CHALLENGES OF TIRUNESH DIBABA NATIONAL ATHLETICS TRAINING CENTER FIELD EVENT TRAINEE ATHLETES’ IN ASSELA-ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper aimed at identifying the major challenges experienced by Field event Trainee Athletes. In so doing, the study is confined at Trunish Dibaba National Athletics training Center- Ethiopia. To achieve the stated objectives, the researcher mainly used qualitative case study methodology, as the topic under study focuses on a particular training center and incorporates limited numbers of field event trainee athletes. The participants of this study were 12 field event trainee athletes’, selected by purposive sampling techniques in the training year 2011 based on certain features: representing different sub-field events, experience, academic background, gender, willingness of Participation. As a methods of data gathering tools; in-depth interview, Focus group discussion and observation were employed. Taken together, of 12 field event Trainee Athletes 9 were interviewed and also 3 athletes those who have not taken part on interview, participated in focused group discussion. The data secured through these techniques were categorized and thematically analyzed so as to identify the major challenges. The result of the study, therefore, revealed that the major constraints associated with field event training as: effective training execution, Cold environment, Balanced diet and Facility and equipments. At the same time, among various facilities and equipments such as well equipped gymnasium, transportation, recreational center and medical service were found to be the scarcest once. To overcome these problems recommendations are forwarded.

KEYWORDS: Athletics, Challenges, Field event, Training center

INTRODUCTION

Modern sport has a history of over half a century in this country. Even if, many types of games are introduced within this period, the development of modern sport is still at the infancy level. The causes for these are organizational, economical and that of outlook. As the leadership in sports lacked a popular base in this country, it has been undergoing a series of continuous reorganization. Its focus has been on organizing competitive sports for the very few elite athletes (Ethiopian National Sport Policy [ENSP], 2004). They have gained recognition by themselves rather than nurturing sport as publics’ culture.

Yet as this intent on gaining victory lacks broad base that would replenish effective sport persons, the results registered have been declining, as well. In favor of this, ENSP (2004) further asserted that the limited role of the community in sports, the decline of sports in schools, the shortage of
sports facilities, sportswear and equipment, as well as the lack of trained personnel in the field must have made the problem more complex. As incorporated in the sport policy document (2004), the policy outlines clearly selected goal, strategies and means as to how the problems could be addressed. It further defines to what point sport should be directed, what, how, where, who, why to train, who to be a trainer at different levels, decisions as to organization, facilities and administrative arrangements as well as coordination among its several elements.

In spite of all these frameworks, there seems to be an immense gap between what is written in black and white and actually practiced on the ground, ever since the policy has been in to action, i.e., the question of hands-on job. Apparently, sport in all countries is changing with time, but not uniformly at all, as the gap in resource between wealthy and poor countries is growing. It is also indicated at these outset that, the availability of quality sport facility is necessary for proper training. Where this doesn’t exist, it is difficult to achieve the intended objectives set a head of time (Judith, 1998). In a nutshell, this is a severe challenge is being faced by many developing countries.

Conversely, Athletics is one of the purest of all sports, relying solely on the strengths of the human body rather than their technological implements to improve performance. In agreement with this view, Brain (2011) contend, “Sport and games played in a country can tell us a lot about the county, how people in the particular country live”. In the same vein, African countries from third world such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Algeria, morocco, South Africa, Uganda, Eretria and many others have been and still are the icons of running events particularly in the middle and long distances.

Typically, the rationale behind their achievement lays on that the practice of this event requires remarkably little facilities, having a door-openers ‘a role models’, an engagement with manual work at the early age, for instance, long distance round-trip to school, fetching water and gathering fire wood …etc. Could be mention as some of the main factors (Tsehaynew, 2010). At this juncture, it is also necessary to take the reader back that this statement is totally in favor of the above.

