



# Determining the Influence of Coaches, Parents, and Stakeholders on the Development of Youth Football: A Comprehensive Analysis

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## Abstract

**Background.** The development of youth football is significantly influenced by collaborative coaches, parents, and stakeholders, who play a pivotal role in shaping athletes' experiences and long-term engagement. Coaches provide structured training, emotional support, and discipline, while parents offer guidance without undue pressure. Stakeholders, including authorities and governing bodies, ensure governance, resources, and policy frameworks. Their collaboration fosters skill development, psychological growth, and sustained athletic success.

**Objectives.** This study aimed to examine the impact of coaches, parents, and stakeholders on the development of youth football, highlighting their contributions and the importance of collaborative frameworks.

**Materials and methods.** A quantitative research design was employed, collecting data from young male footballers in Gimbi Administrative Town, Ethiopia. Standardized questionnaires were used to assess the perspectives of coaches, parents, and stakeholders, with reliability coefficients of ( $\alpha = 0.796, 0.817, \text{ and } 0.752$ ), respectively. Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS 26, applying descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, one-way ANOVA, and multiple regression analysis at a 0.05 significance level.

**Results.** The findings revealed that coaching had the most significant impact on youth football development ( $\beta = 0.799, p < 0.001$ ), followed by stakeholder involvement ( $\beta = 0.514, p = 0.049$ ), while parental engagement played a supporting role ( $\beta = 0.266, p = 0.032$ ). A strong positive correlation was found between coaching and youth football success ( $r = 0.843, p < 0.01$ ). Parental involvement showed a moderate to strong positive correlation ( $r = 0.695, p < 0.05$ ), while stakeholder support exhibited a moderate correlation ( $r = 0.677, p < 0.01$ ). The ANOVA results confirmed significant differences in stakeholder, parental, and coaches' perspectives on football development ( $F = 47.724, p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions.** The study underscores the vital roles of coaches, stakeholders, and parents in youth football development, advocating for better coaching education, stakeholder investment, and balanced parental involvement. Strong collaboration is key to a sustainable and holistic development model.

**Keywords:** youth football development, coach, parental involvement, stakeholders.

## Introduction

The development and improvement of youth football are notably dictated by the unified contributions and effects

of coaches, parents, and local authorities, with each of these groups holding a vital position in crafting the experiences and eventual outcomes that young athletes undergo during their sporting pursuits. A thorough understanding of these complex interactions elucidates how these pivotal stakeholders facilitate the creation of a supportive atmosphere that not only fosters development but also amplifies the satisfaction experienced within the domain of sports (Mola & Shaw, 2024a).

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Coaches, parents, and stakeholders play pivotal roles in shaping the future of youth football by fostering positive developmental environments and enhancing athlete experiences (Mola & Shaw, 2024a). The collaborative efforts of these key figures significantly influence the growth and success of young footballers, ensuring a balance between skill development, personal growth, and long-term engagement in sports (Mola & Shaw, 2024b). By working together, these individuals can create a comprehensive support system that nurtures young athletes, both on and off the field.

Coaches serve as the foundation of youth football development by implementing age-appropriate training programs and fostering cognitive and psychological skills. They play a crucial role in promoting professional conduct and moral role modeling, which is essential for shaping young athletes' character (Harwood & Knight, 2014). Also, the role of coaches in fostering emotional competence and psychological well-being among young athletes is critical, as evidenced by various studies. Martínez-Pampliega et al. (2023) highlight that coaches' emotional competencies significantly influence the training climate, which in turn affects athletes' emotional skills and reduces symptoms of emotional distress. By establishing a motivating environment, coaches enhance moral attitudes, emotional well-being, and overall psychological health. A task-oriented climate that prioritizes learning and improvement over mere victory has been shown to correlate with improved well-being, resilience, and a sense of security among young athletes (Shanmugaratnam et al., 2024). Additionally, cooperative learning strategies, where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities rather than failures, help athletes develop stronger connections with coaches and teammates, leading to improved social and emotional well-being (Kipp & Bolter, 2023). Furthermore, coaches serve as mentors; guiding players through challenges and helping them develop critical thinking skills that extend beyond the football field. Their influence extends to instilling discipline, teamwork, and a growth mindset that can benefit young athletes in various aspects of their lives.

