

Family Types, Parental Income and Gambling Behaviour Among Undergraduates in Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Ahiakwo. S. N. (Ph.D)

Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling
Faculty of Education, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

doi: <https://doi.org/10.37745/bje.2013/vol13n14962>

Published January 01, 2025

Citation: Ahiakwo. S. N. (2025) Family Types, Parental Income and Gambling Behaviour Among Undergraduates in Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria, *British Journal of Education*, Vol.13, Issue 1,49-62

Abstract: *The study investigated family types, parental income and gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The designs for the study was ex-post-facto and correlational designs. Three research questions as well as three corresponding hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study. The population of the study comprised of all 35,362 undergraduate students in Rivers State University, Rivers State. A sample of 300 students were randomly selected using purposive sampling technique. Two instruments (questionnaires) were used for collecting data in the study. They included; Gambling Behaviour Scale (GBS) and Family Type Questionnaire (FTQ). Validity of the instruments were determined using experts in test and measurement. Cronbach Alpha was used in determining the reliability of the instrument with a reliability coefficient of 0.81 for “School Gambling Behaviour Scale (GBS)” and 0.74 for “Family Type Questionnaire” (FTQ). Mean, standard deviation and independent t-test were used in data analysis. From the analysis, the findings of the study showed nuclear family type ($p=0.000<0.05$), polygamous family type ($p=0.000<0.05$) and parental income ($p=0.002<0.05$) all had significant relationship with gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that parents and care-givers irrespective of the type of family type they find operate should be mindful of the training they give their children by training them in ways that discourage gambling behaviour.*

Keywords: nuclear family, polygamous family, parental income, gambling behaviour.

INTRODUCTION

Gambling is a form of behaviour that has been identified to have serious consequences on gamblers health, study-habit, academic performance, and has been reported to be related to some criminal behaviour (Oyebisi, Alao, & Popoola, 2012) Gambling has been generally defined as betting or

wagering of money or something of value on an event that has an uncertain outcome with the possibility of winning money or materials (Potenza, Fiellin, Heninger, Rounsaville, & Mazure, 2012). Gambling traditionally includes activities such as wagering at casinos, on lotteries, animal racing, card games, sporting events, video lottery, and Internet card and casino games (Potenza *et al.*, 2020). As compared with adults, adolescents have been found to have high rates of problem and pathological gambling. Relatively, few adolescents seek help for gambling problems. Turner (2015) in his own opinion posited that, gambling is the act of risking the loss of something of value (usually money) on an uncertain outcome which is usually in the hope of winning something of greater value (usually money). The recent increase of gambling in North America and other parts of the world has been associated with increased opportunities for gambling and a greater social acceptability for the behaviour.

Gambling is based on a combination of skills or chance or both and something of value that can be won or lost. Young people including university undergraduates are a high risk group for gambling and gambling problems (Moore, 2013). A high prevalence of gambling participation has been observed in different university undergraduate populations, (Etel, Tabchi, Bou Khalil, Hlais & Richa, 2013). University undergraduates engage in a wide range of gambling behaviours, including playing lottery, poker/cards for money, casino games (i.e., slots/poker machines), horse racing, betting on sports and internet gambling. While gambling has, at times, been considered a socially deviant or immoral behaviour in some cultures and throughout history, the American Psychiatric Association only first defined it to be a medically diagnosable health problem in 1980 in the 3rd version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual DSM–V (Moore, 2013). Therefore, when gambling behaviour results in behavioural, emotional, relationship, or financial problems, it may develop into a diagnosable condition known as problem or pathological gambling.

