

Predictive Roles of Psychological Violence and Resilience on Gambling Motives among Adolescents in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: Adolescent gambling has emerged as a growing public health concern in Nigeria, yet limited empirical attention has been given to the psychosocial processes underlying gambling motivation. Guided by developmental psychopathology and motivational models of gambling, this study examined the predictive roles of psychological violence and resilience on gambling motives among adolescents in Ibadan, Nigeria. A cross-sectional descriptive correlational design was employed. Participants were 300 in-school adolescents selected through a multistage sampling technique across three local government areas in Ibadan metropolis. Data were collected using the Gambling Motives Questionnaire–Financial (GMQ-F), the Psychological Maltreatment Questionnaire (PMQ), and the Connor–Davidson Resilience Scale, 10-item version (CD-RISC-10). Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlations, independent samples *t* test, and hierarchical multiple regression were used for analysis. No significant gender difference in gambling motives was found. Psychological violence was positively and significantly correlated with gambling motives, while resilience showed a non-significant negative association at the bivariate level. Hierarchical regression confirmed that psychological violence alone accounted for 14.2% of variance in gambling motives (Model 1: $R^2 = .142$). Adding resilience in Model 2 produced a significant increment ($\Delta R^2 = .018$, $\Delta F = 6.24$, $p = .013$), raising total explained variance to 16.0%. In the final model, psychological violence ($\beta = .39$, $p < .001$) and resilience ($\beta = -.13$, $p = .013$) were significant predictors. Post hoc power analysis confirmed the sample provided greater than 99% power to detect medium effects. The findings highlight gambling motives as proximal psychological processes shaped by adversity and protective capacity. Implications for trauma-informed and resilience-focused interventions in Nigerian secondary schools are discussed.

Keywords: gambling motives, psychological violence, resilience, adolescence, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Gambling has become an increasingly visible risk behaviour among adolescents worldwide, prompting growing concern about its developmental and psychosocial consequences. Although traditionally regarded as an adult activity, adolescent gambling participation has increased substantially over the past two decades, driven by technological advances, digital accessibility, and the social normalization of betting (Calado & Griffiths, 2016; Nowak, 2017). A systematic review of international studies

further demonstrated that the prevalence of adolescent problem gambling has increased across jurisdictions, reinforcing the need to identify the developmental and psychosocial processes that underlie gambling motivation during adolescence (Calado et al., 2017). Adolescence represents a sensitive developmental period characterized by heightened reward sensitivity, ongoing neurocognitive maturation, and limited self-regulatory capacity, all of which raise susceptibility to risk-taking behaviours such as gambling (Balogh et al., 2013).

In Nigeria, the rapid expansion of online sports betting platforms has made gambling readily accessible to young people, including minors (Bankole et al., 2019). Despite legal restrictions, enforcement remains limited, and adolescents encounter gambling opportunities through peers, family members, and digital media on a daily basis. Empirical evidence places youth gambling prevalence in Nigeria among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa (Ssewanyana & Bitanirwe, 2018). These trends call for rigorous examination of the psychosocial mechanisms that motivate adolescent gambling within this sociocultural context.

Motivational models conceptualize gambling as a goal-directed behaviour driven by underlying psychological needs and reinforcement processes (Stewart & Zack, 2008). Gambling motives are commonly organized into four categories-coping, enhancement, social, and financial, each reflecting a distinct pathway through which individuals engage in gambling. Among adolescents, these motives are closely associated with gambling frequency, risk severity, and progression toward problematic patterns (Quinlan et al., 2014; Canale et al., 2019). Coping and enhancement motives have been most consistently linked to maladaptive gambling, suggesting that gambling may function as an emotion regulation strategy for adolescents under psychosocial stress.

One stressor that remains substantially under-examined in adolescent gambling research, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, is psychological violence. Psychological violence, operationalized in this study as psychological maltreatment or emotional abuse, refers to persistent patterns of verbal aggression, humiliation, rejection, and emotional unresponsiveness directed toward the child (Arslan, 2015; Oates, 1996). Unlike physical abuse, it typically occurs covertly and is less likely to be detected, despite its well-documented effects on emotional regulation and behavioural functioning. Adolescents exposed to psychological violence show elevated emotional distress and greater susceptibility to maladaptive coping behaviours, including behavioural addictions (Anda et al., 2006; Kaehler & Frewen, 2020).