Parents play an equally vital role by providing emotional and logistical support for their children's participation in football. Their involvement can significantly influence young athletes' motivation and enjoyment, with research highlighting the importance of balancing encouragement with realistic expectations (Bognár et al., 2024; Scholle, 2023). While parents often prioritize both academic and athletic achievements, excessive pressure can hinder a child's enjoyment and development. Studies have underscored the necessity for effective coach-parent collaboration to ensure a supportive environment that fosters both competitive success and personal growth (Bettega et al., 2023). Recognizing the fine line between encouragement and undue pressure is crucial in maintaining young players' enthusiasm and mental well-being. In addition, parents contribute to the development of positive habits such as time management, healthy nutrition, and emotional resilience, which are essential for sustaining long-term athletic and personal success.

Stakeholders, including local authorities and governing bodies, contribute to youth football by creating structured pathways and governance models that align with long-term strategic goals. Effective communication and collaboration among these groups are essential to maintaining consistency

in developmental processes and optimizing young athletes' experiences (Sweeney et al., 2022). A unified approach ensures that football development not only nurtures athletic talent but also instills essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, and discipline. However, research suggests that young footballers primarily develop life skills through implicit experiences rather than structured programs (Cope et al., 2016). Addressing this gap by integrating life-skills education into training regimens can better prepare athletes for challenges beyond sports, equipping them with tools for both personal and professional success. Additionally, governing bodies play a crucial role in ensuring that clubs and academies adhere to best practices in athlete development, providing access to quality coaching, safe facilities, and structured career pathways for young players.

The alignment of perceptions among stakeholders regarding talent identification and development is critical for creating coherent support systems (Pankhurst & Collins, 2013). A shared vision ensures that young athletes receive the necessary guidance, opportunities, and encouragement to thrive. When stakeholders work together effectively, they foster an environment that values both performance and holistic development, encouraging open communication and mutual understanding. This collaborative effort enhances individual performance while promoting a culture of respect and inclusivity, ultimately benefiting young athletes on and off the field. Furthermore, long-term planning and investment in youth programs can enhance talent identification and provide a clear progression route from grassroots to elite levels, ensuring that no promising athlete is overlooked due to systemic gaps (Mola & Shaw, 2024a).

While the contributions of coaches, parents, and stakeholders are undeniably significant, challenges such as differing expectations, pressures, and potential conflicts must also be acknowledged. Open communication, regular feedback, and shared goals are essential in addressing these challenges, ensuring that youth football remains a positive and nurturing experience. By maintaining a harmonious balance among these influences, young athletes can excel both personally and athletically, fostering a sustainable and enriching sporting culture for future generations. Moreover, continuous education and training for all stakeholders, including workshops and mentorship programs, can bridge gaps in understanding and create a more cohesive developmental system. A commitment to ongoing evaluation and improvement will help refine youth football programs, ensuring that they continue to evolve in ways that prioritize both competitive success and holistic athlete development.

## Material and Methods

### *Study Design and Participants*

The research was developed and adapted from prior foundational studies. The perspective of coaches was examined through a standardized questionnaire based on the seminal work of Côté & Gilbert (2009), which investigated how coaching methodologies influence athlete development. Their research emphasized the essential role of coaches in guiding the technical, tactical, and psychological growth of young athletes through structured training and mentorship frameworks. Similarly, the viewpoint of parents was explored

using a standardized questionnaire inspired by Fredricks and Eccles (2005). Their work focused on quantifying parental engagement in youth sports, addressing key dimensions such as support, pressure, and communication.

The perspective of stakeholders was analyzed through a standardized questionnaire grounded in the research of Misener & Doherty (2013), who assessed the contributions and challenges faced by stakeholders in community sports development. Sotiriadou et al. (2013) extended this exploration by examining stakeholder roles in shaping sports policy and development, using surveys to gather data on talent identification, resource distribution, and infrastructure enhancement. The study sample consisted of 59 male players from Gimbi, Administrative Town, who were regularly committed and actively participated in training. They represented multiple developmental stages: U16–U17 (competitive youth football, focusing on physical growth and advanced tactical introduction), U18–U19 (final youth stage, preparing for professional or elite-level competition), and U20–U21 (early senior-level football, often involving reserve teams or U21 national squads). A purposive sampling method was utilized to select participants relevant to the research objectives. Quantitative data analysis was performed using SPSS version 26. The study prioritized the rights of participants by ensuring they were consistently informed throughout the research process. Confidentiality and anonymity were strictly upheld, and participants retained the right to withdraw at any stage. The research aimed to explore the role of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in shaping the future of youth football, with a particular focus on gaining football-related insights while adhering to ethical research standards.

