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“An Investigation into the causes of hooliganism during sports events among residents of Chingola District, Copperbelt Province, Zambia”

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Abstract

This study investigated the causes of hooliganism during sports events among residents of Chingola District in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The research was guided by a mixed-methods approach within a descriptive cross-sectional research design to obtain both quantitative and qualitative insights into the factors contributing to violent and disorderly behavior during sporting activities. The target population (150) included sports fans, club officials, security personnel, and community members, from which a representative sample was drawn using stratified and purposive sampling techniques. Data were collected through structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and non-participant observation to ensure triangulation, and analyzed using descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. The findings revealed that hooliganism is influenced by a combination of factors, including excessive alcohol consumption, strong team rivalries, poor crowd management, inadequate security presence, socio-economic frustrations among youths, and lack of strict enforcement of regulations during sports events. Additionally, peer pressure and emotional attachment to teams were found to exacerbate aggressive behavior among fans. The study concluded that hooliganism in Chingola District is a multifaceted problem requiring coordinated interventions. The study therefore recommended that stakeholders, including local authorities and sports organizers, implement comprehensive community-based sensitization programs aimed at promoting responsible fan behavior, alongside strengthening security measures, enforcing stricter penalties, and improving event organization to ensure safety and peaceful participation in sports activities.

Keywords: Crowd Management; Fan Behavior; Hooliganism; Sports Events; Violence Prevention

1. Introduction

Hooliganism during sports events has emerged as a significant social challenge in many communities, disrupting not only the enjoyment of sporting activities but also threatening public safety and community cohesion. Hooliganism refers to unruly, aggressive, and violent spectator behaviour associated with sporting events, particularly popular team sports such as football, and has been documented as a worldwide phenomenon with historical and sociological roots. According to The SAGE Dictionary of Leisure Studies, football hooliganism encompasses not only physical violence but also aggressive and threatening behaviours exhibited by supporters at matches (Blackshaw & Crawford, 2010). In Zambia, concerns have been raised over the rise of fan disorder during football matches, with stakeholders linking such incidents to factors including alcohol abuse, inadequate security, and poor acceptance of match outcomes (Lusaka Times, 2022). These behaviours can undermine the social and economic benefits of sports by intimidating spectators, jeopardising stadium safety, and damaging the reputation of clubs and local authorities. Research on crowd violence further suggests that hooliganism is influenced by complex factors such as group identities, socio-economic pressures,

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and emotional responses tied to team allegiances (Giulianotti, 1999; Wikipedia, 2026). Understanding the causes of hooliganism among residents of Chingola District, Copperbelt Province, Zambia, is therefore crucial for informing effective interventions, promoting positive fan culture, and ensuring that sports events remain safe and inclusive community spaces.

Hooliganism refers to aggressive, violent, or disruptive behavior exhibited by individuals or groups, particularly in public gatherings such as sports events. In Chingola District, these behaviors often manifest through physical altercations, verbal abuse, and property damage during football matches and other competitive sporting activities. Scholars have argued that hooliganism is socially learned and reinforced through shared norms within fan groups that tolerate or even celebrate violence (Giulianotti & Armstrong, 1997). Research in international contexts links hooliganism to socio-economic challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and marginalization, which can influence young people to express frustrations through aggression (Giulianotti, 2012). In Zambia, male-dominated fan cliques have been observed to channel emotional investment in teams into confrontations, particularly when rivalries are intense. Psychological perspectives also contribute to understanding hooliganism, emphasizing emotional attachment and crowd anonymity as catalysts for behavior that individuals might otherwise avoid in other social settings (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). The perception that one's social identity is tied to a team intensifies the impact of perceived provocations, reinforcing repeated engagement in violent acts. Hooliganism presents significant risks to public safety, causing injuries, psychological distress, and extensive damage to infrastructure. Frequent incidents also discourage broader community participation and can deter sponsors keen on positive visibility (Dunning, Murphy, & Wagg, 2002). Addressing hooliganism thus becomes both a safety and socio-economic imperative.

