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Family Related Factors and Gambling Addiction among Juveniles in Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Gambling addiction is a serious issue that can affect people of all ages, including juveniles. While gambling can be a harmless recreational activity for some, it can lead to addiction for others. Gambling addiction can cause significant problems among juveniles, including financial problems, strained relationships with family and friends, and poor academic performance. The objective of this study is to investigate the correlation between family related factors and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The study focuses specifically on the influence of parental care and parental influence on gambling addiction among juveniles. The study adopted cross sectional survey research design. The study adopted simple random and purposive sampling technique. Research instrument was administered to three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents selected from the study area. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. They were statistically analyzed using Simple Linear Regression. All hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The research findings revealed that there is a significant relationship between parental care, financial strain, parental influence, peer pressure and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study recommends that parents should encourage their children to participate in school-based extra-curricular activities such as sport, creative arts or youth groups where they have the opportunity to broaden their social networks. This will help keep them away from gambling.

Keywords*: parental factors, parental care, parental influence, and gambling addiction, Nigeria*

Introduction

Gambling is an age long social activity that characterized all known human society and is known as one of the earliest forms of entertainment. It has undergone a mass expansion all over the world, primarily under the influences of globalization and technology development (Ricijas, Hundric, & Huic, 2016). Gambling has increased its popularity as a recreational activity particularly among juveniles and youths between 11 and 25 years of age (Molinaro *et al*. 2018; Orford 2010; Calado et al. 2017; UNESCO 2017). Even though gambling is illegal for underage persons, new gambling technologies have made different forms of gambling widespread and much easier for even the youngest individuals to access (Blinn-Pike et al. 2010; Canale et al. 2016; Elton-Marshall et al. 2016). More recently, Molinaro, Benedetti, Scalese, Bastiani, Fortunato, and Cerrai, (2018) reported that 22.6% of 16-year-old students had gambled during the past year, 16.2% of them online. The Internet gambling has transformed the traditional gambling landscape by offering convenient, instant, and constant access to novel gambling forms (Gainsbury et al. 2015; Grifths & Parke 2010). Longitudinal findings have shown that gambling activities vary a lot during adolescence, but they become more stable with the transition to adulthood.

Gambling also increases during the transition from adolescence to emerging adulthood (Delfabbro, King, & Griffiths, 2014), which is a period when risk-taking is manifested and young people tend to take risks not only in terms of economic decisions but also in terms of substance use (Adams & Moore, 2007; Oksanen, Aaltonen, Majamaa, & Rantala, 2017). Juveniles gamble for a variety of different reasons some of which have been linked to more adverse consequences,

such as gambling to earn money (Delfabbro & Thrupp, 2003) and the motivation to become better at gambling (Derevensky & Gilbeau, 2015). Moreover, research both on adults (Wood & Griffiths, 2007) and juveniles (Gupta & Derevensky, 1998) shows that some people use gambling as a coping activity to alleviate stress so it is of no surprise that juveniles gamble for reasons of feeling better and relaxing (Ricijas & Dodig, 2014). Gambling activities can provide juveniles with many subjective benefits, such as excitement, entertainment, and a perceived sense of acquiring wealth without much effort (Derevensky and Gilbeau 2015; Kim, Wohl, Gupta, & Derevensky, 2017). However, both recreational and problematic gambling alike are associated with several psychosocial, physical, and mental health problems (Fröberg, Rosendahl, Abbott, Romild, Tengström, & Hallqvist, 2015).

Past research has found associations between gambling engagement and substance abuse (Calado, Alexandre, & Grifths, 2017), increased financial difficulties (Raisamo, Halme, Murto, & Lintonen, 2013), and poor school performance, as well as damaged social relationships (Raisamo, Halme, Murto, & Lintonen, 2013). Problem gambling is a growing global issue that may further manifest in a range of mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, mood difficulties, and aggression.