### Procedure

The study was conducted with 59 participants, incorporating the translation of the questionnaire into Afan Oromo to enhance clarity and accessibility. The refinement process ensured high reliability, yielding Cronbach's alpha values of  $\alpha = 0.796$  for coaches,  $\alpha = 0.817$  for parents,  $\alpha = 0.752$  for stakeholders, and, for youth football development  $\alpha = 0.730$ . A preliminary investigation was undertaken to evaluate the clarity, appropriateness, and length of the questionnaire. Ambiguous terms were meticulously reviewed and revised to improve accuracy and comprehension.

A purposive sampling method was utilized to strategically select a sample of 59 participants, representing the club population based on their respective roles. Ethical considerations were central to the study, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and the overall well-being of participants. The research adhered to principles of transparent communication, cultural sensitivity, and full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest, reinforcing its ethical foundation.

This research procedure aimed to provide valuable insights into the influence of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in shaping the future of Data collected from 59 male youth football players aged U16–U17, U18–U19, and U20–U21 in Gimbi Administrative Town. By maintaining methodological rigor and adhering to ethical standards, the study aimed to generate meaningful and reliable findings that could contribute to the development and enhancement of youth football programs (Taye et al., 2024).

### Data Collection Procedure

The data collection process followed a structured approach to ensure accuracy, reliability, and ethical compliance. Participants were first briefed on the study's objectives, their rights, and the voluntary nature of their participation. Informed consent was obtained before administering the questionnaire. The study utilized a structured 60-item questionnaire designed to assess key variables, including the role of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in youth football development. The questionnaire was formatted in a tabular style, incorporating a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5 to facilitate standardized responses. Data were collected from 59 male youth football players aged U16–U17, U18–U19, and U20–U21 in Gimbi Administrative Town. Researchers distributed the questionnaire during designated team meetings and ensured that participants completed it independently to minimize bias. To maintain consistency and clarity, a researcher was present to provide explanations if needed. After collection, the data was carefully reviewed for completeness before being entered into SPSS version 26 for quantitative analysis. Statistical methods were applied to identify patterns, correlations, and trends relevant to the study objectives. Throughout the process, strict measures were implemented to protect participant confidentiality and ensure compliance with ethical research standards.

### Reliability and Validity of Instruments

As an initial evaluation, the reliability and validity of the questionnaire items were assessed using Cronbach's alpha to ensure the instrument's consistency. The Computed Cronbach's alpha ( $\alpha$ ) value was coaches prospectives  $\alpha = 0.796$ , parental prospectives  $\alpha = 0.817$ , and stakeholder prospectives  $\alpha = 0.752$ , and development of youth football  $\alpha = 0.730$  indicating a high level of internal reliability. Additionally, the instrument underwent a thorough validation process, during which subject matter experts and language specialists rigorously reviewed the questions to determine their effectiveness in measuring the intended research variables. To further refine the instrument, a preliminary study was conducted with a small group of athletes who shared similar characteristics with the primary participants. This pilot study followed established research design principles, as outlined by (Mola & Shaw, 2024c). It aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of the data collection methods, ensure participant comprehension of the survey content, and improve the overall accuracy and clarity of the questionnaire. Through these reliability and validity measures, the study ensured the collection of precise and meaningful data aligned with the research objectives.

**Table 1.** Reliability statistics cronbach's alpha result

Variable	Cronbach' Alpha	No Items
Coaches prospectives	$\alpha = 0.796$	16
Parental prospectives	$\alpha = 0.817$	15
Stakeholder prospectives	$\alpha = 0.752$	24
Development and Success of Youth Football	$\alpha = 0.730$	5
Overall Reliability	$\alpha = 0.793$	60

**Statistical Analysis**

The study employed SPSS version 26 to analyze athletes' perspectives and characteristics using comprehensive statistical methods. A five-point scale was utilized, with descriptive statistics frequency, percentages, meaning, and standard deviation summarizing participants' views across various dimensions. Also, Pearson correlation coefficients, one-way ANOVA, and multiple regression analysis were conducted. A significant level of 0.05 was applied to ensure statistical robustness, enhancing the reliability and validity of the findings. By integrating these analytical approaches, the study provides a holistic evaluation of the interconnected roles of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in fostering youth sports development.