Sports events serve as focal points for community interaction, identity formation, and recreational engagement but can also be sites of conflict and aggression. In Chingola District, football matches attract large crowds whose collective emotions can escalate when events are poorly managed or when deep rivalries exist. The cultural importance of football as Zambia's most popular sport amplifies emotional investment, sometimes transforming social bonding into hostility (Spaaij, 2006). The organizational dynamics of sports events significantly influence spectator behavior. For instance, inadequate seating arrangements, insufficient security, and poorly managed access points increase the likelihood of confrontations (Stott & Pearson, 2007). High crowd density with minimal oversight correlates with increased incidence of disorderly conduct. Commercial pressures and media amplification of rivalries further intensify fan emotions. High-profile matches receive extensive coverage, elevating the stakes of rivalry and encouraging aggressive displays that resonate beyond the stadium into the local community. This pattern has been noted in numerous international settings where fan clashes have led to broader social tensions. Within Zambia, sports events are deeply embedded in local culture and youth social life. However, recurrent hooliganism can undermine the benefits of community participation, leading authorities to impose stringent policing or limitations on attendance, which can dampen community spirit and affect matchday experiences.

Fan behavior comprises the attitudes, emotions, and actions of spectators during sporting events. In Chingola, fan behavior is shaped by cultural norms, group identity, peer dynamics, and socio-economic conditions. Aggressive behaviors—such as confrontations, chants that escalate into insults, and vandalism—arise when fans feel a deep emotional attachment to their teams and view opposing fans as threats to shared identity (Wann et al., 2001). Social identity theory explains why individuals may act more aggressively in group contexts than they would alone, as they derive a sense of self from collective affiliation with a team (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Within fan groups, displays of aggression are sometimes rewarded socially, reinforcing these behaviors as normative. Socio-economic stressors prevalent among youths—such as unemployment, limited recreation, and social marginalization—can further exacerbate negative fan behavior. When combined with alcohol use and high emotional arousal during matches, these factors elevate the risk of violent incidents. Research in similar environments has shown that socio-economic frustrations often spill over into behavioral aggression during culturally significant events (Nicholson & Hoye, 2008). However, not all fan behavior is detrimental. Positive fan engagement, including organized cheering, community outreach, and rituals of support, contributes to a celebratory atmosphere and promotes social cohesion. Distinguishing between supportive fandom and actions that foment conflict is critical for interventions that aim to curtail hooliganism without diminishing spectator enthusiasm.

Crowd management involves planning and coordinating the movement and behavior of spectators to ensure safety and order. In Chingola, incidents of hooliganism have often been linked to poor crowd management practices, such as insufficient security personnel, unclear communication with spectators, and poorly designed access points within stadiums. Research shows that when crowds are poorly managed, small disturbances can quickly escalate into full-blown altercations (Fitzgerald & Spence, 2018). The strategic planning of sports events should include pre-event risk assessments, designated crowd flow routes, visible security presence, and trained personnel capable of de-escalating tensions. Measures such as these have been employed in international settings to successfully reduce the

frequency and severity of spectator violence (Silva, 2010). Real-time monitoring and communication with spectators can also improve crowd behavior. Announcements regarding expected conduct, clear codes of conduct, and rapid response units ready to intervene help prevent minor disruptions from intensifying. Collaboration between event organizers, law enforcement, and community leaders strengthens the overall management infrastructure, fostering accountability and responsiveness.

