

Deepak Baral

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Mr. M

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As we all know, there are uncountable amount of communities that exists and many discourses within those communities. Just as every sport has their own unique way of playing the game, they also share their own unique discourses in the communities. Community is where group of people from same community group come together to share common set of goals with help of each other. Throughout this paper I will be discussing about a specific discourse community, which happens to be the soccer community. I choose to write my paper about this community because soccer is a sport that has personal connection to myself. First, Soccer being one of the biggest international sport, it has fans all over the world. Second, it has its own emotional connection with me and the fans all over the world. Personally, soccer is a sport I grew up with and still have deep connection to. I haven't been a player in a while now, but I have been following mostly everything. I have been part of different teams and met many different people from all over the world. Everyone had one thing in common and that was their passion for the sport, for the team and passion to win.

I have made a proposal for this paper, which involves some questions for the members of the group, some for the senior members of the community and who has been a coach/player in the past. My proposal also includes scholarly research and self-knowledge about the topic I have choose. I have also decided to conduct an interview with coaches and some team members to

share their knowledge and their feelings about the community they have been part of for a long time. I will be attending some of the actual club games and closely examine their game play, coaches mind set, their field language, off the pitch relationship and off the pitch languages. It's because I believe, by doing that it will gain some knowledge of how much the game is played, how the coaches decide which player to substitute out and in, how does the stats work etc.

When the sport was first born it had different rules and regulation comparing to how it is now. It also has many different leagues and national games with over hundreds of league and national teams. Soccer is one of the sports known to bring nations and diverse communities/people together to share happiness together. Comparing to other sports, soccer players are also one of the highest paid athletes in the world. Soccer wasn't what it was called when the sport was invented. It was called football, but some countries call it soccer.

Sports platform can be used to promote social inclusion to help and support people within the specific sport community. Sports can cause injuries and sometimes it can get worse, but it is also known to improve physical and mental health. Karen Blocks and Lisa Gibbs's article called Promoting Social Inclusion through Sport declared that "sports participation can offer a range of physical and psychosocial benefits likely to foster health, well-being and social inclusion. This potential has resulted in sport being an important instrument in social policy with the capacity to promote not only physical and mental health but also to reduce youth antisocial behavior, improve community cohesion and safety, and reduce health." Soccer is the biggest sport community in the world, so if sport can help people with mental health than it can save many lives.

There aren't one community for all the sport because not everyone would be interested in one sport, which means the communities are formed depending on love for certain things from certain group of people. Soccer is mainly known as a European sport, which is one of the biggest reasons that it isn't as popular in the other countries. Since I have always been a fan, player in the past and a follower, I mostly watch every bigger game. I have witnessed the madness of European people over soccer. Soccer has variations of games and what I mean by that is it has many leagues and it's also played by the nation. Mostly, the bigger games happen in Europe. Even the bigger teams, which has worldwide recognition are from Europe. For Example; MLS (Major League Soccer) is the biggest soccer league in the United State, but it's still overshadowed by the European soccer league. Some of the biggest league in the world are; LA Liga Santander, Champions League, Serie A, and Bundesliga. Even though there are many teams and players, everyone enjoys the game together as a community and they're also there to support their favorites.

Soccer community is known to be the biggest communities because the sport is international and there and people all over the world communicating through different social media platforms trying to share their opinions about the team, game or players. Professionals have said in the past that soccer or any sport isn't to divide people, but it's there to bring people together and enjoy the moment together. Togetherness bring better memories and joy than separation.

During an interview, one of my coach from the past (David) told me a short story about his experience and how he sees the soccer community. David once was a player too. When he joined a club for the first time, he realized that every one of his teammates shared a common

passion for the sport and even common goals, but different visions of achieving them. Everyone wanted the most playtime. Everyone wanted to be the best and recognized by the coach. Everyone wanted to believe their alter ego telling them that one is better than the other. David's coach once told them "Every one of you might not get same amount of time on the pitch, Every one of you might not be happy with my decision, Every one of you might think you're better than each other, but the reality is you can't achieve the championship and trophies without each other's support. In fact, if you guys can't take responsibilities and be happy for one another, you don't deserve to be part of the soccer community neither deserve the trophies".

Life is full of experiences and surprises, which is one of the many way communities are formed. Communities doesn't only take large group of people with similar set of goals. It's also formed with different experiences from large scale of people. During the same interview, David was asked some questions regarding his experience as a coach. David said "Soccer is one of the most diverse sport in the history of sport. As a player I have learned enough and I have clear understanding about the sport. I know what it's like to be part of wining community and losing community, so I decided to become a coach and try wining for the community. I want to help the dreamers dream bigger and help them work harder to form a community by supporting all like a one big family".

Bar-On Tamir's "Three soccer discourses" stated that "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death. I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that".^[11] Football doesn't have same values all over the world and it's not everyone's cup of tea, but it's culture and ritual so many countries all over the world. There are mad supporters in some countries who are ready to kill and die for their favorite

player, club or national team. In the world of football or any other sport, the community is built bigger by the fans than actual players. “‘The Soccer War', or 'The War of 100 Hours', it was fought between Honduras and El Salvador. It was precipitated by tense qualification matches for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. When the guns of war were silenced after less than one week, 6000 people tragically lost their lives, 12,000 more people were wounded, and 50,000 individuals lost their homes, fields or villages” [13].