**Results**

**Table 2.** Demographic characteristics

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	59	100
	Total	59	100
Age	under 18	37	62.7
	18-23	22	37.3
	Total	59	100
Youth Competitive Level	under U17 youth football	20	33.9
	U17-18youth football	18	30.5
	U18-19youth football	21	35.6
	Total	59	100.0
Educational of Coaches	Basic coaching certificate	5	8.5
	Advanced coaching certificate	13	22.0
	Degree	34	57.6
	Masters	7	11.9
	Total	59	100.0

The demographic characteristics of the study sample consisted of 59 male participants, making up 100% of the respondents. The age distribution indicates that the majority (62.7%) are under 18 years old, while 37.3% fall within the 18-23 age range, suggesting that the study primarily focuses on younger athletes in the early stages of their football careers. Regarding competitive levels, 33.9% of the participants compete in U17 youth football, 30.5% in U17-U18, and 35.6% in U18-U19, showing a relatively balanced representation across different developmental stages, with a slight concentration in the U18-U19 category, where athletes transition to higher competition levels. In terms of educational background, the majority (57.6%) hold a degree, while 22.0% have an advanced coaching certificate, 8.5% possess a basic coaching certificate, and 11.9% have obtained a master's degree.

**Table 3.** The correlation between the role of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in the development and success of youth football

Variable	Coefficient of correlation (r)	
	r	Sig. (2-tailed)
Coaches' perspective	.843**	.000
Parental perspective	.695*	.043
Stakeholder Prospective	.677**	.000

A Pearson product-moment correlation analysis was conducted on a sample of 59 participants to examine the

relationships between Coaches' Perspective, Parental Perspective, Stakeholder Perspective, and the Development and Success of Youth Football.

The results revealed a strong positive correlation between Coaches' Perspective and Development and Success of Youth Football ( $r = 0.843, p < 0.01$ ), indicating that as the role of coaches improves, youth football development significantly increases. Similarly, Parental Perspective showed a moderate positive correlation with the Development and Success of Youth Football ( $r = 0.695, p < 0.05$ ), suggesting that parental involvement contributes positively, though not as strongly as coaching. Likewise, a moderate positive correlation was found between Stakeholder Perspective and Youth Football Development ( $r = 0.677, p < 0.01$ ), confirming that stakeholder engagement plays an important role in fostering football success.

Coaches, parents, and stakeholders play pivotal roles in shaping the development and success of youth football by fostering positive environments and relationships that enhance athletes' experiences. Research indicates that effective coaching practices, characterized by strong interpersonal skills and a focus on youth development, significantly contribute to positive outcomes such as increased motivation and reduced anxiety among young athletes. Parents also influence this dynamic by supporting their children's participation and aligning their values with developmental goals, which can enhance the overall youth sports experience. Furthermore, the collaboration between coaches, parents, and governing bodies is essential for coherent talent identification and development strategies, ensuring that all stakeholders share a common understanding of key constructs like athlete development and specialization. Collectively, these elements underscore the importance of intentional practices and communication among all parties involved in youth football.

A multiple regression analysis was conducted to examine the impact of Coaches' Perspective, Parental Perspective, and Stakeholder Perspective on the Development and Success of Youth Football. The results indicate that the overall model is statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that these independent variables collectively influence the success of youth football. Among the predictors, Coaches' Perspective emerged as the strongest predictor ( $B = 0.551, \beta = 0.799, t = 10.454, p < 0.001$ ), indicating that increased coaching involvement leads to a substantial improvement in youth football development. For every one-unit increase in coaching involvement, the success of youth football increases by 0.551 units, highlighting the critical role of coaches in fostering growth.

The Parental Perspective also showed a positive effect on youth football development ( $B = 0.421, \beta = 0.266, t = 0.906, p = 0.032$ ), though its influence was weaker compared to coaching and stakeholders. The p-value (0.032) suggests that while parental involvement contributes to football success, its impact is less substantial. In contrast, the Stakeholder Perspective demonstrated a strong positive effect ( $B = 0.430, \beta = 0.514, t = 1.463, p = 0.049$ ), making it the second most influential factor after coaching. A one-unit increase in stakeholder engagement results in a 0.430 unit increase in football success, confirming that support from stakeholders such as local authorities, sponsors, and football organizations plays a crucial role.