Likewise, when we talk about sport and Ethiopia, relatively few but world finest distance runners’ just come to our mind. Hence, the New York Times called Ethiopia “running Mecca,” due to its historical successes in the athletics program, in which it also took 5th place in the world ranking during the Olympic champion at Beijing (International Olympic committ [IOC], 2010). In effect, at this stage one could safely and justifiably come to an agreement that Ethiopia has some of the best middle and long distance runners in the world. To strength this point, I think, quoting Judah (2008) assertion is apt:

On 10 Sept, 1960, Abebe Bikila, an Ethiopia, won the Rome Olympic marathon running bare foot. He thus becomes a sporting hero, an African hero and, for many, the first black African ever to win a gold medal at the Olympics. Four years later in Tokyo, he was to repeat his success. Today, Haile Gebreselassie and many others for Ethiopia are known as some of the fastest runners on earth. Nevertheless, this was not the case, until Bikila Won in Rome...
Along with this, the same author argued, “Since Ethiopia joined the Olympic Games in 1956 up to Beijing Olympic, they have collected a total of 14 gold medals, 5 silver and 12 bronze [In recently held 2012 London Olympic game alone 3 gold,1 silver and 3 bronze]”. All these medals were won in long distance running completion that long distance running has not only brought joy for Ethiopians’ but also inspiration and courage to overcome the challenges of poverty (Judah 2008; IOC, 2010). From these assertions without going into greater details, it is possible to deduce that not only Ethiopia’s but also the entire African content athletics history is filled with middle and long distance achievements. In recent years, however, what seems impossible is becoming possible in more technical field event athletics, for instance, Nigerian Chioma Ajunwa emerged victorious in the women’s long jump at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta-Georgia, the first African women to win gold in field event. And also Francois Mbungo is a Cameroonian, won the gold medal at the Beijing 2008 Olympics for women’s triple jump. This actually comes after having she equally won a gold at the Athens Olympics in 2004 (iaaf.org. international association of athletics federations, 1996-2009 Retrieved 24 marches 2012).

Now days in Ethiopia, the public assumption is remarkably high in visualizing the future success in more steps-up and various fields of athletics. Needless to say, it is not possible to dwell entirely up on the past success which has gone to the record books, instead on what is successfully being done today. Hence, active engagements with the current practice provide us fresh looks-- to see the far prospect. On the top of that, the retrospect footpaths do play a significant role on the overwhelming majority of youths in making them to be the part of the history.

From this reason, ex-ministry of youth, sport and culture of Ethiopia (MYSC) has established in 2010 the National athletics training center, where it is now situated at Assella 170 k/m south of Addis Ababa, in the home town of prominent top-notch world track athletes such as Haile G/_selassie, Gizhgne Abera, Derartu Tulu, Kenenisa Bekele, Tiruniesh Dibaba, Fatuma Roba, Tiki Gelana just to name a few among many. This training center is also entitled after Tirunesh Dibaba double gold 5000 and 10000 meter Beijing and also London Olympic bronze and gold Madelia winner, “Tirunesh Dibaba National Athletics Training Centre”. To this end, the reason of the research for focusing in this particular study is:

1. To the Knowledge of the researcher, it is the only national athletics training Camp/center which is under direct custody of Ethiopian sport commission.
2. The researcher has taken in to account its peculiarity in terms of budget, administration, accountability, organization and manpower alike. On the top to this, on the assumption that the objective of the organization wants to meet a head in a field event.
3. The researcher is with a strong belief that the site is appropriate in terms of representatives to get a clear picture about the actual practice and factors hampering field trainee athletes. This is hypothesized on some preliminary discussions with pertinent source.
4. The researcher is Well-versed that most of the researches conducted in the country, mainly
   Focus on track event athletics in which the country has been well known for it.
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: In the fast change world, the increase in public expectation from sport sector creates changes in the sport policy. Consequently, these changes will have effect in the overall sport fields. So, in order to keep with this abreast changes, the organized training centers in many sport activities have become the call of the day. In line with this, Ethiopian National Sport policy has been experiencing reforms in different depth and breadth explicitly focusing in training talented youths on either boarding or non-boarding based training centers, to produce elite athletes with various fields of athletics including specific events that the country is not yet well known (ENSP, 2004).

In conformity to this, ENSP(2004) further disclose and puts ,“...register great achievements of international standard by tapping the overall sports activity within the community and in particular from among the youth by creating awareness and participation amongst them”’ To this effect, appropriate implementation of the program can favorably influences the overall development of the countries sport in many aspects. To happen and see as expected: talents identification, proper recruitment procedures, research, scientific based training, setting within reachable goals, competent and effective organizational structure...etc are precondition, as Sharkey (1986) agreed.

