

## Causes Of Sports Betting And Students' Attitudes Towards Sports Betting: An Appraisal In Osun State University, Nigeria

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### Abstract—

The prevalence of sports betting involvement has permeated every class of the youthful population. The practice had predisposed students of higher institutions to engage in gambling using every means available. The population of youth who resort to sports betting as an alternative and faster route to making ends meet have predisposed society to experience rising levels of deviance and crime in society. It is therefore against this backdrop that this study is precipitated to assess the effects of sports betting amongst students in Osun State University, Osun State, Nigeria. This study utilized random sampling techniques to administer 393 copies of questionnaires to students at Osun State University, Osun, Nigeria. The collated data was analyzed using descriptive and regression techniques. This study found that there is a significant degree of influence by which the causes of sports betting result into the consequences of sports betting at Osun State University. Also, causes of sports betting significantly influence students' attitudes towards sports betting at Osun State University at a 5 percent significance level. This study recommends that the Osun State government must create and promote an effective institutional strategy in collaboration with the Nigeria Ministry of Education to protect students from being exposed to gambling-related products.

**Keywords—** Gambling; Socialization Factors; Sports Betting; SDG8; SDG2

### I. INTRODUCTION

The phrase "gambling" applies to a wide range of popular pursuits that might not be linked with its negative connotations, emanating from yard sales or childhood board games. Gambling may also be defined as the risk-taking activity of placing bets on games or occasions that have unpredictable outcomes [1]. Sports betting has experienced exponential growth on a global scale. [2] estimates that the worldwide gambling market earned \$430 billion in revenue in 2012 and is growing in importance. Consider the fact that \$34.7 billion was spent on movie tickets in 2012 and that it is predicted that \$1 trillion will be spent on alcoholic drinks in 2014 to put this figure into context. Gambling is being used as a source of income by states in Nigeria with declining economies [3, 38].

Africa has seen an increase in the number of individuals betting on sports as a form of enjoyment and a possible source of revenue. In reality, local and foreign businesses have made significant investments in the sector, and it has become a growing industry in several African nations, including South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria. One key factor driving the growth of the African betting industry is the increasing availability of mobile phones and internet access across the continent. This has led to a surge in online sports betting, making it easier for people to place bets from the comfort of their own homes [4, 12, 22, 34]. This trend is particularly evident in countries such as Nigeria, which are among the top markets for online sports betting in Africa. Another factor contributing to the growth of sports betting in Africa is the lack of alternative entertainment options, particularly in more rural areas. With limited access to cinemas, malls, and other recreational facilities, sports betting has become a popular form of escapism for many Africans. Moreover, the high unemployment rates in many African countries have led some individuals to see sports betting as a potential source of income, further fuelling demand [5, 18, 22, 37]. Many African nations have very lax regulations and enforcement, which has allowed gambling businesses to flourish with little constraints. People may now gamble on a variety of athletic events more easily than ever because of the spread of betting shops and internet platforms.

In truth, this pattern of occurrence seems to have been reflected in another aspect of the world with evidence from (Gordon et al., 2015) rephrasing that the study of gambling can now better grasp sociocultural factors, broadening the

field's emphasis beyond individual psychology [24,27]. The term "problem gambling" has historically largely been used to describe obsessive gamblers [29]. However, academics in the field believe that the way gambling is depicted has to be altered [30]. Using an interpretive research approach, some studies were able to conclude that young adults who wager on sports but are not compulsive gamblers exist between the ages of 18 and 30, in friendship groups [31]. This was a tenable finding amongst other [4,17,23] that it is a stated problem of the youth. It is on this premise that there must be an inclusion of the location, social standing, marketing potential, power dynamics, goal, and longevity of lifestyle consumption of the studied groups as a must consider for an alert virtue [35].