**Table 4.** Coefficient table

Coefficients <sup>a</sup>							
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			Upper Bound	Lower Bound
(Constant)	-6.903	2.127		3.246	.002	11.165	2.641
1 Coaches' perspective	.551	.034	.799	10.454	.000	.284	.418
Parental Prospective	.421	.023	.266	.906	.032	.026	.068
Stakeholder Prospective	.430	.021	.514	1.463	.049	.011	.072

a. Dependent Variable: Development and Success of Youth Football

**Table 5.** Model estimation

Model Summary									
Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.850 <sup>a</sup>	.722	.707	1.64336	.722	47.724	3	55	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Stakeholder perspective, parental perspective, Coaches Perspective

**Table 6.** The impact of coaches, parents, and stakeholders on the development and success of youth football

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	386.652	3	128.884	47.724	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	148.534	55	2.701		
	Total	535.186	58			

a. Dependent Variable: Development and Success of Youth Football

b. Predictors: (Constant), Stakeholder Prospective, parental perspective, Coaches Perspective

**Table 7.** Coaches, parents vs stakeholders in youth football development

ANOVA						
	Variable	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Coaches prospective	Between Groups	1257.973	29	43.378	.830	.000
	Within Groups	1515.417	29	52.256		
	Total	2773.390	58			
Parental perspective	Between Groups	3367.175	29	116.109	1.801	.047
	Within Groups	1869.333	29	64.460		
	Total	5236.508	58			

The Model Summary indicates that the predictors collectively explain 72.2% of the variance in youth football development ( $R^2 = 0.722$ ), with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.707, confirming a strong model fit. The standard error of the estimate (1.64336) suggests a reasonable level of prediction accuracy.

The ANOVA results further confirm the significance of the model ( $F(3,55) = 47.724$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), indicating that the independent variables significantly contribute to explaining the dependent variable. The high F-statistics (47.724) and the very low p-value ( $p < 0.001$ ) suggest that the combination of coaches, parents, and stakeholders' perspectives plays a crucial role in shaping youth football success. These results

highlight that coaches, stakeholders, and parents collectively influence football development, with coaching having the most substantial impact. The findings emphasize the need for enhancing coaching programs, encouraging stakeholder investment, and strengthening parental engagement to maximize the growth and success of youth football.

An ANOVA analysis was conducted to compare the differences in responses among Coaches, Parents, and Stakeholders regarding their perspectives on the Development and Success of Youth Football. The results indicate significant differences in how these groups perceive their roles in youth football development. From the Coaches' Perspective, the analysis shows that the between-group

sum of squares (1257.973) and the within-group sum of squares (1515.417) resulted in an F-value of 0.830, which is statistically significant ( $p = 0.000$ ). This suggests that there are substantial differences among the groups in how they view the role of coaches in football development. For the Parental Perspective, the between-group sum of squares (3367.175) and the within-group sum of squares (1869.333) resulted in an F-value of 1.801, with a p-value of 0.047. Since  $p < 0.05$ , this indicates that parental perspectives on football development differ significantly between groups.

## Discussion

The demographic characteristics of the study sample consisted of 59 male participants, making up 100% of the respondents. The age distribution indicates that the majority (62.7%) are under 18 years old, while 37.3% fall within the 18–23 age range, suggesting that the study primarily focuses on younger athletes in the early stages of their football careers. Regarding competitive levels, 33.9% of the participants compete in U17 youth football, 30.5% in U17–U18, and 35.6% in U18–U19, showing a relatively balanced representation across different developmental stages, with a slight concentration in the U18–U19 category, where athletes transition to higher competition levels. Regarding the educational background of coaches, youth footballers reported that the majority (57.6%) hold a degree, while 22.0% have an advanced coaching certificate, 8.5% possess a basic coaching certificate, and 11.9% have attained a master's degree. This suggests that a significant portion of the participants have a strong academic or coaching foundation, potentially enhancing their understanding of sports science, training methodologies, and nutrition.

A Pearson product-moment correlation analysis was conducted on a sample of 59 participants to examine the relationships between Coaches' Perspective, Parental Perspective, Stakeholder Perspective, and the Development and Success of Youth Football. The results revealed a strong positive correlation between Coaches' Perspective and Development and Success of Youth Football ( $r = 0.843$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), indicating that as the role of coaches improves, youth football development significantly increases. Similarly, Parental Perspective showed a moderate positive correlation with the Development and Success of Youth Football ( $r = 0.695$ ,  $p = 0.043$ ), suggesting that parental involvement contributes positively, though not as strongly as coaching. Likewise, a moderate positive correlation was found between Stakeholder Perspective and Youth Football Development ( $r = 0.677$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ), confirming that stakeholder engagement plays an important role in fostering football success.