Football has its own dark history, which involves countries conflicts and fans going mad at each other, but it also has its loving side that reflects unity. High school soccer, College soccer and even professional soccer may involve people from different countries. Soccer is a diverse sport but one thing that unites them is the passion and dreams. Yes, the racism does exist in soccer but it's rare. Yes, players are 'booed' by their own fans. Yes, every player isn't educated. One important factor football has is the biggest international recognition. As a soccer community fans play their part to support their club team, national team and their favorite players. Some of the way fans are supporting their teams and players are just by creating social media accounts naming it fan club of this player or that club. Other way, simply by purchasing their jersey/scarf or favorite players cleat. Sport grows as a community and it can't be made with one person or one supporter.

During one of the interviews I did with coaches, I also picked up some players to interview. The goal was to see how the players thinking are different from the coaches. It was also to figure out what they think about being in the community of soccer, how do they feel about other teammates. Other goal was to see if anyone was treated differently than the others.

It's likely to happen when there are group of people that has different ethnic and financial background.

One of the players who agreed to be interviewed wasn't from the US. He moved here from somewhere else with his parent when he was little. He revealed that "at first, I was bullied by some people and now when I think about it, it might have been because of language barrier. I might have also been because the way I played or looked." He continued with "It was hard for me to get along with them because my communication skills weren't the best. I believe the other players weren't comfortable coming and talking to me because I looked different from them. It was easy for them to get along with other players who were from here and has the same skin tone or better communication skills or ethnic background. They became friends faster and I used to feel left out."

After interviewing the player, one question that kept coming back was, did anyone do anything to help the poor kid? He was asked the same question as well. Did you do anything to help yourself improve your communication skills and talk to your teammates? He answered "I am a very shy person and I get intimidated to start a conversation with someone. I have public communication anxiety, so I didn't do anything. We played together, one thing that made me happy was, every time we scored goals, we celebrated it together and every time we lost, we help each other bring back up just by practicing harder". The coach was asked a question about the awareness of this things in their community of soccer. "As a coaches and managers, are you guys aware that there might be players in your academy who are lonely and to fit in with the squad but isn't able to do so because of lack of communication and lack of attention from the coaches?". One of the coach replied, " we try our best and try to get everyone together and treat each other

like a family, and we as coaches even talk to players individually to make them feel comfortable, but it's also to the players to open up and get comfortable, we can't do everything from our side. We have so much of responsibilities about the roster and trying to make everyone happy with their positioning and play times." The coaches and the managers are right on their own place. It's not only their responsibility to look after every player.

Based on the article posted by New York Times Company "We may all be from different parts of the world, but we have come together as brothers, really, on and off the field," Bekoe said. "We all have different styles of playing, but it has not been difficult to come together and click." Football or any sport are there to unite people. Everyone has their own way of playing and way of thinking about the sport, but that's what makes the sport so important to the players live. Even though, every sport is a business, it's also social. From the same article where Yatsubishi said. "My team is a blend of players from different backgrounds, but all are strong students and highly motivated. I love the mixture of cultures, and for me, everything changes through soccer." Every person that is working for the team matters and everyone has the equal amount of responsibility to complete, which makes them the community.

It's been witnessed in the past that soccer community has stronger impact on people's lives mostly in Europe. For instance; In Spain there are three biggest clubs (Real Madrid CF, FC Barcelona, Athletic de Madrid FC) who are known to be rivals to one another. When any of the two teams out of three goes against each other it's called El Classico or Derby. Real vs Barcelona is El Classico. Barca or Real VS Athletic de Madrid is called Derby. Every El Classico or Derby is like a Christmas festival for people all around the world. Even though fans aren't the ones playing the games losses can have negative impact. They don't play the game but

they're part of the same community as the team, so when the team gets hurt, they get hurt as well.

Soccer is known to be first invented by the Europeans. Football is also known to be one of the biggest factor to people's unity in Europe. It's also acknowledged to be one of the biggest factors to start a fight or conflict between two group of people that support different teams and players. Despite all the conflicts and happiness soccer has given, soccer is also one of the biggest economical sources to help the European countries. It earns money and helps the country and many other different types of communities in need of help. Soccer players are known to be the most expensive players in the sport community and that includes American football and basketball. They're also known to be the biggest taxpayers.

Speaking from an experience, even a blind person can have the most beautiful moment of his life at the European giant's game. The atmosphere, the fans, the cherish and the every second of the game is filled with tensed. Fans screaming at the refs, booing the other team, but most importantly enjoying the game together. To just witness the experience and feel the atmosphere is one of the most beautiful experiences out of all. As reported by a book called Female football player and fan "football plays a crucial role in the everyday lives of many fans who identify with their clubs, teams and players. Numerous fans attend football games in the stadium, and some may even plan their everyday lives around the match schedules of their teams. But football is not only important to those fans who attend matches in the stadium, but also to billions of people who watch the game on television or via live streaming on their digital devices, which allow football fans to follow football from wherever they are."

Soccer might be the only physically challenging sport which is not only for men but also for women. The sport is known to be a men's sport, but women's soccer is as popular as men. Soccer communities has had their discourses about letting women be part of the sport because of the physical risk, but the women's have overturned the discourses and proved the men wrong.

Football in Europe isn't just about watching it together and experience the most delightful time of your life. It's also about keeping your head up when the team loses and support them to get back up next time. To let the team know it's okay to have a bad game, but it's also to come back strong next time. We have faith in every member, and we will fight as a family again and we will rise again.

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