In recent decades, online sports betting has grown in popularity among male youth culture and fandom [16]. This "gamification" of sport, spurred by developments in mobile app technology and the relaxation of state advertising rules, has given rise to a worldwide business that markets gambling as a risk-free, knowledge-based recreational pastime [31]. Supporting evidence has shown that young adult men in the UK have changed their gambling habits as a result of the expansion of online sports betting and how this may create new dangers for the normalisation of gambling behaviour [38]. This brings up the question about the geography of the predominant occurrence of this generation.

The sports betting market in Nigeria has grown significantly in recent years and is currently the largest in Africa. The nation in West Africa, which has a population of over 200 million, is becoming well-known in the field of online sports betting [3]. The business is booming and has grown to be a significant source of revenue for many Nigerians by offering a wide range of betting alternatives [6]. Today's technological advancements and easy access to the internet via a smartphone has boosted the number of student engagement in sports betting activities in Nigeria. It seems like almost every young person is becoming engaged in this activity, and some have even started to see it as a means of support, giving up other interests that would provide them a better chance of succeeding without having fatal consequences. According to official statistics from Gambling Risk.com [7], Nigerians wager close to 3.8 billion naira on sports per day. While some individuals gain from this behaviour, the bulk lose money that could be utilized to better themselves and their families. Sports betting is a common form of survival for young people in Nigeria, especially those attending academic institutions. This is a complex problem that deserves specific attention because it puts them at risk for developing obsessive or compulsive gambling addiction [8].

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Studies carried out to determine attitudes towards sports betting found that, although sports betting was perceived as a risky activity, it was believed to yield high returns and was thus perceived as a means of earning money quickly [9]. [9] asserts that monetary gain, fuelled by greed, unemployment, economic hardship, and poverty are the most potent motivating factors for gambling and may act as a springboard to fuel criminality. Other less important factors are the pursuit of enjoyment, passion for sports and peer group influence. The prevalence of sports betting involvement has permeated every class of the youthful population. The practice had predisposed students of higher institutions to engage in gambling using every means available. The population of youth who resort to sports betting as an alternative and faster route to making ends meet have predisposed society to experience rising levels of deviance and crime in society [7]. It is therefore against this backdrop that this study is precipitated to assess the effects of sports betting amongst students in Osun State University, Osun State, Nigeria.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to [10], placing money or another valuable item on a sporting event and making a forecast with the primary intention of obtaining money or material assets is known as sports betting. The outcome of the wager is frequently instantaneous, and the wagerer is aware of his or her fate, i.e., whether they won or lost. Sports betting is centred on athletic events going according to plan. In some circumstances, people are capable of making long-term predictions about football games allowing wagers on the result of an upcoming sporting event or even a full season. Sports betting is now a highly common kind of gambling among young people in Nigeria where participants must anticipate the results of games. If a forecast is accurate after a match, the expected result will be higher in the stakes of the matches the individual makes predictions for, resulting in higher anticipated gains. Due to advancements in technology, online wagering through sites like 1960 bet, Bet9ja, Sporty-bet, and Kings-bet etc. This has made it convenient for people to apply for match predictions online while sitting in their rooms [11, 43].

Notably, prior studies [23, 38, 42] have demonstrated that gambling has normalised itself as a part of sports fandom for male adolescent demographics, with many of whom consider the occasional monetary gamble to be essential to their

pleasure in sports. Second, it has been observed from the findings of [38] that the apparent "facelessness" of sports betting platforms made possible by mobile app technology, increases the propensity to wager on sports. Third, it was on this notion that [26] posited that as a means of encouraging sports betting, "free bet" incentives and in-play promos are quite important. Furthermore, leading to the possibility that internet sports betting might serve as a conduit for gambling-related consequences, such as unstable finances, debt, missed mortgage payments, broken families, job loss, and mental health issues as the perceived pathway freebies are displayed as the main attractions while the stated clog is in the lane. Sports betting is a significant pastime that is quite well-liked among young people and is well-liked all over the world [2]. However, sports betting, which is quite common among young adults is also a daily activity that is becoming more and more popular [12, 24, 39, 41]. The prevalence of "gambling" among young people in Nigeria nowadays is enormous. This puts young people at risk for a variety of health issues, including anxiety and drug dependence, which are brought on by losses after placing bets on sporting events. This research conceptualizes gambling as betting or wagering money or/and valuables on any sporting event, but mainly football games (for the research) that have an unknown outcome with the possibility of winning money or/and other valuables. This is also supported by [13, 44]

Factors that predispose students to engage in sports betting are as follows.