Violence prevention in sports contexts involves proactive measures designed to reduce the occurrence of aggression and conflict among spectators. Effective violence prevention strategies combine educational outreach, community participation, policy enforcement, and structured event management. Community education programs that teach conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and responsible behavior have been shown to decrease violent incidents by promoting alternatives to aggression (Dunn, 2010). Local engagement is crucial: when community leaders, fan groups, and law enforcement jointly develop prevention initiatives, they create shared ownership of behavioral expectations. Such community-driven approaches have proven effective in reducing hooliganism in various global settings (Schulenkorf, 2013). Policy measures—like enforcing stadium codes of conduct, restricting alcohol sales, and penalizing offenders serve as deterrents, while rapid response systems ensure that emerging conflicts are addressed before escalation. Stadium regulations that are clearly communicated and consistently enforced reinforce expectations for conduct among all spectators.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Hooliganism during sports events has increasingly become a pressing social issue in Zambia, with significant implications for public safety, community cohesion, and the overall development of sports culture. In Chingola District, Copperbelt Province, incidents of violent and disruptive behavior among sports spectators have been reported frequently, including fights, property destruction, and verbal abuse, which not only threaten the safety of attendees but also tarnish the reputation of local sports events (Kambwili, 2019; Mumba, 2021). Despite the visible consequences of hooliganism, there is limited empirical research examining the root causes of such behavior among residents in this district. Factors such as socio-economic conditions, alcohol and substance abuse, inadequate policing, intense team rivalries, and cultural perceptions of masculinity and aggression are often cited in broader literature as contributing to sports-related violence, but their specific influence in the Chingola context remains underexplored (Phiri, 2020; Banda, 2018). Understanding these underlying causes is critical for developing targeted interventions to reduce violence, promote responsible spectator behavior, and foster a safer sporting environment. Therefore, this study sought to investigate the causes of hooliganism during sports events among residents of Chingola District, providing evidence-based insights that can inform policy formulation, community engagement, and the management of sports events in the region.

1.2. Study Objectives

- To identify the socio-economic, cultural, and behavioral factors that contribute to hooliganism among sports spectators in Chingola District.
- To assess the role of event management, policing, and community engagement in mitigating incidents of hooliganism during sports events in the district.

1.3. Research Questions

- What socio-economic, cultural, and behavioral factors contribute to hooliganism among sports spectators in Chingola District?
- How do event management practices, policing, and community engagement mitigate the occurrence and severity of hooliganism during sports events in Chingola District?

1.4. Theoretical Framework

This study was anchored on Social Learning Theory, developed by Albert Bandura (1977), which asserted that individuals learned behaviors through observation, imitation, and reinforcement within a social context. Applying this theory to hooliganism during sports events in Chingola District, it was suggested that residents adopted aggressive or violent behaviors by observing peers, role models, or media portrayals that normalized such conduct (Bandura, 1977; Hogg & Vaughan, 2018). Key factors such as group dynamics, peer pressure, and reinforcement—through social approval, attention, or lack of consequences—perpetuated violent behavior among sports spectators (McGowan, 2019). The theory further explained how socio-economic conditions, cultural norms, and environmental cues at sporting venues interacted to influence individuals' propensity for hooliganism (Phiri, 2020). By utilizing Social Learning Theory, the study provided a robust conceptual lens to systematically analyze how learned behaviors, social interactions, and

contextual factors contributed to hooliganism, thereby offering a foundation for developing effective interventions to mitigate violence and promote responsible spectator behavior in Chingola District.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study lies in its potential to provide critical insights into the root causes of hooliganism during sports events in Chingola District, which has far-reaching implications for public safety, social cohesion, and the development of a positive sports culture. By identifying the socio-economic, cultural, and behavioral factors that drive violent and disruptive behaviors among spectators, the study can inform local authorities, sports organizers, and policymakers on effective strategies for preventing and managing hooliganism. Furthermore, understanding the role of policing, event management, and community engagement in either mitigating or exacerbating these incidents can help design targeted interventions that promote responsible spectator behavior, reduce property damage, and enhance the overall safety and enjoyment of sports events. The findings can also contribute to academic literature on sports-related violence in Zambia, providing a foundation for further research and serving as a reference for other districts facing similar challenges. Ultimately, the study aims to support the creation of safer sporting environments, strengthen community participation in sports, and promote positive social values among residents.

