and loyalty to the success of their chosen team. As they express their support, fans sociologically benefit or lose from the success or failure of the teams. Through the success of a team, football fans' sense of social affiliation, identity and self-esteem are boosted and those of the fan of the losing team get kaput or busted. These arrays of emotional appointment and disappointment keep fans fragmented and unstable in fan-ship.

No doubt, fans do not just congregate to become groups, the formation often fellow certain sociological processes (Randle, 2000). Sociologists and Social Psychologists have interest in how humans get attracted to one another and how they thereafter form social group and express their loyalty to the group they belong to (Tornstam, 1992). Sociologists and researchers in related fields established the fact that forming a group, such as football-fans club, stems from human's basic characteristic of getting attracted to other person' skill, performance and personality. As the group becomes productive and popular in the society, it is human to develop willingness to be identified with those other persons (Wrong & Csitzkzentmihalyi 1991).

Understanding the underlining factors motivating formation of football fans clubs and the factors that reinforce fans' willingness to be identified with their chosen football team is termed dynamics of foot-fans club in this study. In modern societies, young and old, male and female sport enthusiasts can be seen displaying their loyalty or allegiance to specific football team verbally or non-verbally. Through what they say,

wear, ride, sell and eat, youths in particular get identified with promising football teams. For example, in our society, it is common to see admirers of West Han United football team wear fashion items produced by Macron or *SBOBET*. Some youths wear items produced by Adidas or 32Red because they are fans of Swansea City and many will only go for items produced by Nike or Aon because they love Manchester United. However, beyond what football fans wear, the fans are sometimes ready to resist opposition directed toward their team (Ramon, 2011). More specifically, it is common in Nigeria to find sport admirers proclaim their loyalty to European football team such as Arsenal, Aston Villa, and Chelsea, Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool, and host of other teams that have proved skillful and consistent in making their fans proud in the game of football.

Becoming ardent football fans may be attributed to many reasons. Many fans may have become Arsenal because of the brilliant performance of its Manager, Arsenal Wenger or its Captain, Thomas Vermaelen. Some may have opted for Manchester City because of Roberto Mancini or Vincent Company, its Captain. On the other hand, the teaming fans of Manchester United may have become ardent fans simply because of the personalities of Sir Alex Ferguson, its Manager or Nemanja Vidic, its captain. Many are even said to pick and love a team because of the extraordinary goal scoring skill of players in the team. For instance, scorers such as Michu and Nathan Dyer of Swansea City; Bratislava Ivanovic and Frank Lampard of Chelsea or Darron Gibson and Leighton Baines of Everton may be the motivating factors for supporters of Swansea City, Chelsea or Everton. Yet, some pull in and out of supporting specific football team to express their displeasure of the team's inability to stay on League. For example, Premier League teams such as Bolton Wanderers, Blackburn Rovers and Wolverhampton Wanderers that were relegated from the 2011-2012 Leagues may be losing fans and teams such as Reading, Southampton and West Han that were promoted from 2011-2012 Premier Leagues to the 2012-2013 Premier League Season may be gaining new fans.

The process of joining a group and associating at the group level is both cognitive and affective, Horowitz & Bordens (1995). At the cognitive level, humans are known to rationalize the strength and weakness of a group weighing the advantage and disadvantage therein before becoming members. At the level of affection, humans characteristically display loyalty towards members of their group (in-group) to the point of seeing member of such group as better than the members of the out-group. But giving solidarity to or displaying loyalty for the success of one's group can result in what Henri Tajfel, a social Psychologist, referred to as *In-group Bias*. For the purpose of this study, *In-group Bias* is termed fanaticism. Encarta Dictionary defined fanatics as people who are very enthusiastic about a pastime or hobby. Thus, football fans'

fanaticism as used here means football fans' display of intolerance, extremism and prejudice in words and actions toward persons opposing their chosen football team.