1) Gender: Gender is distinguished for this research as female or male, especially on the basis of their reproductive organs and anatomy. Males are more likely to gamble than females, according to a recurring trend in the research [10] as this brings to the fore that there is also a clear gender difference in gambling. For instance [14, 40, 45], discovered that males gambled more frequently and more consistently than females among their 1,537 teenage elementary and secondary school pupils. Males spend more time gambling and have greater gambling issues than females [15, 52]. There also seem to be more males engaged with gambling concerns [16]. Similarly, [17, 25, 39, 42] discovered that male adolescent problem gamblers were required to gamble more frequently than females to experience the same level of excitement and chase losses.

2) Socio-economic Factor: According to [10], socio-economic level and compulsive sports betting are related. A study conducted by [18, 46, 53] found that people with low socio-economic class are more likely to gamble on sports than people with high socioeconomic status. Sports betting is seen differently by those from lower socio-economic backgrounds than from those from better socio-economic backgrounds, and this is because of how they perceive it as a source of income. Therefore, compared to their peers from high socio-economic positions, as against those from low socio-economic backgrounds, they are likewise more susceptible to developing a sports betting addiction. Those from low socio-economic backgrounds who can afford to gamble also run the danger of developing a sports betting addiction, which could hurt their ability to work and care for their families [19]. In Nigeria today, as the literature reveals, the inability of the populace, especially the youthful population, to meet their basic needs has opened the doorway for participation in sports betting and other gambling-related activities [20, 49]. The rising rate of inflation as against the meagre flow of income towards the youthful population predisposes them to engage continually in sports-betting activities with the hope of finding succour and on time. Also, the absence or shortage of gainful sources of employment gives justification to unemployed youths turning to sports betting as a gainful employer. The ability of punters to place wagers with minimal amounts makes that the patronage cuts across all strata of society. This predisposes those below the ladder to nurse the desire of attempting to grow out of their economic state into a better one as they await that special day when their meagre amount gives them their dream life [21, 48].

It is on this note of the above discussion that we hypothesize that *"The causes of sports betting do not influence students' attitudes towards sports betting in Osun State University."*

3) Peer Group: A peer group is a group of people with one or more shared interests or characteristics. A person can belong to many peer groups simultaneously, and people of all ages can form peer groups. Cliques and crowds are the two main categories of peer groups. The following are some common examples of peer groups: co-workers, age grades, classmates, members of a denomination, and students of a particular institution [22]. Peer groups have also been proposed as a significant predictor of gambling behaviour among young people. Individuals who are associated with a friend who participates in sports betting are also vulnerable to engaging in sports betting-related activities, as individuals who fail to conform to group norms may face social rejection and eviction from the group [23]. Peer pressure has a large influence on an individual, and individuals follow group rules, including behaviour that may be detrimental to their work-life and family relationships, out of fear of social rejection [24]. It is on this note that the emanating discussion tends to stray from the notion that in all areas, you turn and attempt to ask a youth how they got to know about sports betting, the reply is always pointing towards his/her friend(s) [25]. Furthermore, the demographical location of peer pressure seems more compassed in educational institutions from the findings of [50, 51]. This leads to the hypothetical drafting stating that;

*"There is no significant degree of influence from causes of sports betting on the consequences of sports betting in Osun state university"*.

