



Football disorder among football fans in Malaysia: a study of Kelantan, Johor, Perak and Selangor football fans

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Abstract

The purpose of this article is to discuss about football disorder among football fans in Malaysia. Many research has been carry out about football disorder among football fans especially in western country. However, all the output from the previous research unfortunately cannot be use hundred percent to explain in Malaysia context. The differences of geography, cultures and values from western country and therefore a special research of Malaysia context itself has to be done to explain about football disorder among football fans in this country. Numbers of 600 football fans from state of Kelantan, Perak, Selangor and Johor were chosen to be respondents. These fourth teams were chosen because of they have huge numbers of fans and their fans always break the rules and the team also keep being punished and fined by Football Association of Malaysia (FAM). Respondents around age 18-50 years old were involved within this study (81% male & 19% women). The data showed that the respondents involved with verbal and physical disorder while watching football at the stadium. A total of 77.8% of respondents said they were also talking bad about the opponent team and their fans. While 38.2% of respondents admitted that they were involved in provocation with opponent fans. Throwing the objects (rocks and bottles) always happens at the stadium. Besides that, the respondents also involved with fighting against opponents fans (36.7 %). All the behaviours either verbal's or physicals were not happen if these fans have a spirit of sportsmanship and learn to be a professional fans.

INTRODUCTION

Sports are an essential and important aspect of Malaysian society and sport itself give an impact to the society. Sports coincide with community values and political agencies, as it attempts to define the morals and ethics attributed not only to athletes but the society as whole (Macri 2012). Being a number one favorite sport worldwide, football has a huge numbers of fans. The fans not only watching the game at home (television or internet) but fanatic fans normally will watch the game live at the stadium (Marimaa, 2011). Spending their money buying the tickets and also spent their leisure time at the stadium is a common behavior for them. that is nothing compare to see their team playing live and has an opportunity to show their support to the team by attend to the stadium (Kao, 2002). The role as fans to the team is huge; they provide a supports and motivations to the players so that players can perform well at the match and win the game. The players are motivated by the

support given by the fans. The performance of the players and team are indirectly affected by the support from their fans. The fans also could reduce stress and get entertainment from sport event so it could relax body and mind (Huang, 2011).

Fans know that they play a big role to support their team, therefore they are willing to buy a ticket and attend every game at the stadium. After all the sacrifices, some of the fans also hope their team will bring a victory. But, if the result turns to opposite and the team loses, there is a huge potential that the fans will get frustrated and some of them may get angry. According to Spaaij (2006), all the frustration, anger and dissatisfaction will turn to football disorder among football fans.

Football disorder among football fans is not a new issue anymore in Malaysia. Year by year the cases involving football disorder occur at the stadium and the media also always made a cover up toward this issue. The verbal and physical behavior still can be seen at the stadium. While Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) is trying to control this issue, but it is almost impossible to make sure all the fans obey the norms and rules provided by the authority.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a survey using a questionnaire to obtain the data. The data presented in this paper is the data derived from a study conducted on 600 football fans from four different teams/states. The four teams are Kelantan, Johor, Selangor and Perak, the reason why these fans were chosen because of all four teams well known to their fans. They have huge fans, most of them were fanatic to the team and the team also has been punished by FAM because of failure to control the behavior of their fans. Respondents of the study consisted of male and female football fans between aged 18 to 50 years old. Data from the survey was processed and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The data was then presented via descriptive frequency to determine the frequency of occurrence. Besides that, non-participant observation was conducted to obtain further information especially in relation to the types of behavior commonly shown by supporters while in the stadium.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

VERBAL BEHAVIOR AT THE STADIUM

Watching football especially at the stadium is really exciting. The environment at the stadium can bring up the spirit to watching the game. Being surrounded with thousands of other fans, wearing the same clothes, shouting the same slogans, and singing the same theme song make the feeling as a fan much higher than before (Kelly 1996). Besides these, the supporters also carry banners, flags, mufflers, etc. as an identity to support their favorite team. In fact, some supporters color their bodies and faces with the flag of their favorite team. All these elements add on to the lively atmosphere which can only be felt in the stadium.

Before discussing more about the behavior that occurs at the stadium, it is essential to know what the respondents think about the environment at the stadium (watching live at the stadium). Majority of the respondents (92 percents) said that the environment at the stadium is chaotic and noisy. There are a lot of fans with a full of support to their team, wanting the team to win and some of them not ready to lose. Because of the tensions, it will derive football disorder to occur especially among fanatic fans. Some of the respondents said that, the chaotic and noisy while watching at live at the stadium are normal because of the nature of watching football; full of shouting, yelling, screaming and all of that actually give more excitement and enjoyment. While other respondents added, there is no wrong if the fans want to have more fun while watching the game as long as they're not breaking the rules. This is because it is this kind of atmosphere which would potentially warm up another match.

Football disorder can be divided into two main behaviors normally done by the fans. Verbal and physical behavior were normally occur when some of the fans lost their rationality and easily get influenced with emotions, frustrations and anger while watching the game.