For students with severe gambling problems, gambling consumes their lives much like adults with pathological gambling. However, the clinical presentation is typically different from that in adults. Because of their age, adolescent problem gamblers may still be in school, not yet be married, and live with their parents. Similar to adults, their family and friends may distrust them in view of repeated lies about their gambling, episodes of stealing, and unpaid loans. If they are still in school, schoolwork may suffer due to their preoccupation with gambling or obtaining money to gamble (Gupta & Derevensky, 1998). The public perceptions of gambling are often misleading. On the one hand, people are usually aware that gambling poses serious risks to those who are predisposed to gamble excessively. However, on the other hand, it is also acknowledged that gambling can have positive consequences for communities (e.g, providing a source of revenue for sporting clubs or humanitarian causes) and can be an enjoyable pastime for individuals (Ekechukwu & Isukwem, 2019). Nigerian youths especially university undergraduates in Rivers State, are engaging themselves in gambling as a means of surviving; this is an intricate issue of special concern as this behaviour may predispose them to pathological/compulsive gambling (Oyebisi, Alao, & Popoola, 2012).

Gambling issues among university undergraduates have generally gotten very little or no attention as such; there are few writings on adolescent gambling. Nevertheless, university undergraduates by all indications, seem to be especially crucial in considering gambling practices given the likely dangers associated with gambling practices. Studies have shown a high prevalence of gambling among university undergraduates in Rivers state and much of this practice takes place in schools (Eneh & Stanley, 2004). Statistics revealed that in Rivers state a significant proportion of university undergraduates engage in various forms of gambling (Nariabet, Bet9ja lotto plus, MTN Quest4Football, Merrybet etc) (Nigeria Communications Week, 2017). This trend is particularly prevalent among university undergraduates, wherein students are constantly seen in game centers, pool shops, and under canopies along streets where gambling activities take place. The situation is such that university undergraduates have to predict the outcome of matches in order to win money or other materials. The higher the number of matches predicted the higher the expected outcome if the prediction is right at the end of the match. The researcher has also observed that university undergraduates particularly those staying on campus, usually use their meals, beverages, cloths and other personal items to gamble among their peers.

Considering the present gambling trends, it is imperative to comprehend the extent to which university undergraduates bet, factors predisposing university undergraduates' involvement in gambling, and the risks involved in gambling. As a result of technological development and availability of internet facilities, the level of university undergraduates' engagement in gambling behaviour is increasing. This is a big problem among this population. Present studies show that more and more university undergraduates are involving themselves in this activity; some have even perceived it as a source of income and abandon other activities that can provide them with better income for the future. Recent data shows that Nigerians spend about 1.8 billion naira daily on online sport betting (Online Sportnews, 2015). A public opinion poll revealed that gambling and betting is becoming very popular in Nigeria, particularly amongst the country's bulging youth population and sports fans aged between 18–35 years (NOIPolls, 2017).

While some people benefit from this activity, majority tends to lose their money in this activity. Studies have shown that if gambling situations are displayed to university undergraduates, most will take part to some degree. At present, when contrasted with past years, university undergraduates live in a period of expanded gambling accessibility (internet betting, shopping coupons, scratch cards, lotteries, raffle-draws, etc); they are presented with the various form of gambling such that they feel gambling is normal. University undergraduates are motivated to gamble for a number of reasons including: entertainment, to win money, the sensation of winning, the thrill of the game, to escape stress/problems, peer influence, gangsterism, socio-economic status, greed, and so on. As opposed to the common aim of gambling for financial increase in grown-ups, university undergraduates' gambling is frequently reported as a chance to mingle. It is seen as an avenue to relate with others as opposed to a chance to win money. One of the most

common motivations for university undergraduates' gambling is family. For example, in a research conducted for the National Lottery Commission for young people (aged 12-15), England and Wales (2000) stated that parent/guardian bought Lotto ticket(s) in a shop on behalf of their children. The study clearly showed that children are usually sponsored or supported by family to participate in gambling. The research also suggested that young people were motivated to play the lottery by the prospect of winning money and by the buzz or excitement associated with it. This study will however examine family variables and gambling behaviour among undergraduates in university of Rivers State University.

The family is the most important primary group in the society and immediate social environment to which a child is developed and exposed (Adhiambo, Odwar & Mildred, 2011). A family is a bio-social group (Adani, 2001). It is primarily made up of father, mother and children. Notwithstanding, there are other types of families like nuclear, extended, monogamous and polygamous families. A child learns to adjust in various fields of life according to the values and virtues provided by his or her family. Children grow up in families which provide consistent and relatively permanent relationship which affects their adjustment level to a large extent (Dudley, 2012). They spend a great deal of time in the home with their families or family members. The family also provides support for children while they explore new situations and learn about new people especially in their late childhood commonly referred to as adolescent stage (Dhyani & Singh, 2013). This is a period when children are directed or drifted away from the family group and centred around the wider world of peer relationships (Nwachukwu, 1995). The families in which children grow up in or are being nurtured vary in structure or type.