Nigeria and many other African countries have experienced unprecedented increases in gambling availability, participation, and expenditure among juveniles. This pattern of growth has been evident in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (Ricijas, Hundric, & Huic, 2016). Gambling in Nigeria takes on various forms, including commercially legalized gambling options such as sports betting firms, especially sports, casinos, pool games, phone in talk shows by way of responding to easy bait questions, scratch cards and lotteries. This makes gambling readily accessible to people without adequate financial resources, such as juveniles, and the rural and urban poor (Amutabi, 2018). While the gambling industry is considered to have a beneficial impact on the economy through employment and taxation, unfortunately, gambling addiction is increasingly evolving into a public health concern in Nigeria, especially among juveniles (Rataemane & Ligthelm, 2003). There is no doubt that gambling industry has established itself as a prominent social and economic force in Nigeria with significant impact on job creation and revenue generation. It has also expanded avenues and opportunities for Nigerians in entertainment and socialization and opened opportunities for advertising for newspapers, radio and TV, but those seem to be too few benefits compared to the negative effects of gambling in Nigeria (Rataemane & Ligthelm, 2003).

Unfortunately, there is a dearth of prevention programs or specific treatment facilities for juveniles who have developed gambling addiction in Nigeria (Kincaid, Daniels, Dellis, Hofmeyr, Rousseau, & Sharp, 2013). Therefore, a specific set of actions should be taken. First, rigorous enforcement of laws prohibiting underage gambling should be enacted (Ahaibwe, Lakuma, Katunze, & Mawejje, 2016). Second, strategies to increase education and public awareness regarding the issue of problem gambling are of core necessity. Third, more resources and funding to help increase the currently scarce mental health and addiction programs related to problem gambling in Nigeria are needed (Nzimande, Louw, Mannya, Bodasing, & Ludin, 2010). Fourth, collaborative efforts between governments, private, and civil society sectors as well as prevention specialists, legislators, researchers, and treatment providers will help contribute to the development of social policies and effective public health intervention options for treatment of juveniles with problem gambling within Nigeria. Gambling is a common activity among young people, and various studies conducted around the world have reported a high prevalence of gambling among juveniles (Blinn-Pike, Worthy, & Jonkman, 2010; Calado, Alexandre, & Griffiths, 2017; Dowling, Merkouris, Greenwood, Oldenhof, Toumbourou, Youssef, 2017). There is a paucity of research on family-related factors and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. In light with the above, this study examined family related factors and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Specifically, the study (i) establishes the relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar. (ii) examine the relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar. (iii) determine the extent to which parental influence relates to gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar. A study of this nature is important in terms of providing a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the variables under study and will assist in designing effective preventive and treatment programs for victims.

Theoretical framework

Differential Association Theory, proposed by American sociologist Edwin H. Sutherland in 1939, is a prominent theory in criminology that aims to explain the process of learning criminal behaviour. The central thesis of this theory is that criminal behaviour is learned through interactions and associations with others, particularly within intimate groups such as family and friends. Sutherland's Differential Association Theory is grounded in nine key principles:

i. Criminal behaviour is learned, rather than being an inherent or biological trait.
ii. Criminal behaviour is learned through interactions and communication with other individuals.
iii. The learning process primarily occurs within intimate personal groups, such as friends and family.
iv. The learning process involves both the techniques of committing crime and the motivations, rationalizations, and attitudes that justify it.
v. The specific direction of motives and drives is learned from the definitions of legal codes as either favorable or unfavorable.
vi. An individual is more likely to engage in criminal behavior when they have more associations that define law violation as favorable, as opposed to unfavorable.
vii. The associations may vary in frequency, duration, priority, and intensity, which can influence the individual's likelihood of adopting criminal behavior.
viii. The learning process of criminal behavior is not unique, but rather similar to the learning process of any other social behavior.
ix. Criminal behavior is an expression of general needs and values, but it is not explained by those general needs and values, as non-criminal behavior is also an expression of the same needs and values.

Differential Association Theory emphasizes the role of social context and interpersonal relationships in shaping an individual's propensity to engage in criminal activities. It suggests that criminal behavior is more likely to occur when an individual's social environment exposes them to an excess of attitudes and values that are favorable to law violation. Applying differential association theory to gambling addiction among juveniles can be done by analyzing the social context and the interactions in which they learn and engage in gambling behaviours. The theory explains gambling addiction among juveniles by highlighting the role of social groups and interpersonal interactions in shaping their attitudes and beliefs about gambling. Exposure to deviant values, peer pressure, imitation and reinforcement, limited exposure to conforming values, and normalization of gambling may all contribute to the development of a gambling addiction among young people.