TABLE 1.1
VERBAL BEHAVIOR AT THE STADIUM

Verbal behavior	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Talking / Conversing	578	96.3
Shouting	567	94.5
Shouting team slogans	572	95.3
Singing team songs	571	95.2
Mocking opposing team/players	467	77.8
Voicing dissatisfaction against match officials	462	77.0
Provoking supporters of opposing team	371	61.8

Source: Field Study 2015
N=600

Table 1.1 shows the kinds of verbal behavior that were displayed by respondents in the stadium. Talking with other fans is the most verbal behavior occur (96.3%), the fans tend to talking about the tactical, the player and the game while watching it. Surprisingly if the respondents came alone to the stadium, they also talking and commenting about the game with other fans sitting next to them. Other verbal behavior normally occurs are shouting team slogans (95.3%) and singing team songs (95.2%).

These kinds of behaviors actually trying to motivate the players so that they more confident and will perform well. Actions such as mocking players and the opposing team (77.8%), provoking the opponent fans (61.8%) and voicing their discontent against match officials (77.0%) had also been committed by the respondents. Provocation such as mocking the opposing team, shouting vulgar and obscene words were among some of the actions committed. And for them, these behaviors were normal and did not contravene rules. However, for the rest of the respondents, even though they did not commit such acts, they claimed that they had personally witnessed situations of provocation and mocking of the opposing team while in the stadium. The same goes for voicing grievances against the decisions of match officials, especially the referee and the linesmen. Cursing is often made out against match officials if respondents were not satisfied with the decision of the match officials or considered a decision made by the match officials as being biased.

As a fans, they normally said the verbal behavior is a normal things to do at the stadium but what they do not know or realize is that this kind of verbal behavior is also considered as deviant behavior because it contravenes norms and rules which is prohibit fans from any form of provocation, mocking, insulting or even degrading other supporters (Spaaij 2006). When verbal behavior becomes more evident, the tendency for supporters to act increases physically. With the noisy and chaotic atmosphere in the stadium, the mocking between supporters, the provocation and the negative reception towards the provocations hurled would eventually become the cause of more serious disorder which involves physical disorder among football fans.

PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR AT THE STADIUM

Some of the researcher said crowd violence related of direct or indirect acts of physical violence by sport spectators, at or away from sports arena, that result in injury to person or damage to property (Young 2000). Well known as 'hooliganism', especially at Europe country, this issue of violence among football spectators already been discuss from 1980s (Kerr 1994). Fighting with opponent fans, damage property and throwing objects are the physical behavior normally occurs within hooliganism. They also known as a fanatic fan to the team and have a sense of belonging within their team.

Although in Malaysia, physical behavior at the stadium also happens in every matches but this situation is not worse compare to the European country. But, if this issue does not tackle in early stage, Malaysia also will face of hooliganism phenomena in future. Football fans in Malaysia nowadays are more brave, bold and fanatic to

their team. They were not just get involved with verbal disorder but they are some fans without hesitate involving with physical disorder such as fighting, damaging public property and throwing objects.

Table 1.2 shows the kinds of physical behavior that are often displayed by respondents when they are in the stadium. A total of 304 respondents admitted that they had damaged public property such as chairs and even toilets in the stadium. Reason they doing that were because they got frustrated of loses the game. While 38.2 percent of the respondents also involved in incidents of throwing objects (drink bottles, garbage, coins) into the field. According to the respondents, the behavior was driven by outrage against the decision of match officials which were deemed to be biased. These respondents tend to blame everyone especially the referee if their team loses the battle. They just can swallow the reality that in every game, they always have a winner and losing team.

FAM already listed a few forbidden objects such as drinking bottles, rocks, sticks, firecrackers and lasers and fans did not allow bringing all those items into the stadium. Security measures have been taken especially at the entrance to the stadium, but there are still supporters who successfully brought in all the forbidden items into the stadium. This was proven as there were respondents who stated that they had lit and thrown firecrackers (11.5% of respondents) while watching football matches. This situation showed that the security control does not working very well and perhaps the control not been done in holistic way.

TABLE 1.2
PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR AT THE STADIUM

Physical behavior	Frequency	%
Damaging public property	304	50.7
Throwing objects into the middle of the field	229	38.2
Lighting up and throwing firecrackers	69	11.5
Lighting flares	62	10.3
Fighting	220	36.7
Showing obscene gestures	408	68.0

Source: Field study 2015

Similarly, with the case of the flares, whereby there were respondents (62 of respondents) admitted that they lighted flares as an indication in celebrating the victory of their team. According to Spaijj (2006), a celebratory violence is quite common within spectators especially when they want to celebrate something (goals, penalty kick and winning the game). A total of 220 of respondents were involved in fighting with supporters of opposing teams. Fighting occurred as a result of severe provocation that was not well-received by the supporters. It started with a mocking episode, followed by the throwing of objects and finally ends with a fight. Fights usually involved more than one supporter and the respondents were lucky as they were not detained by the authorities due to the factor of too many supporters which made it difficult to make an arrest. According to the respondents, there were indeed many cases of fighting which occurred between supporters in the stadium, especially involving fanatic supporters. However, not many could be arrested or broadcasted in the mass media.