Family type then can be said to be a kind of arrangement or organization that exists in a home or family setting where each of the members are saddled with some responsibilities or tasks in order to make for harmony and move the family forward (Dhyani & Singh, 2013). A family structure could be nuclear or extended, divorced or separated, intact, monogamous or polygamous. In nuclear families, we have the father, mother and children. In extended families, there exists a much wider kinship network, of which the primary family is only a very small part. An extended family includes grandparents and grandchildren, aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and even more (Lewis, 2006). Muntreal (1991) agreed that children from small size or nuclear family perform better than those from large size or extended family. Fraser (1993) also supported the argument that children of extended families have limited opportunities hence, they are at disadvantage not only in terms of school, but also in the process which depend so largely on the acquisition of survival skills.

According to Ekiran (2003), the polygamous family is any type of plural marriage in which a man is married to two or more women at the same time and has many children. He further observed that in most cases the husband of the house may not be wealthy to take care of all the members of the family, as such the educational career of the children suffers a lot of set-backs. Nkemdirim

(2005) stressed that most children who come from the polygamous homes are more predisposed to gambling than those from nuclear families. He opined that children from the nuclear homes are better cared for and not need to gamble to fulfil their financial needs compare to their counterparts who come from the polygamous families where some children are neglected. In a polygamous family where the size of the family is quite large, the man who is the bread-winner, may not be able to pay the school fees of the children, purchase their educational materials such as books, school uniforms, pocket money and feed the children, when the children lack the opportunity of being provided for and supported to succeed in life, they may start gambling (Ayo, 2012). Adeogun (2013) is of the opinion that children would not gambling when they are supported by their parents, and on the other hand, they would engage in gambling if their parents fail to provide their needs. These different family structures or types in one way or the other seem to influence university undergraduates' gambling behaviour (Deepshikha & Bhanot, 2011).

Parental income level is another variable that may be linked to university undergraduates' gambling behaviour. Aikens and Barbarian (2010) described parental income level as the amount of money or wealth a child's parent has, as measured by the parent occupation. It is the money that the parents of a child earn or receive, as opposed to the money that they have to spend or pay out (Machebe, Ezegbe & Onuoha, 2017). Zehri and Abdelbaki (2013) stressed that children of parents with low income often have less education, live in slums and are likely to engage in gambling due to fewer economic resources. Rahaman (2010) described low income families as one exposed to more family turmoil, violence, separation from their families, instability, educationally impoverished, less social support and more dangerous neighbourhoods, whereas families with high income are more stable, affectionate to the needs of their children, educationally advantaged and supportive. He added that children from low income families are susceptible to gambling more compared to children from high income families. Saila and Chamundeswari (2013) maintained that low income homes are made up of parents who are either unemployed or underemployed, they do not have health insurance, are unable or unwilling to schedule regular medical check-ups themselves and their children, and cannot provide adequately for their children's needs, as such, their children are face with the challenge of indulging in gambling. Musarat (2013) stated that children from low income families are often seen hawking on street during traffic hold ups to support their families. He further added that this situation has forced children of low income families to look elsewhere to find other means of getting money to feed and provide for their other needs like gambling. People from low income homes have been reported to be vulnerable to gambling than their counterparts from high income homes. The reason for this being that, gambling is perceived as a source of income to people that belong to low income background than those from high income background. Therefore, gamblers from poor family background are also more vulnerable to gambling addiction than their counterpart from high income homes. Furthermore, people from low income backgrounds who can afford to gamble risk the problem of getting addicted to gambling which may have detrimental effect to their life and family. Notwithstanding,

there are several cases of the rich or those from high income background being addicted to gambling income (Fried, Teichman, & Rahav, 2010).