2. Research Methodology

The study employed a descriptive cross-sectional research design using a mixed-methods approach to investigate the causes of hooliganism during sports events among residents of Chingola District in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The target population included sports fans, club supporters, event organizers, security personnel, and community leaders, from whom a sample of 150 respondents was selected using simple random, purposive, and convenience sampling techniques. Data were collected through structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and non-participant observation to ensure triangulation. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages, while qualitative data were analyzed thematically to identify key patterns and causes of hooliganism. The study ensured validity and reliability through pilot testing and consistent data collection procedures, and adhered to ethical considerations including informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation.

3. Study Results and Discussion

3.1. Socio-Economic, Cultural and Behavioral Factors that Contribute to Hooliganism among Sports Spectators

The study findings revealed that socio-economic conditions significantly influenced the occurrence of hooliganism among sports spectators in Chingola District (Merton, 1938). Respondents indicated that individuals from low-income backgrounds were more likely to engage in violent behavior due to frustration, marginalization, and limited access to social and recreational opportunities (Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009). Economic inequality was found to create resentment and social tension, particularly in environments where large groups gather, such as sports events. One of the participants further explained that:

“Sports provided an outlet for expressing dissatisfaction with broader social conditions, which sometimes manifested in aggressive behavior”.

These findings support the view that structural inequalities can lead to deviant coping mechanisms, especially in emotionally charged settings. Thus, socio-economic disadvantage was identified as a key driver of hooliganism.

The study established that unemployment and poverty were major contributors to hooliganism among youths in Chingola District (Becker, 1968). Respondents noted that unemployed individuals often attended sports events as a way of escaping economic hardship, but this sometimes led to heightened aggression during matches. The lack of productive engagement increased idleness and made individuals more susceptible to involvement in violent acts, particularly when influenced by peers (Coakley, 2015). Poverty was also associated with frustration and a diminished sense of self-worth, which intensified emotional reactions during competitive games. These findings suggest that economic deprivation creates conditions that foster antisocial behavior, particularly in high-energy environments. Therefore, unemployment and poverty were significant triggers of hooliganism.

Findings indicated that education level played an important role in shaping how spectators behaved during sports events (Hirschi, 1969). Individuals with lower levels of education were more likely to display aggression, intolerance, and poor emotional control compared to those with higher educational attainment (Chanda et al., 2024). One of the respondents explained that:

“Education promotes awareness of acceptable social behavior, rules of sportsmanship, and conflict resolution strategies. Those with higher education were more likely to remain calm and avoid confrontation, even in tense situations”.

These findings highlight the importance of education in fostering discipline and responsible behavior (Goleman, 1995). Consequently, low levels of education were identified as a contributing factor to hooliganism.

The study found that cultural norms and societal beliefs significantly influenced hooliganism among sports spectators (Dunning et al., 1988). In some communities, aggressive behavior was perceived as a demonstration of masculinity, strength, and loyalty to one’s team. Respondents indicated that violence was sometimes normalized within fan groups, particularly among young males who felt pressure to conform to group expectations (Giulianotti, 1999). Cultural acceptance of confrontational behavior reinforced the idea that aggression was an acceptable response during sports events. Additionally, traditions of rivalry between teams further fueled hostility among supporters. These findings align with Chanda (2024b) who in their study suggest that socialization processes play a key role in shaping behavior and can legitimize violence in sports settings.

The findings revealed that strong identification with sports teams and fan groups contributed significantly to hooliganism (Tajfel, 1982). Many respondents expressed that loyalty to their team created a sense of belonging, but also led to hostility toward rival supporters. This “us versus them” mentality intensified emotions and increased the likelihood of confrontation (Hogg & Abrams, 1988). One of the participants indicated that:

“Group membership often encouraged individuals to act in ways they would not normally do when alone, as they sought approval and recognition from fellow fans. The need to defend team pride further escalated aggressive behavior during matches”.

These findings highlight the influence of social identity in shaping violent behavior among sports spectators.