Henri Tajfel, through researches he conducted in 1981 and 1982, established that the process of categorizing people into different groups, for example categorizing football spectators as: Arsenal, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Manchester United or Liverpool, is enough to solidify members of each group, to make them see themselves as similar and one different entity –different from the members of other groups, the out-groups (Biling, 1992). Turner (1987) argued that discrimination and prejudice are potent consequences of mapping out people into groups. Thus, members of Arsenal may see themselves as unique in-group and may see fans of Manchester United as less –unique. Butressing this stance, Horowitz & Bordens (1995) explain that any threat to the in-group, whether economic, military or social, tend to heighten bias. They further emphasized that anything that makes a person's membership in a group more salient, more noticeable –such as brilliant scoring trends in the case of football teams –will increase in-group favoritism or fanaticism. Favoritism can become fanaticism if support for in-group or team becomes too extreme, too negative to promote hatred and violence against members of out-group or team. For example, it is football-fans' fanaticism for members of Arsenal fan club to be willing to fight, destroy and kill in order to promote superiority of Arsenal football team above other football teams. It is no longer news that Nigeria youths, particularly those in tertiary institutions are ardent football fans. Being young and vibrant, they easily socialize in the sport circle and in most cases get their social identity and self-esteem boosted and sometimes busted (Folawiyo & Sojimi, 2009). Sometime, we hear a Manchester United fan exclaim: 'I beat the hell out of Arsenal' or Arsenal youth exclaiming 'Arsenal for life'. Sometimes also, when a fan wins he may say "I won" but when his team loses a match, he says 'they lost' rather than 'I lost'. Subsequently, such fan may feel terrible, finding it difficult to read sport-newspapers or listen to sportscasts – avoiding further pains and disappointment.

Humans are known to display a phenomenon called in-group favoritism. As human beings, we tend to have high hope in our group and often have the zeal to protect the interest of that group even if it means offending others. Turner, (1987) maintains that there seems to be no basis too trivial for in-group favoritism. He asserts that humans have a need to believe the groups they belong to, and the members of those groups are more worthy than out-groups and their members. Turner concluded that group hostility starts with this fundamental individual tendency to out value one's group.

The question is: does such tendency implied human readiness to become violent, obstructive and offensive in school and in the society. For example, can humans'

unalloyed support for his/her football team propel him/her to disobey rules and regulations in the society, to get engaged in acts that violate peaceful co-existence but favors his/her team? More precisely, will a Manchester united fan be willing to fight and disrupt school or societal peace so as to send signal of superiority to an opposing football team such as Everton, Liverpool or Chelsea? Finding out these is part of the focus of this research. The research is designed to describe the dynamics of football-fans among tertiary students in Lagos state – precisely to find out factors that motivate and make a tertiary student in the state chose or drop becoming a fan of a particular football club and thereafter decide to ardently support the activities of such team. On the other hand, the study was designed to find out the extent to which football fans are ready to support the opinions and actions of their football teams that are related to violating school and society orderliness.

Theoretical Framework

In social sciences, theories form the basis of constructive researches. Specifically, in Sociology, theories are used to gain projective insight into social phenomenon. Thus, for the purpose of this study, *Social Identity Theory* is adapted. The theory, propounded by Henri Tajfel (Horowitz & Borden's 1995) assumes that human beings are motivated to positively evaluate their own group and sometime out-value them over other groups in order to maintain and enhance their own self-identify. It further states that as human categorized other people into these groups, he also develops varied attitude toward them. sometimes human beings have the attitude of seeing other humans that are categorized into out-group as inferior and persons to be treated as outsider. This stereotypic attitude often leads to prejudice and readiness to treat the others in out-group violently so as to show solidarity and favoritism to members of one's group. Then, in all probability, categorizing football fans and labeling them as either arsenal, Everton, Manchester United, Stoke City or West Harm United could imply tendency for hatred, violence and lawlessness in schools.

Research Question

The following research questions were raised and answered in the study?