Actually, for some it would be too early to conduct research on the matters of this training center. However, the expectation of the whole stakeholder is up to the largest extent comparing it with the previous results scored in an unorganized manner, on individualized bases. In fact, if we fail to signify the bottleneck on time, afterward it gets worsen and becomes hurdles of a marathon. Besides, spotting early the well-built side of the practices would be a good lesson for all sport professionals in the areas of coaching, sport Administration, sport psychology, sport medicine and Sports pedagogy, physical education...etc. In view of the fact that it is the only national athletics training center, which is believed to be an exemplar and center of excellence, And also it would serve as an eye opener for other regional athletic training centers and beyond.

From this notion, the researcher argument pivots on the fact that Ethiopian field event athletes would repeat what has been achieved by track event athletes’. Provided that the journey of field event athletic preparation is conducted under well organized and equipped athletics training center, worked together in harmony with all stakeholders. Again, it is necessary to repeat at this stage that from well-organized structure of athletics training sector a great deal is anticipated in order to keep and continue the achievements in more steps-up and various fields of athletics. To this end, the researcher found it timely and crucial to question: what are some of the most persistent challenges of Tiruniesh Dibaba National Athletics training center field event trainee athletes’ came upon in the course of training?

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY: is to explore the problems experienced by trainee athletes in the course of field event training. Hence, the study is confined to Tiruniesh Dibaba National Athletics training center in Assella- Ethiopia. More specifically, the study seeks to achieve the following.

1. To assess the availability of basic Materials and equipments necessary to carry out field event training
2. To identify the most possible hampering factors that field event trainee athletes’ face in the course of training.
3. To provide suggestion to improve the practice of the training.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
Valuable lessons drown from this will not only help other sites to make use of it. Above all, achieving organizational objectives would be the crux of the whole matter at which every citizen’s eye is focusing up on, ”’producing many new world class athletes representing the country with various fields’ of athletics including that of the country has never been well known” (Organizational Objectives of Tirunish Dibaba National Athletics Training Center, 2011). So, the researcher of this study hopes that the findings of the study would give a good insight for all field event practitioners, coaches and administrators, be used as the feedback for all stakeholders in the effort made to strength the quality of the training and Initiate other scholars to undertake a large scale research in the area of field event athletics.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS
Training center: a place where people live temporarily and learn or develop their skills in athletics sport.
Field event: athletic event which comprises jumping (long jump, high jump, triple jump and pole vault) and throwing events (javelin, discus, hummer and shot put).

METHODOLOGY
Design and sample: All research needs a foundation for its inquiry, and inquires need to be aware of the implicit world views they bring to studies (Cresswell and Clark, 2007 as cited in Anduamlak, 2009). For this reason, qualitative case study design as kothar (2008) described, ‘the social microscope,’ Which is in depth rather than breadth, more emphasis on the full analysis of a limited of events or conditions and their interrelations; is employed in this study, in an attempt to spot the major challenges encountered by field event trainee athletes at Tirunish Dibaba National Athletics Training Center, Assella- Ethiopia.

In view of the fact that the study is expected to investigate the aforementioned topic, it assumed that it would be quite appropriate to get the relevant data directly from the horse’s mouth i.e., from field event trainee athletes. Regarding the sample within the case, Marriam (1998) as cited in Fekede (2006) recommends that in most qualitative researches; the researcher should locate a group of participant, rich in knowledge and experience – by “purposive” or “purposeful” sampling. Hence, field event trainee athletes within-site sample are allocated based on the following attribute: representation – both throwing and jumping events, academic background, gender-mixed sex and willingness to participate in the study. In the training year 2011, therefore, total numbers of 12 field event trainee athletes (7 males and 5 females) have taken part in this study.
Table 1: Characteristics of informants involved in the interview and Focus group discussion (FGD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>participants*</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Specialized field</th>
<th>Involved in**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I 1</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Throwing event</td>
<td>interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I 2</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jumping event</td>
<td>interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I 3</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Throwing event</td>
<td>interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I 4</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jumping event</td>
<td>FGD</td>
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<td>I 5</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10+1Technical college</td>
<td>Throwing event</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>I 6</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Jumping event</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>I 7</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Throwing event</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>I 8</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>Throwing event</td>
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<td>I 9</td>
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<td>Jumping event</td>
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<td>Throwing event</td>
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<td>I 11</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>Throwing event</td>
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<td>I 12</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Jumping event</td>
<td>FGD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In order to maintain anonymity for ethical consideration, the researcher used English capital letter ‘I’ which stands for informant together with consecutive numbers**Three informants who have not taken part in the interview, participated in the FGD: I4, I8 and I12.