The analysis also revealed strong positive interrelationships between the independent variables. There was a strong correlation between Coaches' Perspective and Parental Perspective ( $r = 0.713$ ,  $p = 0.014$ ), suggesting that greater coaching involvement is associated with increased parental engagement. Additionally, a strong correlation between Coaches' Perspective and Stakeholder Perspective ( $r = 0.746$ ,  $p = 0.013$ ) indicates that enhanced coaching efforts align with greater stakeholder participation. However, the relationship between Parental Perspective and Stakeholder Perspective was moderate but not statistically significant ( $r = 0.687$ ,  $p = 0.156$ ), implying that parental and stakeholder

roles may operate independently rather than in direct collaboration.

Coaches, parents, and stakeholders play pivotal roles in shaping the development and success of youth football by fostering positive environments and relationships that enhance athletes' experiences. Research indicates that effective coaching practices, characterized by strong interpersonal skills and a focus on youth development, significantly contribute to positive outcomes such as increased motivation and reduced anxiety among young athletes (Bengtsson et al., 2023, Dandurand & Heidt, 2022). Parents also influence this dynamic by supporting their children's participation and aligning their values with developmental goals, which can enhance the overall youth sports experience (Scholle, 2023; Pankhurst et al., 2013). Furthermore, the collaboration between coaches, parents, and governing bodies is essential for coherent talent identification and development strategies, ensuring that all stakeholders share a common understanding of key constructs like athlete development and specialization (Pankhurst et al., 2013). Collectively, these elements underscore the importance of intentional practices and communication among all parties involved in youth football (Bloom et al., 2020).

A multiple regression analysis was conducted to examine the impact of Coaches' Perspective, Parental Perspective, and Stakeholder Perspective on the Development and Success of Youth Football. The results indicate that the overall model is statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ ), suggesting that these independent variables collectively influence the success of youth football. Among the predictors, Coaches' Perspective emerged as the strongest predictor ( $B = 0.551$ ,  $\beta = 0.799$ ,  $t = 10.454$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), indicating that increased coaching involvement substantially improves youth football development. For every one-unit increase in coaching involvement, the success of youth football increases by 0.551 units, highlighting the critical role of coaches in fostering growth.

The Parental Perspective also positively affected youth football development ( $B = 0.421$ ,  $\beta = 0.266$ ,  $t = 0.906$ ,  $p = 0.032$ ), though its influence was weaker compared to coaching and stakeholders. The p-value (0.032) suggests that while parental involvement contributes to football success, its impact is less substantial. In contrast, the Stakeholder Perspective demonstrated a strong positive effect ( $B = 0.430$ ,  $\beta = 0.514$ ,  $t = 1.463$ ,  $p = 0.049$ ), making it the second most influential factor after coaching. A one-unit increase in stakeholder engagement results in a 0.430 unit increase in football success, confirming that support from stakeholders such as local authorities, sponsors, and football organizations plays a crucial role. This aligns with recent studies that suggest parental involvement can enhance youth sports experiences but may also have limitations. Bonavolontà et al. (2021) found that parental support, such as providing emotional encouragement and facilitating access to resources, positively influences youth athletes' enjoyment and commitment to sports. However, the study also noted that excessive parental pressure or over-involvement can lead to burnout and decreased motivation among young athletes. The moderate influence of parental involvement in this study suggests that while parents play a supportive role, their impact is secondary to that of coaches and stakeholders.

The Stakeholder Perspective emerged as the second most influential factor ( $B = 0.430$ ,  $\beta = 0.514$ ,  $p = 0.049$ ). This finding is supported by recent literature that highlights the importance of external support systems in youth sports. For instance, Brown et al. (2023) emphasized that stakeholders such as local authorities, sponsors, and football organizations provide essential resources, including funding, facilities, and organizational structures, which are critical for the sustainability and growth of youth sports programs. Additionally, a study by Brown et al. (2023) found that stakeholder engagement fosters community involvement and creates a supportive ecosystem for youth development. The significant positive effect of stakeholder engagement in this study underscores the need for collaborative efforts among various entities to ensure the success of youth football.