### **III.Theoretical Framework**

Nigeria's current sports betting culture, which contributes to gambling's many social repercussions, is a response to the country's lack of norms, murky legal framework, and disintegration of the rule of law. According to [14], when societies evolve from mechanic to organic societies, there is fragmentation and polarization that seeks to obstruct the execution of the law as individualism replaces solidarity in the community. From the aforementioned, it can be seen that laws have been established to control conduct in society as a result of the ongoing polarization and fragmentation of Nigerian society. These rules take the shape of institutionalized ways to achieve cultural goals. The majority of the population accepts the culturally determined goals but lacks the tools necessary to achieve them. Due to corruption and poor administration, youths—who make up a sizable portion of the Nigerian population today—lack the tools to achieve goals when faced with this social reality [26]. To achieve the culturally determined objectives, they innovate by turning to sports betting as a secondary source of income. Money is used to determine individuality in Nigerian society, which is established on this principle. You must therefore have money, sometimes a lot of it, to be accepted by society and be considered relevant in this country. In Nigeria, people who lack money are mocked, spit on, and treated like nobody—both by outsiders and by members of their own family [27].

According to [14], abrupt change can lead to a state of anomie. Anomie is the result when the system collapses, whether there is a huge economic boom or a great economic downturn [28]. The structural strain theory of gambling is introduced using the foregoing as a framework, which draws on Durkheim's concept of anomie. The structural strain theory was developed by American sociologist Merton in 1938, who also used Durkheim's idea of anomie as a starting point. It differs considerably from Durkheim's in that Merton maintained that the true issue is not brought about by a rapid social revolution, as Durkheim suggested, but rather by a social system that holds out the same aims to all of its members without providing them with equal tools to attain them. The contradiction of what the culture expects and what the rules allow is what leads to deviant behaviour. The social order is then reflected in deviation (gambling) [29]. Merton used the concept of anomie from Durkheim's analysis to explain how the normative framework had broken down in his assessment. Merton's theory is based less on actual crime (sports betting) than it is on various deviant behaviours that can be seen to be precursors of criminal and deviant behaviour.

According to Merton, achieving several goals is necessary to be accepted as a functional member of society and, later on, to contribute successfully. These objectives have been generally accepted ways of achieving them (such as education, diligence, and restraint, among other things), but not everyone has equal access to these legal tools. The atmosphere is then prepared for tension or anomie (related to sports betting). To address the structural pressure brought on by restricted access to socially acceptable objectives and means, Merton offers five adaptation strategies [22, 25]. This is not to say that everyone who fell short of societal expectations engaged in vices. Instead, how a person reacts or adapts depends on how they view institutional practices and cultural objectives. The conformists support cultural goals and strive to fulfil them via socially acceptable means. In the second adaptation, innovators accept the culturally predetermined objectives, but when faced with harsh social realities, they come up with alternative and socially undesirable means to attain the objectives.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

#### **Brief Background of the Study Area**

Osun State was created in 1991 from Oyo State. It is bordered by the states of Kwara state on the northeast, Ekiti and Ondo on the east, Ogun on the south, and Oyo on the west and northwest. The Yoruba Hills run through the northern part of Osun state. The state has a covering of tropical rainforest, and the Oshun is the most important river. Osun state is inhabited mainly by the Yoruba people. The Osun state's economy is based mainly on agriculture. Major crops include yams, cassava (manioc), corn (maize), beans, millet, plantains, cocoa, palm oil and kernels, and fruits. Cottage industries produce brass work, woven cloth, and wood carvings. Oshogbo, the state capital, has a textile industry, a food-processing plant, and a steel rolling mill. The state's tourist attractions include the Mbari Arts Centre at Oshogbo, the palaces of Yoruba rulers in Ilesha and Ile-Ife, and the Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove, a forest that contains several shrines and artwork in honour of the Yoruba deity Osun [30]. The Obafemi Awolowo University (founded in 1961) is at Ile-Ife. Oshogbo is linked by road and railway to Ibadan in Oyo state [31, 47]. The state of Osun has spread educational Institutions such as the Obafemi Awolowo University, The Federal Polytechnic, Ede, Osun State Polytechnic, Iree, Federal College of Education, Iwo, Osun State College of Education, Ilesha, Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila Orangun.