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS: Case study research is typically extensive, drawing on multiple sources of information such as direct observation, participant observation, interviews, documents, physical artifacts and archival records that reports a case description and case-based themes (Denzin and Lincoln, 2005; Fikede, 2006; Merriam, 1998). In the same vein, to triangulate or increase the trustworthiness of this research in-depth interviews, focus group discussion (FGD) and direct observation were used as methods of data collection.

DATA ANALYSIS: qualitative research involves discovering and deriving patterns in the data, looking for general orientations in the data and trying to sort out what the data are all about, why and what kinds of things might be said about them. It is not a simple description of the data collected but a process, by which the researcher can bring interpretation to the data (Powney and Watts, 1987 as cited in yonas, 2003). The themes and coding categories emerged from an examination of data (Bogdan and Biklen, 1992). For this reason, in the data analysis the researcher used the process of systematically searching and arranging the interview, observation and FGD transcripts that the researcher accumulated by reading the transcripts as well as listening to the taped sessions. In this process, the researcher identified and noted recurrent themes and salient comments regarding constraints that Trunish Dibaba National Athletics training center field event trainee Athletes encountered in the course of training.
RESULT
Accordingly, the themes were subsumed under four main categories as shown in the chart below.

DISCUSSIONS
The results of the themes presented under four categories are, therefore, discussed here under

LACK OF EFFECTIVE TRAINING EXECUTION

The analysis of the interview and focus group discussion indicates that to practice with a large number of athletes is an enormous challenge. Emphasizing on this issue, one of my informant pseudo name Hanna, for example, comment in FGD was typical:

*I am a shot putter. Shot put requires more power than any other field event athletics, nevertheless, I am now working with other throwers of Javelin and discuss; having a common coach for all of these unlike throwing events. And so, the training is not individualized to a particular field. ...even in the circumstances where athletes respond differently to the same training for many reasons... level of fitness, nutrition, rest and sleep, environmental, illness, injury and motivation.*

From the broader perspective, in this respect Ardle et.al, (2001) disclosed that every year, performance improvements occur in almost all athletics competitions. This advancement related to increased opportunities for participation and individuals with “natural endowment,” more likely become exposed to specific sports. Martens (1997) too elucidated that specific training brings specific result, for example, Cycling is not the best preparation for running, or vice versa. The quote chosen at this section was also the representative of widely expressed responses of field event trainee athletes’. Moreover, it concisely summarizes what an effective and efficient sport training approach should include as a benchmark: opportunities of participation, talent identification, individualized training and having competent coach in the respective particular field.

Cold Environment

Substantial numbers of respondents were complaining about the environment in which they are now living and working, for example, one informant (I6) briefly expressed,” it is too cold, not
suitable for field event athletics training”. Another informant (I10), on the same vein, forwarded statement is quite revealing:

...the body is engaged in more extra effort to maintain its stability. Besides, field event athletics is entirely dependent on explosive power of skeletal muscles that, such cold environment does not facilitate the contraction and relaxation of these muscle groups simply. To be honest, every one of us has encountered injury problems in the course of the training. If I were asked to forward a solution for this problem, I would not say, “wear warmer clothes or gloves,” instead I would have said “let’s have another training center which is warmer than this area”, would have been my response.