The findings of this study are well-supported by recent literature, which highlights the critical roles of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in youth football development. Coaches' Perspective stands out as the most influential factor, emphasizing the need for skilled and dedicated coaches. Parental involvement, while beneficial, has a more modest impact, and stakeholder engagement plays a vital role in providing the necessary resources and support. Together, these perspectives create a comprehensive framework for the success of youth football programs. Overall, these findings suggest that coaching has the greatest impact on youth football development, followed by stakeholder involvement, while parental engagement plays a smaller yet significant role. Based on these results, it is recommended that investments in coaching programs be prioritized to enhance player development and overall success. Additionally, fostering greater stakeholder participation can further improve outcomes, while strategies to enhance parental engagement should be considered to maximize their contribution to youth football success.

The Model Summary indicates that the predictors collectively explain 72.2% of the variance in youth football development ( $R^2 = 0.722$ ), with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.707, confirming a strong model fit. The standard error of the estimate (1.64336) suggests a reasonable level of prediction accuracy.

The ANOVA results further confirm the significance of the model ( $F(3,55) = 47.724$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), indicating that the independent variables significantly contribute to explaining the dependent variable. This suggests that the combination of coaches, parents, and stakeholders' perspectives plays a crucial role in shaping youth football success. These results highlight that coaches, stakeholders, and parents collectively influence football development, with coaching having the most substantial impact. The findings emphasize the need for enhancing coaching programs, encouraging stakeholder investment, and strengthening parental engagement to maximize the growth and success of youth football. These findings are consistent with existing literature emphasizing the multifaceted support system in youth sports.

Parent education programs in youth sports are essential for enhancing parental support and involvement, which significantly influences children's sporting experiences. These programs equip parents with the knowledge and skills needed to foster a positive environment, encouraging their children to thrive both on and off the field. Effective communication within these programs also helps to align expectations and promote a shared vision for the child's

development, ultimately contributing to a more enriching sporting experience. This collaborative approach not only enhances the child's performance but also strengthens the bond between parents, coaches, and athletes, creating a supportive community that prioritizes holistic development. These programs facilitate healthy parental engagement by providing strategies that alleviate stressors and promote positive interactions between parents and coaches (Maciel et al., 2024; Burke et al., 2021). This proactive involvement ensures that parents feel empowered and informed, allowing them to play an integral role in their child's athletic journey while fostering a culture of respect and teamwork. By prioritizing open communication and mutual understanding, these initiatives not only benefit the athletes but also cultivate an environment where everyone involved can thrive both on and off the field. Such an environment enhances the overall experience of youth sports, encouraging athletes to develop not only their physical skills but also essential life skills such as leadership, resilience, and collaboration.

Research indicates that effective parental involvement can lead to improved athlete development, fostering a supportive environment that prioritizes youth well-being and safety (Scholle, 2023; Tafuri & Priore, 2020). This collaborative approach ensures that young athletes feel valued and understood, ultimately motivating them to reach their full potential while enjoying the benefits of physical activity and social interaction. Creating a culture of open communication between coaches, parents, and athletes is crucial in reinforcing these values, as it helps to establish trust and mutual respect among all parties involved. Furthermore, the dynamics of parent-coach relationships are crucial, as they can either enhance or hinder a child's sporting journey, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to optimize these interactions (Gao et al., 2024; Dorsch et al., 2020). Overall, structured educational initiatives can empower parents, ensuring they contribute positively to their children's sports experiences while aligning with best practices in youth development (Bruner et al., 2021).

## Strengths and Future Implications

### Strengths

This study provides a well-rounded analysis by integrating coaches', parents', and stakeholders' perspectives, demonstrating their collective impact on youth football development. With strong statistical significance ( $R^2 = 0.722$ ), the findings highlight the predictive power of these factors in shaping football success. Positive correlations confirm that coaching, parental support, and stakeholder engagement are key drivers of athlete development. The study combines both qualitative and quantitative elements, offering valuable insights for improving youth sports programs. The results provide a clear direction for enhancing youth football, emphasizing better coaching programs, increased stakeholder involvement, and effective parental education initiatives.

### Future Implications

Future research should focus on developing educational programs to enhance parents' role in youth football, ensuring

their support aligns with developmental goals. Since coaching has the strongest influence, investing in advanced training programs could further optimize youth football outcomes. Stakeholder involvement is also crucial, and future studies should explore ways to improve collaboration between sponsors, local authorities, and sports organizations. Longitudinal studies could assess the long-term impact of these relationships; while expanding the sample to include female athletes and diverse cultural backgrounds could offer broader insights.