RQ1: What motivate decision to be fans of a particular football team among tertiary students in Lagos State?

RQ2: What are the implications of football-fans` fanaticism for school violence in Lagos state, Nigeria?

RQ3: How often do tertiary students in Lagos State switch from being fans of one football team to another team?

RQ4: Are the football teams the tertiary students in Lagos State become their fans home-based teams or are they foreign teams?

RQ5: what is the level of involvement of tertiary students in their display of football fanaticism?

RQ6: Is there genders difference in tertiary students` tendency to display football –fans fanaticism in favor of their football team?

Research Hypotheses

Ho1: The tendency to display football fanaticism in school environment does not significantly vary among tertiary students in Lagos on the basis of gender

Research Methodology

The study was a survey of the dynamics of football-fans club and the implications of football-fans fanaticism for school violence among tertiary students in Lagos state, Nigeria. The research method adopted for the study is the survey research method. The population for the study comprises of private and public universities, polytechnics and colleges of education in the state. From the population, a total sample of 320 respondents was sampled across the institution using purposive sampling. Purposive sampling technique in the sense that only student that verbally indicated their membership or a fans club of any football team (local or foreign) is taken as sample. However, adequate measure was taken to ensure sufficient number of male and female respondents were sampled for the in the study.

A researcher-made questionnaire titled Football Fans` Club Membership Questionnaire (FFCMQ) was used in collecting data from respondents. The instrument has three sections. Section 'A' has item eliciting respondents` biographic data such as gender, name of football-fans` club, and age. However, among the data obtained through this section, only the sourced data on gender were used in the process of testing hypothesis in the study. The section 'B' has items sourcing answers for some research questions raised in the study. The section 'C' has ten item testing respondents` level of sport fanaticism. The items were structured statement of possible negative collection or individual behaviors/actions which football fans would be willing to perpetrate if their teams should lose a major march. These items indicate fans` fanaticism such as: willingness to fight, destroy and promote lawlessness against fans of opposing football team etc. Each of the items has three response options namely: Unlimited involvement (UI), Limited Involvement (LI), Non Involvement (NI). Respondents were asked to indicate their level of willingness to get involved in the action each of the item indicate by picking one among the options. For the purpose of data codification in hypothesis testing, response options (UI, LI, and NI) were scored as following: UI=2, LI=1and NI=0.

The instrument was validated using face and content valid approaches. This involved giving the instruction to two Lecturers of sport psychology in the Department of Human Kinetics, Faculty of Education University of Ilorin. The lecturers were asked to judge the adequacy and relevance of the items in the instrument to elicit the needed data. They thereafter judged the instrument as valid. To test the reliability of the instrument, test-re-test approach was used. This test-re-test yielded 0.77 reliability coefficient for the instrument and this implied that the instrument is reliable for the purpose it was designed. Collected data were analyzed using percentage and t-test statistics.

Data Analysis and Result

RQ1: What motivate choice of football-fans club among tertiary student in Lagos State?

Table1: Identification of determining factors in student` choice of football-fans club

Reason for supporting a team	Applicable		Not Applicable	
	n	%	n	%
1. Skill and personality of the team manager	111	34.6	209	65.3
2. Skill and personality of the captain of the team	98	30.6	222	69.4
3. Performance of a particular player in the team	217	67.8	103	32.2
4 performance of the entire player	299	93.4	21	6.5
5. Domicile of the team (international or local)	75	23.4	245	76.5
6. Peer group's pressure	12	3.75	308	96.2

As indicated in Table 1, the 34.6% of sampled respondents said what motivated them to become fans of the football team they fervently watched and support is the skill and personality of the team managers. On the other hand, 30.6% said it was the skill and personality of the Captain of the teams that motivated them. Also, another 67.8% said their support was motivated by the performance of some specific players in the team. In addition to this, 93.4% said they were motivated by the performance of the entire players. Also, 23.4% supported their team because of the domicile of the team (i.e. being a local or foreign team) and 3.75% said their choice of football team to fervently support was informed by peer pressure.