#### **Study Population**

The study population is the entirety of the student population at Osun State University. This was arrived at using the purposive sampling technique based on the proximity of the institution to the researcher and thus the expending of

resources (time, finances) and convenience were attained at the barest minimum. Osun State University (UNIOSUN) is a multi-campus university established by the Osun State Government under the administration of Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola. The university currently operates six campuses distributed across the six administrative zones of the state. Nigeria's National Universities Commission approved Osun State University on 21 December 2006, as the 30th State University and the 80th in the Nigerian university system. It has its campuses in Osogbo, Ikire, Okuku, Ifetedo, Ipetu Ijesha and Ejigbo, which serves as campuses for Health Science, Humanities and Culture, Social Science and Management, Law, Education and Agriculture respectively [32]. The University has in its enrolment estimate between 2000 to 3000 students presently [33].

#### Sample Design and Sample Size

The study uses a non-probability (purposive) sampling technique, and the population size consists of 2000 persons. The sample size is determined using the [49] formula for calculating sample size.

$$n = N \left( \frac{1 + N(e)^2}{1 + 55} \right)$$

Where n = sample size

N = population under study

e = margin error

$$n = 22000 \left( \frac{1 + 22000(0.05)^2}{1 + 55} \right)$$

$$n = 22000 \left( \frac{1 + 22000(0.0025)}{1 + 55} \right)$$

$$n = 22000 \left( \frac{1 + 55}{1 + 55} \right)$$

$$n = 22000 \left( \frac{56}{110} \right)$$

$$n = 392.85$$

no = Sample size; z= Level of Confidence (95% at 1.96); p= Variability (0.5); q= 1-p and e= acceptable sample error (0.05).

The information supplied above has led to the sample size being set at 393. The total is rounded up to 393 questionnaires, which were equitably distributed to students and other university community members to get their thoughts on the issue being studied, specifically the effects of gambling among students at Osun State University in Osun State.

#### Technique Utilized to Gather Data

A questionnaire that was developed by the research questions and objectives was used to collect quantitative data. It was necessary to use and deliver questionnaires for the quantitative data. There were open-ended, closed-ended, and Likert scale questions.

#### Method of Data Analysis

The data was verified and edited before being gathered, and then the questions were coded and entered into SPSS version 20 for analysis on the notion that the appropriate data representations, frequencies and percentages must be used. Correlational and regression analysis were both used.

## IV. RESULTS

### Demographic Profile of the Respondents

The respondent's demographic details are shown in this section. It shows the respondent's age group, marital status, level of education, and monthly income. The age distribution of the students sampled for this study is shown in Table 1. The data showed that 59.6% of the students listed their ages as being between 18 and 24 years, 24.8 % as being between 25 and 33 years, and 15.6% as being between 34 and 40 years. It was evident from this that most of the sampled students were teenagers or young adults (18–24 years old). The student's age at the time of their first betting involvement is also shown in Table 1. The table showed that 78.4 per cent of the students said they were between the ages of 18 and 24 when they began betting, 20 per cent said they were between the ages of 25 and 33, and 1.6 percent said they were between the ages of 34 and 40.

This demonstrated that the majority of the sampled students only recently started gambling. Table 1 showed that the majority of students claimed that they were not married, or single, while the minority were. Particularly, 82.8 percent of respondents reported being single, while 17.2 percent reported being married. According to Table 1, 12.8 percent of respondents reported having a monthly income of less than N10,000, 8% between N10,001 and N19,999, 25.6% between N20,000 and N29,000, 21.6% between N30,000 and N39,000, and 32% over N40,000. This indicates that the majority of the sampled students (53.6%) had monthly incomes exceeding N30,000.

