

## **Abstract**

**Title:** The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the budgets of selected clubs in the Premier League

**Objectives:** The aim of this thesis is to determine the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the budgets and management of selected clubs in the Premier League.

**Methods:** Qualitative methods of data collection were used in the thesis. Specifically, the method of document analysis (examination) and the method of data envelopment analysis DEA were used. The results were captured using graphs and tables.

**Results:** The collected data revealed the disparate impact of the pandemic on the budgets of selected clubs in the Premier League. In absolute terms, the pandemic has hit the big six clubs hardest. The loss of revenue from ticket sales represented the biggest blow to the clubs' budgets. The largest revenue component: TV rights, was not significantly affected. The commercial revenue as the third main revenue item showed overwhelmingly an upward trend despite the pandemic. The expenditure component, consisting mainly of wages and operating expenses, has generally increased for the former and decreased for the latter, notwithstanding the pandemic. The DEA analysis found out that the least efficient teams (Everton FC, Crystal Palace FC) often recorded the loss in the seasons prior to the pandemic. This indicates unhealthy financial management of the clubs already before the Covid-19 pandemic. The loss of revenue caused by the pandemic would not cover the reported loss by these clubs. On the contrary, for the efficient teams (Burnley FC, Tottenham Hotspur FC) the revenue shortfall caused by the pandemic exceeded the negative operating result. According to the collected data, the winner of the pandemic was Burnley FC, while Everton FC

was labelled as the loser.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, football, budgets, Premier League, DEA analysis, efficiency