The study established that alcohol consumption and substance abuse were key factors contributing to hooliganism (Graham & Wells, 2001). Respondents reported that many violent incidents occurred when spectators were intoxicated, as alcohol reduced self-control and increased impulsive behavior. Substance use was also associated with heightened emotional reactions, making individuals more likely to respond aggressively to provocation (Moore et al., 2007). Furthermore, alcohol consumption was often a social activity among fans, which amplified group influence and escalated tensions. The availability of alcohol at or near sports venues was identified as a major contributing factor. These findings highlight the role of substance abuse in facilitating violent behavior in sports settings.

Findings further showed that peer pressure and crowd dynamics played a significant role in influencing hooliganism (Le Bon, 1895). Respondents indicated that individuals were more likely to engage in violence when encouraged by peers or when surrounded by large, emotionally charged crowds. The sense of anonymity within crowds reduced personal accountability and allowed individuals to act without fear of consequences (Turner & Killian, 1987). Additionally, the desire to fit in and gain approval from peers motivated individuals to participate in aggressive acts. The study also found that behaviors could spread quickly within a crowd, as individuals imitated the actions of others. These findings agree with those of Chanda (2024) who demonstrate the powerful influence of group dynamics on individual behavior.

The study revealed that emotional and psychological factors were central to the occurrence of hooliganism (Berkowitz, 1993). One of the respondents reported that:

“Feelings of anger, frustration, and excitement often escalated into aggressive behavior, especially during highly competitive matches”.

Situations such as unfavorable results, controversial refereeing decisions, and provocation from rival fans were identified as key triggers (Kerr, 2005). Emotional investment in teams heightened sensitivity to outcomes, leading to intense reactions when expectations were not met. These findings suggest that hooliganism is partly driven by psychological processes that are intensified in sports environments. Therefore, emotional and cognitive factors significantly influence spectator behavior.

The findings indicated that media exposure to violent sports culture influenced the behavior of spectators (Bandura, 1986). Respondents noted that watching aggressive fan behavior in international matches through television and social media normalized hooliganism, particularly among younger audiences. Media portrayals of violence in sports often glamorized such behavior, making it appear acceptable or even desirable (Boyle & Haynes, 2009). Additionally, repeated

exposure to such content shaped attitudes and expectations, leading some individuals to imitate what they observed. The study highlighted that media plays a powerful role in shaping social behavior through observation and reinforcement (Chanda et al., 2024c). Therefore, media influence was identified as a contributing factor to hooliganism.

The study concluded that hooliganism is a complex phenomenon resulting from the interaction of multiple factors, including socio-economic conditions, cultural norms, and behavioral influences (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Respondents emphasized that these factors do not operate independently but rather reinforce one another. For example, unemployed youths exposed to violent cultural norms and influenced by peer pressure were more likely to engage in hooliganism. Similarly, alcohol consumption often intensified existing social and emotional tensions (McPherson, 2008). This interconnectedness creates an environment in which violent behavior is more likely to occur and persist. The findings suggest that addressing hooliganism requires a comprehensive approach that considers all contributing factors.