On the same issue, other respondent (I13) argued but forward his opinion a bit in a different way as follows:

From the practical point of view, it is difficult to change the training site particularly for field event athletes. To this effect, doing intensive warning up exercise or using warmer cloths during exercise would remain the only solution. Since many athletes are high school regular students, undoubtedly, it is not possible even to think of the training sessions outside the school hours at which the temperature becomes extremely cold

In conformity to these views, Mcardle and Katch (2001) contend that cold environment significantly increases energy metabolism during rest and exercise. The magnitude of the effect depends largely on a person’s body fat content and effectiveness of the clothing ensemble. Metabolic rate can increase up to five fold at rest during extreme cold stress, because shivering generates body heat to maintain a stable core temperature. The same Author added that the effect of cold stress during exercise become most during exercise in cold water because of the immense difficulty maintaining a stable core temperature in such stressful environment.

To this end, Honeybourne, Hill and Moors (2000) assertion throws some light on this issue that the body continually responding to the demands made on it by the individual and the environment in an attempt to maintain a stable internal environment. The body function best when body fluid, temperature, oxygen levels…etc are at the specific level. Any change in the body’s internal environment usually prompts an immediate response in an attempt to readdress the balance.

Lack of adequate and balanced diet

The other leading possible factor which has got quite a significance number of respondents’ attention was, “lack of adequate and balanced diets”. Related to this, Jackson (1986) underscored that energy intakes peaked between age 16 and 29 years and then decline for succeeding age groups. Similar pattern occurred for males and females, although males reported higher daily energy in takes then female at all ages between age 20 and 29 years, the women consumed on
average 35% fewer kcal than men on a daily basis. Individuals who engage regularly in moderate-to-intense physical activities eventually increase daily energy intake to match their higher energy expenditure level.

In a very similar tone, Martens (1997) too elucidated that athletes will find it hard to train and perform if their diets lack adequate energy. The average female (15-24 years) needs 2000 to 2400 calories of energy daily, the average male from 2500 to 3000. Yet again, the same author importantly pointed out that Daily energy needs depend on age and body size. And also for every hour of practice, athletes may need 500 or more additional calories of energy. The aforementioned statement is quite sounding when one looks the age category of trainee athletes which is by now, on the ladder of peak energy intake stage (see table 1). In relation to this, one of the respondents (I1) has this to say:

…Two vigorous training sessions per day for six days, one early in the morning and the other after school hours. Look, the tasks we are engaged in, “sport training and Education ”. We all certainly know the importance of nutrition and also without proper nutrition the best training program will not succeed. However, the question lays on about what amount and quality? Actually, to make available such quality food staff is regarded by administrators as unreachable issue. Practically speaking, the problem goes from bad to worse when one thinks of the fraud in the purchasing process and the current sour food prices costs.

Lack of facility and equipment

Among various factors that impede the performance of field event trainee athletes’, the availability of well equipped fitness center is identified by many respondents as the major attribute. In line with this, one informant (I7) in the interview is quoted to have said:

....more technical event by its nature and requires mighty impressive body movements such as rapidly changing direction, neuromuscular coordination and similar physical qualities. Unless we do have various types of gymnasium Machines with a sufficient number and qualities....it is hard to think of field event accomplishment ...., Even putting aside the lower status of the field event has in the training center compared to track...

Similar responses were repeatedly given in the interview and FGD. Regarding this, one of the informants, (I9), is worth mentioning. He rightly put it.

...look, the fitness components to be improved, energy system involved, main muscle groups employed and specific movement patterns/modes performed...etc. To see or monitor the progress of these staffs, the availability of various types of rating gym Machines do have substantial significance. Most of all, to maintain the
training load, frequency, progression and also to make it more specific to the activity...

The above idea, though expressed by a single trainee athlete it was shared by almost all. When we look in to the above responses in depth, it is not hard to understand that there is the shortage of gymnasium Equipments in terms of number and qualities. This is also confirmed by the researcher during the time of observation. Many participants also pointed out that transportation as the common denominator, which impedes field event training. In relation to this, one of the respondents commented (I11) the problem as follows:

... Not initially constructed as an athletic training center, Condominium rented from Assella city Municipality, is far from the center of the city where both Assella green stadium and regional police sport fields are available. On the top of this, the training program is scheduled early before 6 A.M at the time one could not get, ‘Bajaj’ taxi, even if you do have money to pay for it. ‘Running’, all this distances on a daily basis is the only chance that we do have... to reach in the spot on time and also after this all hard work to get back to school before the morning bell goes...