### Limitations

The study's small sample of 59 male participants limits its generalizability, especially for female athletes and other underrepresented groups. Its cross-sectional design captures only a moment in time, making it difficult to assess long-term effects. The study focuses on coaches, parents, and stakeholders but overlooks other influential factors like teammates, community support, and athletes' perspectives. Additionally, reliance on self-reported data may introduce bias, affecting accuracy. Strong correlations suggest possible overlap in the influence of coaches, parents, and stakeholders, requiring further research to clarify their contributions.

### Conclusions

The study highlights the crucial roles of coaches, parents, and stakeholders in youth football success, with coaching having the most significant impact. While parental involvement plays a supportive role, stakeholder engagement emerges as the second most influential factor. Together, these perspectives explain a substantial portion of youth football development, emphasizing the need for collaboration. Prioritizing coaching programs, increasing stakeholder participation, and developing educational initiatives for parents can enhance youth sports programs. Further research should explore long-term effects and diverse.

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### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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## Визначення впливу тренерів, батьків та зацікавлених сторін на розвиток дитячо-юнацького футболу: Комплексний аналіз

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Авторський вклад: А – дизайн дослідження; В – збір даних; С – статаналіз; D – підготовка рукопису; E – збір коштів

Реферат. Стаття: 10 с., 7 табл., 30 джерел.

**Історія питання.** На розвиток дитячо-юнацького футболу значною мірою впливає співпраця тренерів, батьків та зацікавлених сторін, які відіграють ключову роль у формуванні досвіду спортсменів та їхньої довготривалої залученості.

Тренери забезпечують структуровану підготовку, емоційну підтримку та дотримання дисципліни, тоді як батьки надають необхідні поради, не чинячи надмірного тиску. Зацікавлені особи, включно з представниками влади та керівними органами, забезпечують належне управління, ресурси та директивні механізми. Їхня співпраця сприяє розвитку навичок, психологічному зростанню та сталому успіху в спорті.

**Мета дослідження.** Це дослідження мало на меті вивчити вплив тренерів, батьків та зацікавлених сторін на розвиток дитячо-юнацького футболу, підкреслюючи їхній внесок та важливість механізмів співпраці.

**Матеріали та методи.** У роботі застосовано кількісний метод дослідження, що полягав у зборі даних, отриманих від юнаків-футболістів в адміністративному місті Гімбі (Ефіопія). Для визначення поглядів тренерів, батьків та зацікавлених сторін використовувались стандартизовані опитувальники з коефіцієнтами надійності ( $\alpha = 0,796, 0,817$  та  $0,752$ ), відповідно. Статистичний аналіз проведено за допомогою програмного забезпечення SPSS 26 із застосуванням описової статистики, кореляції Пірсона, однофакторного дисперсійного аналізу та множинного регресійного аналізу на рівні значущості  $0,05$ .

**Результати.** За результатами дослідження встановлено, що найбільший вплив на розвиток дитячо-юнацького футболу має тренерська діяльність ( $\beta = 0,799, p < 0,001$ ), наступним фактором є залученість зацікавлених сторін ( $\beta = 0,514, p = 0,049$ ), тоді як участь батьків у цьому процесі відіграє допоміжну роль ( $\beta = 0,266, p = 0,032$ ). Виявлено сильну позитивну кореляцію між тренерською діяльністю та успіхами у дитячо-юнацькому футболі ( $r = 0,843, p < 0,01$ ). Залученість батьків показала помірну та сильну позитивну кореляцію ( $r = 0,695, p < 0,05$ ), нагомість підтримка зацікавлених сторін продемонструвала помірну кореляцію ( $r = 0,677, p < 0,01$ ). Результати дисперсійного аналізу підтвердили суттєві відмінності в поглядах на розвиток футболу з боку зацікавлених сторін, батьків і тренерів ( $F = 47,724, p < 0,001$ ).

**Висновки.** Дослідження підкреслює провідну роль тренерів, зацікавлених сторін та батьків у розвитку дитячо-юнацького футболу, наголошуючи на необхідності покращення тренерської освіти, інвестицій з боку зацікавлених сторін та збалансованої залученості батьків. Міцна співпраця є ключовим чинником сталої та цілісної моделі розвитку.

**Ключові слова:** розвиток дитячо-юнацького футболу, тренер, залученість батьків, зацікавлені сторони.

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