**Table 1: Respondents' Bio-Data**

Respondents' Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (n = 393) %
<b>Gender Distribution</b>		
Male	223	57
Female	170	43
<b>Age Range (years)</b>		
18-24	149	59.6
25-33	62	24.8
34-40	39	15.6
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	207	82.8
Married	43	17.2
<b>Age at First Betting Engagement</b>		
18-24	196	78.4
25-33	50	20.0
34-40	4	1.6
<b>Highest Educational Qualification</b>		
Undergraduate	170	10
Postgraduate	80	24
<b>Years worked in the Bank</b>		
Less than 10,000	32	12.8
10,001-19,000	20	8.0
20,000-29,000	64	25.6
30,000-39,000	54	21.6
Above 40,000	80	32.0

Source: Fieldwork (2023)

**Hypothesis Testing**

**Hypothesis One:** The causes of sports betting do not influence students' attitudes towards sports betting at Osun State University.

**Table 2: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.508 <sup>a</sup>	.258	.455	.41655

a. Predictors: (Constant), Causes of Sports Betting

Source: SPSS (2023)

The model summary table shows how much of the variance of the dependent variable (students' attitude towards sport betting) is explained by the independent variable (causes of sport betting). In this case, the R square shows a low coefficient determination R square (R<sup>2</sup>) of about 0.508 if expressed by a percentage will be 50.8%. The adjusted R-square of 0.455 indicated that 45.5% of changes in student's attitudes towards sports betting is explained by causes of sport betting.

**Table 3: ANOVA**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	14.939	1	14.939	86.097	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	43.031	248	.174		
	Total	57.970	249			

a. Dependent Variable: Students Attitude Towards Sports Betting

b. Predictors: (Constant), Causes of Sports Betting

Source: SPSS (2023)

Decision Rule: Reject the null hypothesis, when the significance value is below 0.05.

Do not reject the hypothesis, when the significance value is greater than 0.05.

Interpretation of Result: The ANOVA table 3 shows that the F value is 86.097 at a .000 significance level.

Decision: accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis. Then, concluded that causes of sports betting influence students' attitudes towards sports betting at Osun State University at a 5 percent significance level.

**Table 4: Coefficients**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	
1	(Constant)	.930	.180		5.178	.000
	Causes of Sports Betting	.536	.058	.508	9.279	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Students Attitude Towards Sports Betting

**Source: SPSS (2023)**

The coefficient table above depicts the statistically significant contribution reflected in the simple model expressing the extent to which variables included in the model contributed to the prediction of the dependent variable. The level of significance was based on a level of 0.05 for a two-sided test, with the absolute value of the test statistics (T) greater than or equal to the critical value of 1.96. The model revealed that there is a relationship between social media platforms and political participation causes of sports betting influence students' attitudes towards sports betting in Osun State University as the significance value is 0.00 is more than 0.05 (sig. .000  $p > .05$ ). Therefore, there is a relationship between the causes of sports betting and the influence of students' attitudes towards sports betting in Osun State University. Specifically, a 1 unit increase in causes of sports betting would induce a 0.536 unit rise in student's attitudes towards sport betting.

**Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant degree of influence from the causes of sports betting on the consequences of sports betting at Osun State University.

**Table 5: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.590 <sup>a</sup>	.552	.549	.62996

a. Predictors: (Constant), Causes of Sports Betting

**Source: SPSS (2023)**

The model summary table shows how much of the variance of the dependent variable (consequences of sports betting) is explained by the independent variable (causes of sports betting). In this case, the R square shows a low coefficient determination R square ( $R^2$ ) of about 0.590 if expressed by a percentage will be 59%. The adjusted R-square of 0.549 indicated that 54.9% of changes in consequence of sports betting are explained by the causes of sports betting in Osun State University.

**Table 6: ANOVA**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	17.674	1	17.674	44.534	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	98.419	248	.397		
	Total	116.093	249			

a. Dependent Variable: Consequences of Sports Betting

b. Predictors: (Constant), Causes of Sports Betting

**Source: SPSS (2023)**

Decision Rule: Reject the null hypothesis, when the significance value is below 0.05.