Besides, quite a number of respondents explained that there is no recreational center and dressing rooms. One research participant (I2) commented particularly on the absence of recreational center as follows:

... After this all training load and school work.., had it been recreational center nearby, we would not have gone to Assela ... just to take a cup of tea and chat. Look, on the days where there is no schooling or training... Many athletes are seen setting in the nearby found main gateway of their dorm. For sure, this shows to what extent is the need of having recreational center.

Another participant comments in FGD on the issue that he believes extremely beneficial:

we do not have well organized clinic in the training center that when you encounter injury/illness they sent you to the government clinics/hospitals...no one is here who follows your case and bother about your immediate recovery...This is also frightening as far as sport is not free from injury.

All these descriptions at least give us a bird's eye view to what extent the availability of facilities and equipments have affected field event trainee athletes.

ANALYSIS OF OBSERVATIONAL CHECKLIST
Basic Materials and equipments necessary to carry out daily field event training successful are established in short supply. This can be seen clearly from rating scales used to determine the availability of equipments and facilities in training center. In the nut shell, to make the training
activities more effective, it is necessary to have an appropriate physical environment with infrastructures and equipments, which facilitate the training program at large.

**Table 2: Observational check list for field event equipments**

*Note: AV= Available, PV = partially Available, NA= Not Available*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field event equipments</th>
<th>AV</th>
<th>PV</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Field event</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields for throwing event *</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Belongs to city administration (municipality)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields for jumping event **</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td>** Belongs to Arsi zone police department**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Javelin</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pole vault</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Long and Triple Jump</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High Jump</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shot put</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discus</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hummer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mattress</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Posts and bar(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Meters</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Check list for gymnasium and miscellaneous equipments

2. Gymnasium facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Gymnasium facilities</th>
<th>✓</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. Miscellaneous facilities

- Clean water access ✓
- Separate latrine ✓
- Dressing room ✓
- Shower ✓
- Lunge ✓
- Bed rooms ✓
- Clinics ✓
- Sport suits ✓
- Library ✓
- Cafeteria ✓
- Transportation ✓
- Other(s) ✓

| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
As indicated in the tables above, except few types of equipments, basic facilities in many field events are scarce for conducting training.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions: It can be inferred from the above analysis and discussions that the training in the center is not too specific to different sub-field events and also individual differences existing among all field event trainee athletes are not considered in the training. Yet, due consideration is not given for field event training similar to track. The result of the finding also attests that the major constraints associated with field event training were: environmental influence in which the training area is very ‘cold’ for this particular event training, lack of adequate facility and equipment, lack of adequate and balanced diet. At the same time, well equipped gymnasium, transportation, recreational center and medical service were found to be the scarcest once.

Recommendations: The researcher suggested the following recommendation in light of the conclusion made:

- The training center should re-examine the training days, sessions and time spent in field event training. In addition, the training requires adjustment at various schemes sub-junior, junior and senior levels regarding the individual differences and sub-specific field events.

- Ethiopian sport commission and other concerned bodies are expected to assign enough budgets considering the ever rising cost of living. And also athletes’ representatives are advised to take part in the purchasing process so as to monitor the commodities.

- As the only national athletics training center; equipping the training center with different professionals such as various sub-field event coaches, sport medicine, sport psychologist, public relation, marketing officers…etc. is an important issue that cannot be left for tomorrow. On the top of this, to have acquaintance with the ever growing scientific training, coaches should have to get too specific field event training on regular base either on-job or off-season.

- Shortage of field event materials and training equipments were found among the main hindering factors by trainee athletes. Thus, more should be done by concerned bodies in the Ethiopian sport commission to allocate enough budgets to buy, at least, locally made basic gymnasium equipments that are basic for field event training. Again, the training center is recommended to work in harmony with Ethiopian athletics federation, Ethiopian Olympic committee, private fitness centers, sport Medias, sport clubs and non-governmental organizations as important partners so as to curb the basic field event training equipments and also to generate sufficient income.

- Once the training center is equipped with competent man power, facilities and equipments; its
doors’ should have to be open for private athletic sport clubs and interested individuals, with modest service charge.

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