In a study that was conducted by Daniel, Gudmundur, Johanna, Mikael and Sigurdur (2006) conducted a prevalence study of adolescent gambling and problem gambling among Icelandic adolescents. The results of the study indicated that 93% of adolescents had gambled some time in their life and 70% at least once in the preceding year. Similarly, Eboh (2015) also investigated the prevalence and determinants of gambling behaviour among undergraduate students of Federal University Oye-Ekiti. The sample of the study consisted of one-hundred and thirty (130) respondents. The data collected were analyzed with frequency and percentages under the univariate level of analysis, and chi-square analysis. The findings of the study revealed that 67.5% of Federal University of Oye Ekiti students engage in gambling activities, in which 82.7% of them are male and 14.3% female.

In addition to this, in many cultures, gambling is or has been perceived to be an activity more acceptable for men than for women. Many studies have repeatedly shown an interface between gender and gambling behaviour. For example, a National study on collegiate sports wagering and associated health risks by NCAA (2004) observed that males consistently engage in gambling or sports wagering activities in much higher proportions than their female counterparts. It was also reported that, the proportion of males participating in any gambling behaviour was 61 percent, more than 37 percent of females and are more likely to become problem or pathological gamblers. In investigating gambling prevalence among males and females in Australia, Delfabbro, King, Lambos, and Puglies (2009) found that of 2,669 Grade 8 to 12 South Australian school students, boys were more likely to gamble on card games, on racing, on sporting events, on lotteries, on Keno, on the Internet; whereas girls were more likely to have played bingo. Oster and Knapp (1998) studied sports betting by college students, who bets and how often. They reported that the lifetime prevalence of any form of gambling was 97 percent for males and 91 percent for females. 37 percent of males and 16 percent of females gambled weekly or more frequently. They also observed that 50% males bet on sports more often than females (23%). Sports wagering by college students appears largely, though not exclusively, a male activity.

In the study of Andrew, Steven and Rodolfo, (2009), they investigated the socio demographic determinants of gambling participation and expenditure decisions on gambling among non-Muslim households in Malaysia using data from the 2005–2006 Malaysian Household Expenditures Survey. The results indicated that non-Muslim households in Malaysia are more likely to participate and spend more in gambling include Chinese and Indians who live in cities.

In all these, the researchers have observed that without doubt, participation in gambling by university undergraduates is a major problem which can cause serious health risks; pose academic challenges, abnormal heart rhythms, anxiety, irritability, insomnia, and sensory disturbances.

Although, university undergraduates who participate in gambling feel that engaging in it helps reduce tension, frustration, boredom and sometimes help them stay awake all night or increase their mental alertness. However, experiences of some gamblers have shown that engaging in gambling carries a high price tag which often leads to fatality, drug use, smoking, suicidal and gangsterism. When gambling behaviour increases, it may produce negative consequences in the university undergraduate's financial, social, and overall health. Some of these negative health and social consequences of gambling on adolescents may include; gambling disorders, family dysfunction and domestic violence, alcohol and other drug problems, psychiatric conditions, suicide and suicide attempts, significant financial problems, and criminal behaviour. A major consequence of gambling among university undergraduates is poor academic performance, truancy and increased school dropout. Gamblers often show signs of depression, withdrawal, mood swings and have difficulties establishing close friendships or maintaining social networks, often replacing friends with gambling associates. In many cases, gambling results in problems such as debt, bankruptcy, eviction and homelessness. There is also evidence of university undergraduates stealing from other family members to fund their gambling.

From the foregoing therefore, the aim of the study was to examine family types, parental income and gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following objectives;

1. Determine the extent nuclear family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.
2. Ascertain the extent polygamous family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.
3. Find out the extent parental income influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

The following research questions guided the study;

1. To what extent does nuclear family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University?
2. To what extent does polygamous family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University?
3. To what extent does parental income influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University?