Do not reject the hypothesis, when the significance value is greater than 0.05.

Interpretation of Result: The ANOVA table shows that the F value is 44.53 at a .000 significance level.

Decision: Accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis. Then, conclude that there is a significant degree of influence by which the causes of sports betting result into the consequences of sports betting in Osun State University at a 5 percent significance level.

**Table 7: Coefficient**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.745	.272		2.745	.006
	Causes of Sports Betting	.583	.087	.390	6.673	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Consequences of Sports Betting

Source: SPSS (2023)

The coefficient table above shows the basic model's statistically significant contribution, which expresses how much each model component affected the dependent variable's ability to be predicted. For a two-sided test, the absolute value of the test statistics (T) had to be larger than or equal to the critical value of 1.96 for the level of significance to be considered substantial. Since the significance value of 0.00 is greater than 0.05 (sig..000  $p > .05$ ), the model demonstrated that there is a link between the causes of sports betting results and its repercussions at Osun State University. Therefore, there is relationship between causes of sports betting results and the consequences of sports betting in Osun State University. Specifically, 1 unit increase in causes of sport betting would induce 0.583 unit raise in the consequences of sports betting in Osun State University.

## V CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Sports betting is becoming more popular among students at Osun State University. In actuality, a sizable fraction of them engage in different sports betting activities. This is due to the high rate of unemployment and the necessity for a source of income. Sport bettors can benefit from economic and social benefits, including more earning potential and improved job prospects. The majority of the students think that sports betting primarily offers financial benefits, and this is linked to a very popular habit among Nigerian youth. Despite the general lack of knowledge, there may be a big issue with sports betting among students. For the first time, today's elementary school pupils will have grown up in a culture where gambling is viewed as a fun, engaging, and socially acceptable pastime.

Consequently, the glamour and exciting appeal of sport betting as depicted in the media, including television programs and films, may increase the incidence of gambling-related problems among youth, such as borrowing, indebtedness, anxiety, and emotional worries in the event of loss of money placed on stakes.

Investigating and addressing betting-related issues among tertiary students is crucial for the sake of preventative and public health education. Governments, institutions, parents, and religious groups all have a responsibility to safeguard children from potentially harmful activities like sports betting. The government must create and promote an effective institutional strategy in collaboration with the Nigeria Ministry of Education to protect students from being exposed to gambling-related products. This might be accomplished by restricting the availability and accessibility of all forms of authorized gaming.

Guidance and counselling departments should be very active if they are to successfully offer and explain these requirements to students. To limit gambling among students and the wider public, the federal government urgently needs a new policy framework. This policy will bring about the restrictions that will limit betting marketing and advertising to bound the exposure to young children and students alike.

To prevent new casinos from opening up all over, legislation should address issues relating to gaming. To ensure that gaming enterprises adhere to a set of rules, the Osun State parliament must approve strict laws. If not, anybody may establish a gaming company under the current conditions. The National Lotteries Board should collaborate with regional law enforcement agencies to identify illegal and underage gaming enterprises in Osun State.

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**APPENDIX  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Dear Sir/Ma,

This study is purely for academic purposes on the assessment of the effects of gambling amongst students of Osun State University, Osun State, Nigeria. All responses supplied shall be treated with the utmost confidentiality. Hence, your name is not required. I solicit your sincere cooperation by providing your time to answer the questions herein as honestly as possible.

**INSTRUCTION**

Please tick the appropriate answer for the questions.

**SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

1. Age group (a) 18-24 (b) 25-33 (c) 33-40 (d) 41 & above
2. Age at first betting engagement (a) 18-24 (b) 25-33 (c) 33-40 (d) 41 & above
3. Religion (a) Christianity (b) Islam (c) Traditionalist
4. Marital status (a) Single (b) Married (c) Divorced/Separated (d) Widowed
5. Ethnic nationality (a) Yoruba (b) Igbo (c) Hausa (d) Others
6. Educational level (a) Undergraduate (b) Postgraduate
7. Monthly allowance/Income (a) Less than 10,000 (b) 10,001 – 19,000 (c) 20,000 – 29,000 (d) 30,000 – 39,000 (e) 40,000 & above
8. Do you engage in sports betting? (a) Yes (b) No
9. If yes, have you attempted to stop engaging in sports betting? (a) Yes (b) No
10. Amount spent on sports betting daily (a) Below N500 (b) N500 – N900 (c) N1000 – N1400 (d) N1500 & above
11. Amount spent of sports betting monthly (a) Below N100 (b) N1000 – N4000 (c) N5000 – N9000 (d) N10,000 & above
12. Time spent participating in sports betting daily (a) Below 30 minutes (b) 30 – 60 minutes (c) 1 hour – 5 hours (c) 6 hours – 10 hours (d) 11 hours & above.

**SECTION C: THE SOCIETAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS SPORTS BETTING**

Key: (SD) Strongly Disagree (D) Disagree (SA) Strongly Agreed (A) Agreed

Kindly tick one out of the options depending on your opinion about the statements below.

S/NO	STATEMENTS	SD	D	SA	A
11	Sports betting creates various opportunities for students to be engaged productively.				
12	Sports betting should be discouraged.				
13	Most people who engage in sports betting do so sensibly.				
14	Sports betting is a fool's game.				
15	Sports betting is dangerous for personal development.				
16	Sports betting enhances personal development.				
17	Engaging in sports betting endangers family life.				
18	Sports betting is a harmless form of entertainment.				
19	Sports betting is a waste of time and resources.				
20	Sports betting relies on the presence of gaming shops to stake bets.				
21	Majority of those who place bets use their phones				
22	The attitude of society towards sports betting is that it is a victimless crime.				
23	Your community considers sports betting as an instrument of social cohesion.				
24	Members of your community accept sports betting as a pass-time activity that helps unemployed students stay engaged.				
25	Sports betting creates an opportunity for socialization in your community				
26	Engaging in sports betting livens up life.				
27	It would be better if betting was banned.				
28	Engaging in sports betting is addictive like drug addiction.				

**SECTION C: THE CAUSES OF SPORTS BETTING**

Key: (SD) Strongly Disagree (D) Disagree (SA) Strongly Agreed (A) Agreed

Kindly tick one out of the options depending on your opinion about the statements below.

S/NO	STATEMENTS	SD	D	SA	A
26	Individuals from low socio-economic backgrounds resort to sports betting as another way of making a living.				
27	Individuals who earn below their needs participate in sports betting to augment their earnings.				
28	The consistent advertisement of sports betting using all mediums contributes to continuous participation in sports betting.				
29	Peer group interaction encourages participation in sports betting.				
30	The need to attain wealth quickly predisposes students to engage in sports betting.				
31	Sports betting can serve as an escapist form of recreation for those who are buoyant economically.				
32	The influence of parents or family members who engage in sports betting predisposes an individual to engage/participate in sports betting				

**SECTION D: CONSEQUENCES OF SPORTS BETTING**

Key: (SD) Strongly Disagree (D) Disagree (SA) Strongly Agreed (A) Agreed

Kindly tick one out of the options depending on your opinion about the statements below.

S/NO	STATEMENTS	SD	D	SA	A
32	Continuous participation in sports betting leads to serious health problems.				
33	Consistent engagement in sports betting irresponsibly can lead to bankruptcy.				
34	Gains from sports betting can also constitute a form of personal income.				
35	The continuous participation of students in sports betting serves as a source of revenue for the community.				
36	Continuous and irresponsible participation in sports betting can lead to poor academic performance of students.				
37	Students who engage perpetually in sports betting are likely to be uninterested in academic pursuits.				
38	An individual who loses constantly while participating in sports betting is exposed to suicidal tendencies.				