RQ3: How often do tertiary students in Lagos State switch from being fans of one football team to another team?

Table2: Frequency of students' switch from one football fans' club to another

Frequency of switching support for teams	Applicable		Not Applicable	
	n	%	n	%
1. Often switch support for teams	82	25.6	238	74.3
2. Rarely switch support for teams	38	11.8	282	88.1
3. Never switch support for teams	200	62.5	120	37.5

As shown on Table 2 above, 25.6% of the sampled respondents declared they were often changing support from one football team to another, 11.8% agreed they changed but it was rare and 62.5% of the respondents said they have never changed support for their team.

RQ 4: Are the football teams the tertiary students in Lagos State become their fans home-based or are they foreign teams?

Table 3: Domicile of the team that tertiary students in Lagos State often support

Domiciles of the football teams	Applicable		Not Applicable	
	n	%	n	%
1. Local teams (Nigerian or African)	11	3.4	309	96.5
2. Foreign teams (other than Nigeria or Africa)	309	96.5	11	3.4

Information on Table 3 show that while 96.5% of the sampled tertiary students were fans of foreign football teams 3.4% of the sample were fans of local football teams.

RQ5 What is the level of involvement of tertiary students in the display of football fans' fanaticism?

Table 4: Analysis of involvement in action indicating football fans’ fanaticism

Actions indicating football fanaticism	UI		LI		NI	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
1. Walk out of the scene of the football game, though With non – offensive annoyance even in school	201	62.8	88	27.5	31	9.6
2. Argue constructively with members of opposing Football fans club even in school	299	93.4	21	6.5	---	---
3. Stop relating with member s of the fans’ club of the Winning team in school	73	22.8	12	3.7	235	73.4
4. Stop watching football games that involve my teams	15	4.6	27	8.4	278	86.8
5. Engage in physical combat with member of opposing Team in school	19	5.9	22	6.8	279	87.1
6. Destroy facilities at the point or venue of watching the game even in school	2	0.6	5	1.5	313	97.8
7. Mobilize street demonstration even from school	8	2.5	16	5	296	92.5
8. Make offensive contact with players in my team Physically or through internet	96	30	47	14.6	177	55.3
9. Become aggressive with anybody that display Loyalty to opposing teams even in school	32	10	34	10.6	254	79.3
10. Make offensive contact with the administrators of my teams physically of through internet	31	9.6	12	3.7	277	86.5

KEY

UI = Unlimited Involvement

LI = Limited Involvement

NI = Non Involvement

Data on table 4 indicate respondents’ level of readiness to get involved in violent actions or other various actions through which football fanaticism can be displayed in school environment. For the purpose of precise interpretation, Unlimited Involvement would mean always ready to involve in the action, Limited Involvement means sometimes ready to involve in the action and Non Involvement would means never will get involved in such action. Thus, 62.8% of the sampled respondents said

they would always be ready to walk out of the scene of the football game, with non-offensive annoyance, if the score became unfavourable, 27.5% said they may sometime do that and only 9.6% said they will never walk out of the scene. On the other hand, 93.4% of the sampled tertiary students said they would always be ready to argue with fans of the opposing football teams, 6.5% said they will sometimes do that, and none of the respondents claim they will never be ready to argue with opposing fans. However only 4.6% agreed that in the situation of unfavourable score, they will always be ready to stop watching games that involved their teams, 8.4% said they may be ready not to watch sometimes and 86.8% said such unfavourable score will never make them stop watching. On the other hand, 5.6% said they will always be willing to engage in physical combat with member of opposing team even in school environment, 6.8% said they may sometimes do that and 87.1% said they will never do that. Also, just 0.6% of the sampled tertiary students would always be willing to engage in destroying facilities at the point or venue of watching match that turned unfavourable, 1.5% said they may sometimes be willing to do the same and 97.8% respondents said they will never get involved in such action. Yet, 30% said they will always be willing to make offensive physical or internet contact with players in their team should the game become unfavourable, 14.6% said they may sometimes do that as well and 55.3% said they will never get involved in such. Notwithstanding, should the game become unfavourable, only 2.5% of the sample would always be ready to mobilize street demonstration, 5% said they would sometimes be willing to also engage in such and 92.5% said they will never get involved in such.