METHODS

Research design

The study adopted cross-sectional survey research design. The design was chosen because it allows effective collection of data, about social events, as well as accurately and objectively describe existing relationship among variables or phenomena. In other words, it was adopted because it is specifically designed to systematically elicit data from respondents through

interviews, questionnaire, and mails, among others**.** Survey research design is one in which the researcher observes the object of the study as they are without manipulating them with the aim of collecting first-hand information (Ndiyo, 2005).

Study area

The study area is Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Calabar, the capital of Cross River State is located in South-South, Nigeria. Calabar is divided into Calabar South and Calabar Municipality Local Government Areas and covers an area of about 1,480 Sq km. Calabar is located between longitudes 8^0 17'00 E and 8^0 20'00''E latitudes 4^0 50'00''N and 5^0 10'00''N (Udoimuk, Osang, Ettah, Ushie, Egor, & Alozie, 2014). Calabar is sandwiched between the Great Kwa River to the East and the Calabar River to the West. Calabar falls within tropical equatorial climate with high temperature, high relative humidity and abundant annual rainfall. Two major air masses affect the climate of Calabar as well as other contiguous locations in the West African region. Calabar lies within a tropical region with well-marked rainy and dry seasons. The wet season starts from May and spans to October while the dry season starts from November to April (Ekiji, Nwosu & Agba, 2011).

The three dominant ethnic settlement in Calabar are the Efiks, Quas and Efuts (Effiong-Fuller, 1996); but because of migration occasioned by socio-economic activities, Calabar is today a cosmopolitan society with mixed bag of people from different cultural backgrounds. Calabar owns is a seaport, an airport, a market for agro-produce from the hinterlands and home of many industrial outlets. The topography of the study area is the low-lying coastal plain of the Calabar River and Great Kwa River. It is relatively undulating with a few hills and valleys running east-west wards. Several rivers/streams exist in the area and are basically drained by the aforementioned rivers. The geography of the area is mainly sandstone. Calabar has a sawmill, rubber, food, and oil-palm-processing plants, and a cement factory. Calabar has long been an educational centre. Its first church school, established by the Rev. Hope Waddell of the Free Church of Scotland in 1846, helped influence the Ekpe secret society to pass a law (1850) prohibiting human sacrifice. The city is a home to the prestigious University of Calabar established in 1975, a college of technology, a teacher-training college, and numerous secondary schools. Historically, Calabar was a centre for trade between Europeans on the coast and Africans farther inland. Fish, cassava, bananas, palm oil, and palm kernels were traded at Calabar for European manufactured goods, and the town also served as a major slave-trading depot.

3.3 Population of the study

The population of this study consists of juvenile found in bet centers across Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria, aged 15-17 years.

3.4 Sampling technique

The study adopted purposive sampling technique. The purposive sampling technique was used to select thirty-two (32) betting centers from the numerous betting centres across Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The researcher purposively selected twelve (12) respondents in each of the thirty-two (32) betting centers selected from the different parts of Calabar. This suggest that twelve (12) respondents were purposively selected from bet centers in Amika Utuk, Uwanse, White House Street, Dan Archibong Street, Mayne Avenue, Inyang Nta Henshaw Avenue, Anansa Road, Palm Street, Target Road, New Airport Road, Goldie Street, Mount Zion Street, Ekpo Abasi, Egerton, Calabar road, and Anantigha street. In the same vein, bet centres located in Diamond Hill, Barracks Road, Eta Agbor Road, Parliamentary Street, Otu Street, Okoro Agbor Street, Marian Road, Ndidem Usang Iso Road, Spring Road, Odukpani Road, Akim, Ikot Ansa, Ikot Ishie, Kasuk, Duke Town, Henshaw Town was selected from Calabar Muncipality. The study respondents were selected from both Calabar South and Calabar Municipality.