The following null hypotheses posed were tested in this study at 0.05 alpha level of significance;

1. Nuclear family type does not significantly influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.
2. Polygamous family type does not significantly relate to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

3. Parental income does not significantly relate to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

METHODOLOGY

The researchers in the study adopted ex-post-facto and correlational research designs. The population of the study comprised of over 35,362 undergraduate students in Rivers State University, Port Harcourt. A sample of 300 students were randomly selected using purposive sampling technique. The purposive sampling technique was appropriate for selecting only students who possessed the characteristics studied which is gambling behaviour. Two instruments (questionnaires) were used for collecting data in the study. They included; Gambling Behaviour Scale (GBS) and Family Type Questionnaire (FTQ). The Gambling Behaviour Scale (GBS) was used to measure students' gambling behaviour, and was designed on a four point Likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA) =4, Agree (A) =3, Disagree (D) =2, and Strongly Disagree (SD) =1, it contained 30 items. The minimum score for this scale =30, while the maximum score =120. On the other hand, the "Family Type Questionnaire" (FTQ) contains two sections. Section I contains demographic information like parental income. In section II, it was further divided into two sub-sections with each containing items that measure respondents opinion on nuclear family type as well as polygamous family type and its relationship on the dependent variables. The face and content validity of the instruments Gambling Behaviour Scale (GBS) and Family Type Questionnaire (FTQ) determined by two other experts in test and measurement. For face validity the researcher's supervisor and the two experts were required to vet the items of the instruments, to look at the clarity of words, sentences and whether the variables of the study are properly measured. Their corrections, suggestions, recommendations were used to produce the final draft of the instruments in order to ensure face and content validity of the instruments. Cronbach Alpha method was used to determine the internal consistency of the instruments. The reliability coefficient of "Gambling Behaviour Scale" (GBS) was 0.81 while Family Type Questionnaire (FTQ) was 0.74 which was high enough to confirm that the instruments are reliable.

Administration of the Instrument

The instruments were administered on the participants by the researcher, assisted by two trained research assistants. The two research assistants were briefed on the method and mode of approach to the respondents, as well as the importance of confidentiality of their responses. This was to ensure maximum explanation to respondents on the purpose of the study and what they expected to gain from the study. Copies of the instruments were retrieved after respondents gave their responses. Responses to the research questions were answered with mean and standard deviation, t-test and simple regression.

RESULTS

Research Question One: To what extent does nuclear family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University, Port Harcourt?

Table 1: Simple Regression Analysis on the extent nuclear family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
	.639	.408	.406	4.10829

Table 1 revealed that the regression coefficient R was calculated to be 0.639 while the regression squared value was computed to be 0.408. This shows that gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University is positively influenced by nuclear family type. Judging by the coefficient of determination, it shows that 40.8% change in gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University can be predicted by nuclear family type, while 59.2% was accounted by other variables not considered in this study.

Research Question Two: To what extent does polygamous family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University?

Table 2: Simple Regression Analysis on the extent polygamous family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in University of Port Harcourt

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.928	.862	.861	1.98582

Table 2 revealed that the regression coefficient R was calculated to be 0.923 while the regression squared value was computed to be 0.862. This shows that gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University is positively and highly influenced by polygamous family type. Judging by the coefficient of determination, it shows that 86.2% change in gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University can be predicted by polygamous family type, while 13.8% was accounted by other variables not considered in this study.

Research Question Three: To what extent does parental income influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation on the extent parental income influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Parental Income	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
10,000 -300,000	183	33.4973	2.49367	.18434
Above 300,000	117	24.8034	4.11733	.38065
Total	300	30.1067	5.32947	.30770

Table 3 revealed the extent parental income influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. Those who earn between 10,000 to 300,000 were 183, with mean of 33.50, while those whose parents earn above 300, 000 were 117 with mean of 30.11.

Test of Hypotheses

The null hypotheses formulated for the study were tested using t-test and t-test associated with regression, which is a test of relationship.