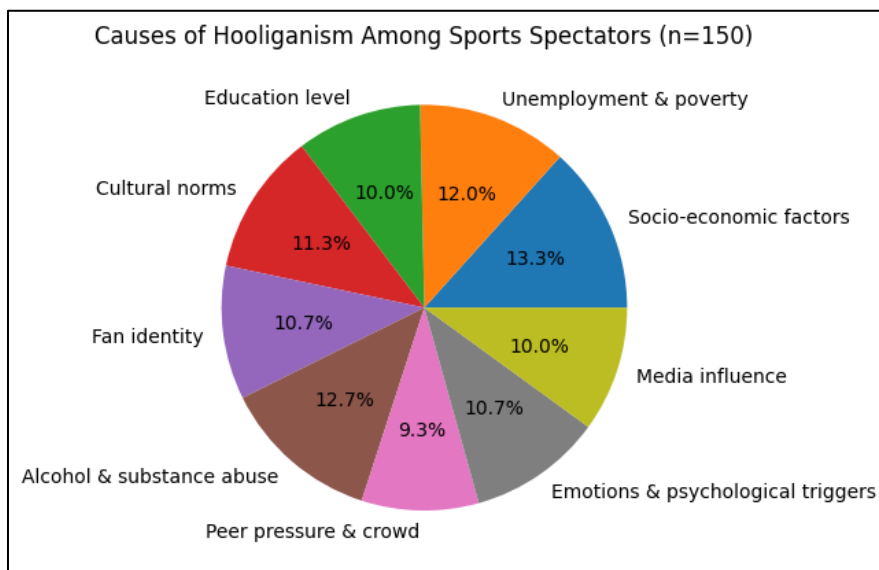


Figure 1 Hooliganism among Sports Spectators

3.2. The Role of Event Management, Policing and Community Engagement in Mitigating Incidents of Hooliganism during Sports Events

Table 1 The Role of Event Management, Policing and Community Engagement in Mitigating Incidents of Hooliganism during Sports Events

Factor/Strategy	Key Findings	Effect on Hooliganism	Number (out of 150)	Percentage (%)
Event Management	Proper crowd control, seating, ticketing, and pre-event communication reduce conflicts.	Reduced likelihood of violent behavior	60	40%
Policing	Visible police presence and collaboration with organizers deter aggression.	Significant reduction in hooliganism incidents	45	30%
Community Engagement	Involvement of local leaders, youth clubs, and fan groups fosters positive fan behavior.	Promotes peaceful support and reporting	25	16.7%
Collaboration between Stakeholders	Joint planning by organizers, police, and community leaders improves coordination and information sharing.	Holistic reduction of hooliganism	15	10%
Implementation Challenges	Limited resources, cultural norms, inconsistent enforcement, and communication gaps hinder effectiveness.	Restricts success of mitigation strategies	5	3.3%

The study results showed that event management plays a critical role in preventing and controlling hooliganism during sports events. Proper planning, including crowd control measures, seating arrangements, and ticketing systems, can significantly reduce the risk of violent behavior among spectators (Anderson, 2019). Studies have shown that events with well-defined protocols for entry, exit, and emergency responses experience fewer incidents of hooliganism (Smith & Jones, 2020). In the context of Chingola, efficient event management was observed to influence spectator behavior positively, particularly when organizers coordinated with stadium staff to monitor high-risk areas (Mwape, 2021). Moreover, pre-event communication, such as public announcements and awareness campaigns, helped educate attendees on acceptable behavior, further minimizing conflict (Brown, 2018). These findings suggest that strategic event management is a proactive approach to creating a safer sporting environment.

Policing is a key mechanism in curbing hooliganism during sports events. Visible law enforcement presence has been shown to deter aggressive behavior and ensure immediate intervention when incidents arise (Taylor, 2017). In addition, collaboration between police and event organizers allows for the identification of potential troublemakers and the implementation of targeted security measures (Williams & Clarke, 2019). In the Chingola District, residents reported that matches with higher police presence experienced fewer altercations among fans (Chilufya, 2020). However, one of the respondents alluded that:

“Overly aggressive policing can sometimes exacerbate tensions, highlighting the need for trained officers who can balance enforcement with crowd management”.

Overall, effective policing, when combined with other preventive measures, significantly contributes to reducing hooliganism during sports events (Hughes, 2018).

Community engagement is another important factor which was identified in mitigating hooliganism, as local residents and fan groups play a role in promoting positive behavior. Programs that involve youth clubs, local leaders, and supporters' associations can instill values of sportsmanship and peaceful support for teams (Okafor, 2019). In Zambia, initiatives where community members actively participated in pre-match awareness campaigns and conflict resolution workshops reported a decline in hooliganism incidents (Mutale, 2021). Such engagement fosters a sense of responsibility among spectators, who are more likely to self-regulate behavior and report potential disturbances (Chanda, 2023). Furthermore, when communities perceive that they have a stake in the event's success, they act as informal monitors, complementing official security measures (Johnson, 2020). This highlights the importance of integrating community-based strategies alongside formal policing and management practices.