Sample size

The sample size consists of juveniles, both boys and girls found in betting centres in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. To determine the sample size for juveniles who are victims of gambling addiction in Calabar, Cross River, Cochran's formula (1963) was adopted because the population of the study is unknown. The formula for Cochran sample size determinant is presented as follows:

$$n = \frac{Z^2(pq)}{e^2}$$

Where:

n = Required sample size
Z = Confidence level (put at 95% or 1.96)
p = Proportion of juvenile with gambling addiction in Calabar, Cross River state age 15-17 years (given in this study as 50%). That is 0.5
q = Compliment of p (put at 50%, i.e, 1 - 50%). That is 0.5
e = Level of accuracy or margin error (put at 0.05).

Applying the formula therefore,

$$n = \frac{1.96^2(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3.8416\ (0.25)}{0.0025}$$

$$n = \frac{0.9604}{0.0025}$$

$$n = 384.16$$

$$n = 384$$

Instrument of data collection

The main instrument for data collection is a structured questionnaire entitled "Family relator factors and gambling addiction among juvenile" (QSEVGA). The questionnaire was divided into three sections A, B, C. Section 'A' was designed to collect the respondents' demographic data such as sex, age, educational level, and religion. Section 'B' and 'C' were items on 4 point Likert type scale designed to measure both the independent and dependent variables of the study. Each item requires the respondents to indicate the frequency under strongly agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD). Section (C) of the instrument was used to measure the dependent variable; gambling addiction. For qualitative data, In-depth interview (IDI) guide was adopted as the second instrument for data collection. Key informant interview guide was designed to obtain relevant data that complement data derived from the questionnaire. It was used to interview respondent particularly juvenile from the study area. It elicits data in order to measure the independent and dependent variables of the study.

Validity of the instrument

Two types of validity were established in this study. These are the face and content validity. Face validity refers to the way the questionnaire items appeared to have a reasonable measure of

variables under study, while content validity refers to the extent to which the instrument represented the content of interest, or how well the items on the instrument represent or sample the content to be measured. The face and content validity were scrutinised by experts in the department and the thesis supervisor who vetted and screened the items developed. Their advice gave the researcher a focus in restructuring some of the items in the questionnaire before distribution.

Reliability of the instrument

To determine the reliability of the instrument, a trial testing was done using forty (40) respondents drawn from the study area who did not take part in the main study. Test-retest method of reliability was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. The researcher gave respondents the questionnaire to complete and after one-week interval, the same group was again given the same questionnaire to complete. The scores derived from the two sets of administration were compared statistically and found to be the same.

Method of data analysis

The data for the study were collected and analysed using tables, percentages, and simple linear regression. The simple linear regression was used to explore the relationship between socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles. Each hypothesis was restated in null form as in chapter one. The variables of each hypothesis were identified followed by the statistical tool employed.

Results

Data presentation

In this section, the main variables of the study were identified, their mean and standard deviation calculated. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 was used to analyze data. Descriptive statistics (percentages and graphs) were first used to analyze the demographic data (sex; age; educational qualification, religious affiliation and time involved in gambling) and the results are presented in table 1, while mean and standard deviation was used for other variables. The independent variables in the study are; parental care, financial strain, parental influence, peer pressure, while the dependent variable is gambling addiction among juveniles. Out of 384 questionnaires administered, 372 were recovered and therefore used for analysis.

Results of analysis of demographic data of respondents as presented in table 1 revealed that; out of the 372 accessible respondents', 146 respondents representing 39.00% are males, while 226 representing 61.00% are females. As for age distribution of respondents', 104 (28.00) are below 11 years, 211 (57.00) are between 12 – 14 years, 57 (15.00) are between 15 – 17 years. As for religious affiliation; 61 (16.00) practice Islamic religion, 285 (77.00) practice Christian religion and 26 (7.00) practice African Traditional religion for respondents' educational qualification; 171 (46.00) have primary school education (FSLC), while 201 (54.00) have secondary school education (SSCE). As for how long they have been involved in gambling; 133 representing (36.00%) have been involved for less than 5 years, 111 (30.00) have been involved between 6 – 10 years, 70 (19.00) have been involved between 11 – 15 years, while 58 respondents' representing 16% have been involved for 16 years and above.