Hypothesis Testing

HO1: The tendency to display football fanaticism in school environment does not significantly vary among tertiary students in Lagos State on the basis of gender.

Table 5: t-test analysis of tendency for football fanaticism among male and female tertiary students

Gender	n	x	Sd	df	t-call	t-critical
Male	188	63.61	12.36			
				318	2.11	1.96
Female	132	47.33	11.58			

On the above Table 5, the t- test calculated value, 2.11 is higher than the t-test table value or t-test critical value, 1.96. Thus, hypothesis 1 was rejected and it was concluded that there was significant difference in male and female tertiary students' tendency to get involve in football fanaticism in school environment.

Discussion

Human being characteristically get attracted to and seek to form relationship with some individuals or groups that impress them rather than those that leave no impression on them. In sporting activities, this phenomenon is observable in the way sport spectators become ardent fans of specific sporting activity and/ or fans of specific sport teams. For example, the popularity of football game has, in a way, promoted sport lovers' act of splitting into fans club. Sociologists and Social Psychologist have been interested in finding out what bound people together and make them ardent admirers of their specific cell. In this study for example, effort was made to find out, among other things, what motivate decision to support and become fans of specific football teams among tertiary students in Lagos, i.e. what informed the students' readiness to be identified with a football club.

Findings in this study established that many tertiary students in Lagos State become fans of their respective football teams– be it Supper Eagle, Arsenal, Falham, Liverpool, Manchester United, Stoke City or any other football team- mainly because of the performance of either the entire team or the performance of specific player or players on the teams. Specifically, 93.4% of the sampled students said their choice of team was informed by the performance of the entire teams and 67.8% said they were motivated by specific player rather than the entire teams. The skill and personality of the team's manager or that of the captain of the teams are not significant motivating factors as only 34.6% and 30.6% of the respondents identified the factors, respectively, as what motivated their ardent support of certain football teams. On this background, it can be inferred that a team such as Manchester City, the defending champion of the 2012-2013 Premier League, having won the 2011-2012 Premier League Season may pull more fans than teams such as Bolton Wanderers and Blackburn Rovers that were replaced in the 2012-2013 Premier League because of their poor performance in the 2011-2012 Premier League Season. In the same vein, one can assume that teams where top players/scorers such as Kanu Nwankwo of Nigeria, Michu, Damien Duff and Mladen Petric had played or still play may pull more football fans than other teams with no prominent scorers.

Social Psychologists have claimed that dealing with our social world involves more than categorizing people, it involves assessing their capability – understanding their strength and weakness (Horowitz & Boardens, 1995). It is natural for humans to shift to the side of the category of people that have required social and physical capability and that can get human's desire for affiliation rewarded. This informed why football lovers will for example prefer to first categorize players and teams on the level of performance or capability and thereafter be ready to support only those teams or player that can reward their admiration and expectations of them with beautiful and skilful football game. It is on this premise that choosing to be a fan of a team may not necessarily be a factor of the domicile of the teams rather, a factor of the performance that is rewarding.