Hypothesis One: Nuclear family type does not significantly influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Table 4: t-test associated with simple Regression on how nuclear family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	8.249	1.544		5.341	.000
Nuclear Family	.717	.050	.639	14.324	.000

Table 4 revealed that nuclear family type is influenced by gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University by 0.639. The t-test value 14.324 associated with linear regression was statistically significant at 0.000 when subjected to 0.05 alpha level of significance. By implication, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, nuclear family type significantly influences gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Hypothesis Two: Polygamous family type does not significantly relate with gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Table 5: Coefficient table showing t associated with simple Regression on how polygamous family type influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.308	.678		1.928	.055
Polygamous Family	.966	.022	.928	43.076	.000

Table 5 revealed that nuclear polygamous type is influenced by gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University by 0.928. The t-test value 43.076 associated with linear regression was statistically significant at 0.000 when subjected to 0.05 alpha level of significance. By implication, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, polygamous family type significantly influences gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Hypothesis Three: Parental income does not significantly relate to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Table 6: Summary of t-test Analysis on how parental income relate to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University

Respondents	N	\bar{X}	SD	A	Df	t-cal	Sig	Decision
10,000-300,00	183	33.50	2.49					Significant
Above 300,000				0.05	298	22.57	0.000	(Reject Ho ₃)
	117	24.80	4.12					

Data on the Table 6 revealed the summaries of Subject, mean, standard deviation and t-test of difference between the mean scores on how parental income relate to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The calculated t-test value used in testing hypothesis stood at 22.57, while t-critical value stood at 1.96 using 298 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. At 298 degrees of freedom, the calculated Sig-value of 0.00 is less than the level of significance value of 0.05. Hence, parental income significantly relate to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study showed that nuclear family type significantly gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The null hypothesis of no significant influence nuclear family type on gambling behaviour was rejected in favour of the alternative that nuclear family type significantly gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The findings of this study is in agreement with the study by Ayo (2012) who found out that nuclear family type significantly gambling behaviour among university students. The finding of the present

study however dis agrees with that by Adeogun (2013) who found out that nuclear family type does not significantly influence gambling behaviour among students. He added that children from the nuclear homes are better cared for and not need to gamble to fulfil their financial needs compare to their counterparts who are from nuclear homes where some children are neglected.

The findings of the study showed that polygamous family type significantly influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The null hypothesis of no significant influence polygamous family type on gambling behaviour was rejected in favour of the alternative that polygamous family type significantly influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The findings of the present study agrees with the study by Ekiran (2003) who found out that polygamous family type significantly influence gambling behaviour among students. He added that polygamous family is composed of a plural marriage in which a man is married to two or more women at the same time and has many children, and in most cases the husband of the house may not be wealthy to take care of all the members of the family, as such the educational career of the children suffers a lot of set-backs and the children are more predisposed to gambling. Deepshikha and Bhanot (2011) also found out that family type significantly influence gambling behaviour among students.

The findings of the study showed that parental income relate significantly to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The null hypothesis of no significant relationship between parental income and gambling behaviour was rejected in favour of the alternative that parental income relates significantly to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University. The findings of the present study agree with the study by Zehri and Abdelbaki (2013) who found out that parental income relate significantly to gambling behaviour among students. They further stressed that children of parents with low income often have less education, live in slums and are more likely to engage in gambling due to fewer economic resources. Musarat (2013) also found out that parental income relates significantly to gambling behaviour among students. He added that children from low-income families are often seen hawking on street during traffic hold-ups to support their families, and this situation has forced such children to look elsewhere like gambling to fend for themselves.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it was gathered that gambling is a major problem among secondary school adolescents. It was also gathered that nuclear family type, polygamous family type, parental income influence gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommended the following;

1. Since family types relate significantly to gambling behaviour among undergraduates in Rivers State University, it is recommended that parents and care-givers irrespective of the type of family type they find themselves, should be mindful of training they give their children. They should try and train the in ways that discourage them from gambling
2. Parents and care givers should endeavour to check and moderate the activities of their children from time to time. This will help in reducing some mischievous activities that are carried on by children both at home and in school.
3. The school should endeavour to make good use of its entrepreneurial seminars and centers to empower students on vocational training, with the aim of making profit. Again, the government endeavour to provide more jobs to discourage the rate at which people gamble. Finally, counsellors should organize periodic seminars and orientation programs to educate students on the effect of gambling on their academics and social behaviour.