TABLE 1: Respondents' demographic data

Variable	Category	N	Percent (%)
Sex	Male	146	39.00
	Female	226	61.00
	Total	372	100.00
Age	Below 11 years	104	28.00
	12 – 14 years	211	57.00
	15 – 17 years	57	15.00
	Total	372	100.00
Religion	Islam	61	16.00
	Christianity	285	77.00
	African Traditional Religion	26	7.00
Educational qualification	Total	372	100.00
	FSLC	171	46.00
	SSCE	201	54.00
	Total	372	100.00
Time involved in gambling	Less than 5 years	133	36.00
	6-10years	111	30.00
	11-15years	70	19.00
	16years and above	58	16.00
	Total	372	100.00

Source: Field survey, 2023

Test of hypotheses

Test of hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar. The independent variable in this hypothesis is Parental care, while the dependent variable is Gambling addiction among juveniles'. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 2. The result of analysis as presented in table 2, with graphical illustration in figure 4.11-4.13 revealed R-value of 0.214[a]. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of ±.1 represent a small effect, ±.3 is a medium effect and ±.5 is a large effect. Also, the R^2 –value of .047 imply that 47% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (parental care). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the F (1, 370) = 10.462; $p < .05$, is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (parental care) on gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted R^2 (.046) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.047) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that parental care significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area.

TABLE 2: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of parental care to gambling addiction among juveniles'

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Parental care	10.7903	4.85744
Gambling addiction	14.3710	5.31710

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	70.229	1	70.229	10.462	.214[a]	.047	.046	.001[a]
Residual	56214.578	370	151.931					
Total	56284.806	371						

Source: Field survey, 2023

Test of hypothesis two

There is no significant relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar. The independent variable in this hypothesis is financial strain, while the dependent variable is gambling addiction among juveniles'. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 3. The result of analysis as presented in table 3, with graphical illustration in figure 14-16 revealed R-value of 0.230[a]. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of ±.1 represent a small effect, ±.3 is a medium effect and ±.5 is a large effect. Also, the R^2 –value of .049 imply that 49% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (financial strain). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the F (1, 370) = 16.441; $p < .05$, is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (financial strain) on gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted R^2 (.048) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.049) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that financial strain significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area.

TABLE 3: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of financial strain to gambling addiction among juveniles'

Variables		Mean	Std. Deviation					
Financial strain		11.9301	3.14650					
Gambling addiction		14.3710	5.31710					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	218.336	1	218.336	16.441	.230[a]	.049	.048	.001[a]
Residual	56066.470	370	151.531					
Total	56284.806	371						

Source: Field survey, 2023

Hypothesis three

There is no significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar. The independent variable in this hypothesis is Parental influence, while the dependent variable is gambling addiction among juveniles. Both variables were measured continuously and inferential statistics involving simple linear regression was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance and the result is presented in table 4. The result of analysis as presented in table 4, with graphical illustration in figure 17-19 revealed R-value of 0.241[a]. Correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of an observed degree of relationship between variables, it is a commonly used measure of the size of an effect, and that values of ±.1 represent a small effect, ±.3 is a medium effect and ±.5 is a large effect. Also, the R^2 –value of .053 imply that 53% of total variance is accounted for by predictor variable (parental influence). Furthermore, the regression ANOVA revealed that the F (1, 370) = 17.045; $p < .05$, is significant. Thus, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant linear association (contribution) of the predictor variable (parental influence) on gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area. The adjusted R^2 (.051) shows some shrinkage of the unadjusted value (.053) indicating that the model could be generalized on the population. Based on the result, it was concluded that parental influence significantly contributes to gambling addiction among juveniles in the study area

TABLE 4: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of parental influence to gambling addiction among juveniles'

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation
Parental influence	12.7903	3.71436
Gambling addiction	14.3710	5.31710

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	6.874	1	6.874	17.045	.241[a]	.053	.051	.001[a]
Residual	56277.933	370	151.103					
Total	56284.806	371						