Showing obscene gestures also one of the physical behavior displayed by the respondents. A number of 408 respondents showed lewd gestures to supporters of the opposing team and also to match officials. This occurred instigated by the factor of frustration due to the defeat of their favorite team and to show dissatisfaction towards the match officials. The referee always had been a target man especially when the referee gave the red card, yellow card and penalty kick to opponent team. In addition, the sense of frustration and dissatisfaction were also directed towards the supporters of the opposing team especially when they celebrated their victory in a way which could trigger anger in the losing team. It is true that we are often fed with the fact that each game must have a winning team and a losing team. But, for a handful of supporters to accept the reality of a defeat is quite difficult let alone if before this, they had high hopes of their favorite team winning in every game. (Coackley, 2009).

DISCUSSION

This study was conducted with the intention to examine the association between Big Five personality traits and job performance among Malaysian public secondary school teachers. The study indicated that Agreeableness is the most dominant personality trait among teachers. This finding is consistent and supported by previous research done by Azlina and Sew Lee (2008). It indicates that teachers at the public secondary schools are inclining towards a pleasant, sympathetic, cooperative, friendly and helpful behaviour towards their students. It can be concluded that since Agreeableness teachers are idealistic and dedicated, they perceive greater job performance and personal accomplishment in teaching line (Constantinos, 2007). Teachers scored high in all items related to job performance which suggest that they possess high level of job performance. The findings implied that teachers in the public secondary school have a good teaching method and strategies in terms of delivering and understanding students' capability to achieve the desired learning outcomes. The result is consistent with the study carried out by Supian and Khadijah (2014), where teachers' level of job performance should be incline with the aims of National Education Philosophy (NEP). The aims of NEP can only be achieved through teachers who are dedicated and aspired to produce individuals who are socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually balance.

Furthermore, the finding of this study revealed that only personality traits of Openness to Experience, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism are significantly associated with job performance. On the contrary, there was no correlation found between personality traits of Conscientiousness and Extraversion with job performance. This indicates that by having personality trait of Openness to Experience, it will lead teachers to have an intellectual curiosity and be creative in performing their teaching process to ensure that they achieve the quality of interaction with students (Kevin, 2007). In addition, personality trait of Agreeableness will lead teachers to establish a caring atmosphere and take a personal interest in each student' needs (Laura, 2008). On the other hand, the negative correlation which found between traits of Neuroticism indicates that when traits of Neuroticism increase, teachers' job performance will decrease. Personality trait of Neuroticism may affect teachers to perform their teaching well when they are unable to control their stress and transfer their stress to students (Constantinos, 2007). These findings are in slight contrast to results of research carried out by Andreas (2012) who found that the personality traits which have correlation with job performance are Extroversion, Conscientiousness, and Neuroticism. Differences between the findings of research conducted by Andreas (2012) and this study may be due to contrast in terms of research context, whereby Andreas (2012) was focused on telesales workers, whereas this study focused on secondary school teachers.

Moreover, the result of this study indicated that Neuroticism is the most dominant personality trait influencing teachers' job performance. The negative correlation found between traits of Neuroticism with job performance explains that when traits of Neuroticism increase, teachers' job performance will decrease. Neuroticism, as opposed to emotional stability was the most dominant trait that affects teachers' personal accomplishment (Constantinos, 2007). It further explains that Neuroticism will lead teachers to inability to cope with stress which indirectly hampering teachers to maximize their potential in teaching (Azlina & Sew Lee, 2008). This finding proves that traits of Neuroticism emerged as having the strongest unique contribution on teachers' job performance. This finding is in contrast with a study done by Andreas (2012) who found trait of Conscientiousness as the strongest predictor of job performance. It explains that individuals who are persistent, dependable, organized, and goal directed tend to be higher performers, specifically in the occupation of sales. This suggests that trait of Conscientiousness gives greater emphasis in respect to job performance in the context of sales related job, but not in teaching profession as referred to our findings.

CONCLUSION

Sports and fans cannot be separated; the role of fans is huge to the development of sport itself. Football is one of the most popular sports around the world. Watching football live at the stadium more excitement and more happiness rather than sitting in front of television. That is why many of football fans willing to invest some money to buy a ticket just to make sure they have an opportunity to watching a live game. Normally the number of fans turn up at the stadium is thousands of fans and it will be a challenging to the security official to make sure all the fans follow the norms and rules.

Issue of football disorder among football fans never will solved if the fans itself doesn't want to change their attitudes. They should be more responsibility for their attitudes and behavior. To be fans, they actually need to control their attitudes and the most important is their emotions so that it will not affect their team as well. Sportsmanship spirit supposes to be the main element in every fan so that they can accept the fact of winning or losing of their team.

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