REFERENCES

- Adhiambo W. M, Odwar A. J, Mildred A. A. (2011). The relationship among school adjustment, gender and academic achievement amongst secondary school students in Kisumu district Kenya *JETERAPS*; 2(6): 493.
- Aikens, N. Barbarian, O. (2010). Socio-economic differences in reading trajectories: The contribution of family, neighborhood and school contexts. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 100(2), 235-251.
- Andrew, K. G. T., Steven T. Y., & Rodolfo, M. N.A J. (2009) Socio-demographic determinants of gambling participation and expenditures: evidence from Malaysia *International Journal of Consumer Studies*.
- Deepshikha & Bhanot, S. (2011), "Role of Family Environment on Socioemotional Adjustment of Adolescent Girls in Rural Areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh", *J. psychology*,2 (1), 53-56.
- Delfabbro, P., Lambos, C., King, D., & Puglies, S. (2009). Knowledge and beliefs about gambling in Australian secondary school students and their implications for education strategies. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 25, 523–539.
- Dhyani A., Singh R. (2013) A study of adjustment level of adolescents from foster home and biological families. *Stud Home Com Sci*. 2013;7(1):7- 12; ISSN: 0973-7189.
- Ekiran, M.A. (2003). *Marriage and the Family: A Sociological Perspective*. Lagos: Rebonik Publications.
- Eneh, A. U. & Stanley, P. C. (2004). Pattern of Substance use among secondary School Students in Rivers State, Nigeria. *Journal of Medicine*, 13(1): 21- 32.
- Etel, C., Tabchi, S., Bou Khalil, R., Hlais, S., & Richa, S. (2013). Prevalence of pathological gambling in Lebanese students. *Encephale*, 39(1), 1-5.

- Gupta, R. & Derevensky, J. (1998). Adolescent gambling behavior: a prevalence study and examination of the correlates associated with excessive gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 14, 319–345.
- Isukwem, G. C. & Ekechukwu, R. O. (2019). Joint influence of psycho-demographic variables on adolescents' gambling behaviour in Rivers State, Nigeria. *European Journal of Social Science Studies*, 4(4), 259-268.
- Machebe, C. H., Ezegbe, B. N. & Onuoha, J. (2017). The impact of parental level of income on students' academic performance in high school in Japan. *Universal Journal of Educational Research*, 5(9), 1614-1620.
- Moore, S. M., Thomas, A. C., Kalé, S., Spence, M., Zlatevska, N., Staiger, P. K., Kyrios, M. (2013). Problem gambling among international and domestic university students in Australia: who is at risk? *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 29(2), 217-30.
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (2004) National Study on Collegiate Sports Wagering and Associated Health Risks, Executive Summary. Retrieved from <http://ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/SAEREP10.pdf>
- NOIPolls, (2017). Betting and gambling in Nigeria. Retrieved on September 18, 2017 from www.noi-polls.com.
- Oster, S., and Knapp, T. (1998). *Sports betting by college students: Who bets and how often?* College Student Journal. 32 (2).
- Oyebisi, E. O., Alao, K. A., & Popoola, B. I. (2012) Gambling behaviour of university students in South-Western Nigeria. *Ife Psychologia*.
- Potenza, M. N., Fiellin, D. A., Heninger, G. R., Rounsaville, B. J. & Mazure, C. M. (2002) Gambling. An addictive behaviour with health and primary care implications *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 17: 721-732.
- Rahaman, Abu Shiraz (2010) “Revisiting the role of accounting in Third World socio-economic development: A critical reflection”, (University of Calagary, Alberta, Canada).
- Saila, T.S & Chamundeswari. S (2014). Development of Socio-Economic Background Scale. *International journal of current research and academic review* vol 2(12) pg 78-83 Retrieved on June 16, 2016 from <http://www.ijcrar.com/vol.2.12/T.%20Sahaya%20Saila%20and%20S.%20>
- Turner, N.E., Wiebe, J., Falkowski-Ham, A., Kelly, J., & Skinner, W. (2005). Public awareness of responsible gambling and gambling behaviours in Ontario. *International Gambling Studies*, 5, 95–112.