Source: Field survey, 2023

Discussion of findings

Parental care and gambling addiction among juvenile

The statistical analysis for hypothesis one shows a significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar, River State, Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that children rely on their parents for their basic needs, such as clothing, shelter and food, with their family providing their primary sense of physical security. This suggest that giving children a stable home routine also enables them to feel secure, as they know they will eat, drink, bathe, and sleep at certain times without being disturbed. Parental care is a recipe for children to develop their skills and talents, grow physically, and develop cognitively and emotionally. Similarly, parental care is also important in building trust between children and their parents. When children know that they can trust those around them, they feel more comfortable and secure. According to Mwangangi (2016) proper nurturing of children is the primary responsibility of parents, because the values given to children and the type of training, they receive from their parents seem to largely determine their future life-style and whether they will develop gambling addiction or not. Parents help their children develop certain behavioural attitudes, and once established these attitudes are difficult to change or suppress. Parental care plays an important role in shaping a child by providing security and developing their values and skills.

This finding is in accordance to the earlier work of Mwangangi (2019). Mwangangi (2019) explored the relationship between various family-related factors and crime. The study also attempted to ascertain whether those factors can act as causative agents for "juvenile delinquency". The study postulated that although there are different factors that impact on the development of child character, the family (parental care) plays a central role in child development and consequentially impacting on the character of a child. Although the paper centered on the family factors influencing delinquency, it equally attached premium on the non-family factors influencing levels of juvenile delinquency. The study found out that there are several notable family-related factors that impact on child crime. These include parental care, parental attitudes, the degree of family cohesion, physical violence, and uninvolved parenting. There are also non-family factors that impact on juvenile delinquency, which include the failure of the juvenile justice system, poverty, a lack of access to education, drug abuse and genetic problems.

Financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles

The result of the second hypothesis indicates that there is a significant relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. This is to say that without pocket-money a modern child feels inferior to his playmates, he lacks independence, but more important still, he cannot learn the value of money or develop the ability to handle it: he either steal or gamble to make up for the deficiency. Previous studies have revealed that debt and financial problems have been found to be associated with delinquency

(Blom, Weijters, & Van der Laan, 2011; Moffitt, Caspi, Harrington, & Milne, 2002; Siennick, 2009; Van Dam, 2005; Zara & Farrington, 2010). There is also a strong need on the part of parents to keep check on their children in this way they will restrain them to develop delinquent personality Robert (2002) concluded that children exposed to risk factors such as behavioural problems and family dysfunction, follow a well described and documented path beginning with behavioural manifestations and reactions such as defiance of adults, lack of school readiness and aggression towards peers. This leads to negative short-term outcomes including truancy, peer and teacher rejection, low academic achievements, and early involvement in drugs and alcohol. These factors lead to causes school failure and eventual dropout, leading to negative and destructive attitudes such as delinquency, adult criminality and violence.

Parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles

The result of the statistical analysis relating to hypothesis three indicates that there is a significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. The findings of the study suggest that parents play an important role in inculcating norms and values within children (Mwenda, 2012). These include an understanding of right and wrong, respect, fairness, compassion and responsibility. Similarly, the study noted that children learn these values by observing and emulating their parents' behaviour, and being taught by their parents. Thus, children learn both the importance of these values and the consequences of not observing them. According to a review of studies of family influence on youth gambling, there is a higher prevalence of gambling or problem gambling among youth who belong to families where the parents provide little social or emotional support, the parents approve of or are involved in the adolescent's gambling, the parents gamble, or a family member uses substances.

The third findings of this study lend support to earlier work by Pitt, Thomas, Bestman, Daube, and Derevensky (2017), which indicates that there is a range of socialisation factors, particularly family and the media (predominantly via marketing), which may be positively shaping children's gambling attitudes, behaviours and consumption intentions. The study noted that first, children's perceptions of the popularity of different products were shaped by what they had seen or heard about these products, whether through family activities, the media (and in particular marketing) of gambling products, and/or the alignment of gambling products with sport. Second, children's gambling behaviours were influenced by family members and culturally valued events. Third, many children indicated consumption intentions towards sports betting. This was due to four key factors: (1) the alignment of gambling with culturally valued activities; (2) their perceived knowledge about sport; (3) the marketing and advertising of gambling products (and in particular sports betting); and (4) the influence of friends and family.