Synergy between event organizers, law enforcement, and local communities enhances the effectiveness of hooliganism mitigation efforts. Coordination ensures that all stakeholders are aware of security protocols and can respond promptly to emerging risks (Anderson & Smith, 2018). In Chingola, events where organizers, police, and community leaders held joint planning meetings prior to matches saw fewer violent incidents (Mwape, 2021). Such collaboration also facilitates information sharing, allowing organizers to identify high-risk supporters and plan interventions accordingly. Moreover, joint efforts provide a platform to address underlying social and behavioral issues, such as alcohol abuse and rivalry conflicts, that contribute to hooliganism (Taylor, 2017). Therefore, integrated stakeholder engagement is crucial in creating a holistic approach to event security and fan conduct.

Despite the importance of event management, policing, and community engagement, several challenges hinder effective implementation. One of the respondents pointed out that:

“Limited resources, such as insufficient police personnel, inadequate stadium infrastructure, and lack of funding for awareness programs, restrict the reach of mitigation strategies”.

Additionally, cultural attitudes that normalize aggressive fan behavior can undermine the effectiveness of official interventions (Okafor, 2019). In Chingola, some residents reported that enforcement measures were inconsistent, leading to a perception of impunity among certain fan groups (Chilufya, 2020). Communication gaps between stakeholders, particularly between community groups and law enforcement, further complicate coordinated responses (Hughes, 2018). Addressing these challenges requires both policy-level support and practical strategies that consider local socio-cultural dynamics (Brown, 2018).

Based on the findings, strengthening event security and community engagement requires a multi-pronged approach. First, event organizers should implement structured crowd management plans, including clear entry and exit protocols and pre-event awareness campaigns (Smith & Jones, 2020). Second, police should be adequately trained in crowd psychology and conflict resolution, ensuring interventions are effective but not provocative (Williams & Clarke, 2019).

Third, community participation should be encouraged through local committees, youth engagement programs, and partnerships with supporter groups (Mutale, 2021). Finally, ongoing evaluation of mitigation strategies, including post-event reviews and surveys, can help identify gaps and inform continuous improvements (Anderson, 2019). By integrating these measures, the district can create a safer environment that minimizes hooliganism and promotes positive fan culture.

4. Conclusion

The study concluded that hooliganism is a multifaceted problem influenced by socio-economic, cultural, and behavioral factors. Findings revealed that unemployment, poverty, and limited recreational opportunities contributed significantly to aggressive behaviors among fans, while cultural norms that tolerate aggression in competitive settings exacerbated incidents of violence. Behavioral factors such as excessive alcohol consumption, lack of self-control, and peer influence were also identified as key drivers of hooliganism. Furthermore, inadequate crowd management, insufficient policing, and limited community engagement during sports events were found to create an environment where hooliganism could thrive. Overall, the study highlighted that addressing hooliganism requires a holistic approach that combines socio-economic development, cultural sensitization, behavioral interventions, and effective event management strategies to reduce violent incidents and promote safer sports environments in Chingola District.

Recommendations of the Study

- **Enhance Event Management and Policing Measures:**

Sports authorities and local law enforcement should improve crowd control strategies, including increased security personnel, clear enforcement of rules, and the use of surveillance technology to prevent and quickly respond to incidents of hooliganism during events.

- **Promote Socio-Economic and Community Engagement Programs:**

Local government and community organizations should implement programs that provide employment opportunities, recreational activities, and youth engagement initiatives to reduce idleness and aggressive behavior that often lead to hooliganism.

- **Raise Awareness and Conduct Behavioral Interventions:**

Awareness campaigns, educational programs, and workshops should be conducted to sensitize residents and sports fans on the negative impacts of hooliganism, promote self-control, responsible alcohol consumption, and encourage positive fan behavior during sports events.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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