Football fans may not always be ready to switch support from one team to another. This study established this notion. The study verified the frequency of such switching among the students and found out that only 25.5% of the students often changed support for teams and 62.5% of the respondents said they never changed support. The reason for constancy in support for football teams may be rooted in what sociologists referred to as 'first impression'. Horowitz & Borden (1995) explained that first impressions can be powerful influences on our subsequent

perception and/or judgment of the performance of others. Applicably, a football fans must have first been impressed by the performance of a player or teams before deciding to support the team or the player's team. It is this impression that will sustain the fan's interest even if the teams or player shows some disappointment in performance. However, the consistency of the fans support or refusal to switch support will be more promising if the performance of teams/player is also consistently rewarding – that is if such team only fail for a brief time and not failing all the time. According to the *Reward Theory* propounded by Theodore Newcomb in 1961 (Rawlins, 1992), the degree of human being's attraction and solidarity towards another person or group can vary according the frequency with which that person or group reward the human being's expectation and admiration. Thus, if the frequency at which the football team reward his fans' interest and solidarity with scores or good performance is low, the fan's solidarity may slow down and eventually fade off – the result will definitely be switching support to another team.

Beyond the issue of sustainability of the interest /support of fans for a particular team, this study also raises the issue of Nigerian students' preference of foreign rather than local football teams. This, itself, has implication for football game in Nigeria, particularly in the area of sport economy. As a proof, 96.5% against 3.4% of the respondents said the teams they fervently support are foreign football teams. The reason for Nigerian youths' support for foreign teams may not be farfetched. In recent times, Nigerian sporting teams have not been creditable in the aspect of performance. A good reference is the poor performance of the Nigerian teams at the just concluded London Olympic where Nigerian could not secure a single medal. Thus, since respondents identified performance as the main motivating factor in their selection of supporting teams, Nigerian football team may not adequately poll support or spirit of fan-ship among students.

No doubt, sporting activities are human engagements that appeal to affective and emotional views of actions and situations. Human beings are naturally endowed to make value judgments of situations around them (Simpson, 1990). But when the situation is unfavourable or unrewarding, they may react. Also, as humans, we tend to always wish our interests or desires are achieved and make to supersede the interest or desire of other peoples (Carlson, 199). One of such interest lovers of football game may want to be achieved is their team should score, win and be the best among other teams. However, this may not always be the case; in situation of disappointment, our actions may become sport fanaticism or negative and such actions may imply violence or peace for the larger society.

Yet, the fact is that, it is not every time sport fanaticism result or implied violence even in school environment. For example, findings in this study confirmed that the sampled fans of football teams in Lagos State tertiary institutions may display some forms of football fanaticism when the scores of football become unfavorable for their team but their actions do not necessary imply they will be willing to cause violence or disruption of order and peace in the society. Data in this study indicated that while 62.8% and 27.5% of the sampled students said they would always or sometimes be ready to walk out of the scene of watching football games when the scores become unfavorable and 93.4% and 6.5% said they will always or sometime even be ready to argue with fans of opposing team, only 5.9% and 6.8% of the respondents said they

would either always or sometime be ready to engage in physical combat with opposing fans. Walking out or arguing with opposing fans do not necessarily imply violence – such actions, though are elements of sport fanaticism, can be constructive and managed than being ready to stage street protest or destroy facilities at the point of watching the game.

Conclusion

Football game can be very attractive to spectators. However, spectators can be very selective in deciding the team they fervently support. The dynamics of the support of tertiary student in Lagos state towards football teams, particularly at the fans level are mainly directional. They are supports that emanated from the impression the football teams or specific players put on the student through favorable game performances and not necessarily because the teams are Nigerian or been supported by their peers. In addition to this, many of the football fans among the tertiary students in Lagos State may display some forms of football fanaticism but their actions are not necessarily intended to steer tension or crisis in their school environment and in the general society.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the major findings of this study:

1. There is need to improve the organization of Nigerian football teams so as to make them attractive and rewarding to earn the support and admiration of Nigerian youths.
2. Display of forms of football fanaticism among tertiary students in Lagos State does not imply violence in school or in the entire Lagos societies.
3. However, there is need to find out further- through future researches - the possible relationship that may exist between forming sport fans club/group and the tendency to transform such group to negative associations such as cult.

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