A number of empirical studies have reported that youth believe their parents are not very concerned about their gambling behaviour and even purchase lottery tickets for them (Felsher, Gupta, & Derevensky, 2001; Gupta & Derevensky, 1997; Ladouceur & Mireault, 1988). Parents who purchase lottery tickets for their children provide tacit approval, which may lead to much more serious involvement in gambling or serve to support already problematic behaviour (Felsher, Derevensky, & Gupta, 2004). If this is indeed the case, then current parental attitudes toward youth gambling as reported by their children are of significant concern. Thus far very little has been done to directly examine parents' attitudes toward youth gambling, although early work by Fisher (1999) suggests that having a parent who is indifferent to his or her child's gambling significantly increases the probability that the child will experience significant gambling problems. A small-scale adult study investigating parental perception toward youth gambling reported significant ambivalence (Vachon, Vitaro, Wanner, & Tremblay, 2004). Such ambivalence or tacit acceptance of children's gambling is likely an important contributing factor to their gambling behaviour.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary

The general objective of this study is to examine the relationship between socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

(i) Establish the relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.
(ii) Examine the relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.
(iii) Determine the extent to which parental influence relates to gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.

To provide empirical explanation for the study three (3) research hypotheses were designed. They are:

(i) There is no significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.
(ii) There is no significant relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.
(iii) There is no significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar.

Literature was empirically reviewed to harmonised the divergent views of scholars on key variables of the study, which are parental care, financial strain, parental influence, and gambling addiction among juveniles. The study adopted cross-sectional survey research design. Two methods of sampling techniques were adopted, namely, simple random, and purposive sampling technique. A sample size of three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents were selected through purposive sampling technique. A self-report questionnaire developed by researcher and approved by the supervisors was used as instrument for data collection. The reliability estimate of the instrument was established through the Cronbach method. Elucidated data were coded and analysed using statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) version 20. Simple Linear Regression was used to establish the relationship between Socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Each of the hypothesis was tested at 0.05 percent level of significance. The findings of the study indicate that:

(i) There is a significant relationship between parental care and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria
(ii) There is a significant relationship between financial strain and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar Cross River State
(iii) There is a significant relationship between parental influence and gambling addiction among juveniles' in Calabar, Cross River State

Conclusion

The study concludes that there is a significant relationship between socio-economic variables and gambling addiction among juveniles in Calabar, Cross River state, Nigeria. Women are undoubtedly the foundation of the basic unit of human society. While gambling has been traditionally viewed as an adult activity, there is ample evidence suggesting its popularity amongst juveniles who continue to engage in both regulated (in spite of age restrictions) and unregulated forms of gambling. This is likely a result of gambling's general social acceptability,

media advertisements, endorsement and sanctioning by governments, and the glitz and glamour associated with this form of social activity. The perceived ease of becoming wealthy without working has resulted in gambling taking on a new level of status amongst juveniles, with becoming a professional gambler (often poker player) being a new preferred vocation. The implication of this findings is that if nothing is done very fast to address the problem of gambling among juvenile, an increasing number of them with gambling addictions will experience a wide range of social, economic, personal, academic, mental health, familial, criminal, delinquent and legal problems. As well, these individuals will experience poor academic performance, increased rates of suicide ideation and attempts, and difficult peer relationships resulting from their excessive problematic gambling. All of these behaviours place the adolescent at high risk for multiple mental health issues.

Recommendations

In view of the various findings, summary and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made:

(i) There is need for basic parenting research for the development, evaluation, and dissemination of parenting information in Nigeria. Government should provide funds for such research. The outcome of such research can lead to a greater understanding of the important role of responsible parenting in the development of children and the nation as a whole.

(ii) Parents should create a safe space where children can discuss friendship issues with them and make demand of the necessary things, they need both for their personal use and for their studies.

(iii) Parents should help their children and their friends explore their interests and find things in common they enjoy doing together and help to foster their interest by supporting them and encouraging the extra activity.

(iv) Parents should encourage their children to participate in school-based extra-curricular activities such as sport, creative arts or youth groups where they have the opportunity to broaden their social networks. This will help keep them away from gambling.

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