From a developmental psychopathology perspective, chronic exposure to psychologically abusive environments disrupts the formation of adaptive coping repertoires, increasing adolescents' reliance on maladaptive motivational pathways (Cicchetti & Toth, 2005). Gambling may therefore serve as an accessible outlet for emotional escape, mood enhancement, or the recovery of perceived control. However, risk exposure does not uniformly produce maladaptive outcomes, underscoring the relevance of protective factors such as resilience.

Resilience refers to the dynamic capacity for positive adaptation in the face of adversity, supported by effective coping, emotional regulation, and social resources (Masten, 2014; Southwick et al., 2014). Resilient adolescents are better equipped to tolerate distress and engage in adaptive coping, reducing reliance on maladaptive strategies. Although resilience has been shown to attenuate the effects of

adversity on behavioural outcomes, its specific role in shaping gambling motives remains insufficiently explored, particularly in African contexts.

The present study focuses on gambling motives rather than gambling behaviour because motives represent developmentally proximal psychological mechanisms that precede behavioural engagement and are therefore more amenable to early preventive intervention. Examining motivational processes facilitates the identification of adolescents who may be psychologically vulnerable before gambling behaviour becomes frequent or progresses to problematic levels (Stewart & Zack, 2008; Canale et al., 2019). Guided by developmental psychopathology theory and motivational models of gambling, this study investigates the predictive roles of psychological violence and resilience in relation to gambling motives among secondary school adolescents in Ibadan, Nigeria. Within this framework, gambling motives are conceptualized as proximal psychological mechanisms through which psychosocial risk and protective resources shape adolescents' vulnerability to gambling engagement.

Hypotheses

Based on the theoretical framework and prior literature, the following hypotheses were tested:

H1: Male and female adolescents will not differ significantly in gambling motives.

H2: Psychological violence will be positively and significantly associated with gambling motives.

H3: Resilience will be negatively associated with gambling motives.

H4: Psychological violence will positively predict gambling motives, whereas resilience will negatively predict gambling motives after controlling for psychological violence.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework integrates motivational models of gambling, developmental psychopathology theory, and resilience theory to specify the pathways through which psychosocial risk and protective factors shape gambling motivation during adolescence. Gambling motives are positioned as proximal psychological processes that precede and organize gambling engagement (Canale et al., 2019; Stewart & Zack, 2008).

Psychological Violence as a Developmental Risk Factor

Psychological violence is positioned as the primary psychosocial risk variable. Developmental psychopathology theory holds that chronic exposure to emotionally abusive and psychologically invalidating environments disrupts emotional regulation, self-concept development, and adaptive coping during adolescence (Cicchetti & Toth, 2005; Kim-Cohen & Turkewitz, 2012). Adolescents reared in such environments accumulate emotional distress and lose access to regulatory resources, making them more likely to pursue maladaptive mood-management strategies. Psychological violence is theorized to exert a direct positive effect on gambling motives, particularly coping and enhancement motives, by increasing emotional distress and diminishing adaptive coping capacity (Rogier & Velotti, 2019; Stewart & Zack, 2008).

Resilience as a Protective Factor

Resilience is conceptualized as a developmental capacity that supports positive adaptation in the context of adversity (Masten, 2014; Southwick et al., 2014). Adolescents with stronger resilience demonstrate better emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and problem-solving, reducing reliance on

maladaptive coping strategies such as gambling. Resilience is hypothesized to exert a direct negative effect on gambling motives, operating as an independent additive predictor alongside psychological violence (Fergus & Zimmerman, 2005; Luthar et al., 2000).

Gambling Motives as Proximal Outcomes

Gambling motives occupy the outcome position in the framework, reflecting their role as the immediate motivational drivers preceding gambling behaviour. Conceptualizing gambling motives as proximal outcomes enables identification of vulnerability before gambling becomes habitual or disordered (Blaszczynski & Nower, 2002; Canale et al., 2019).

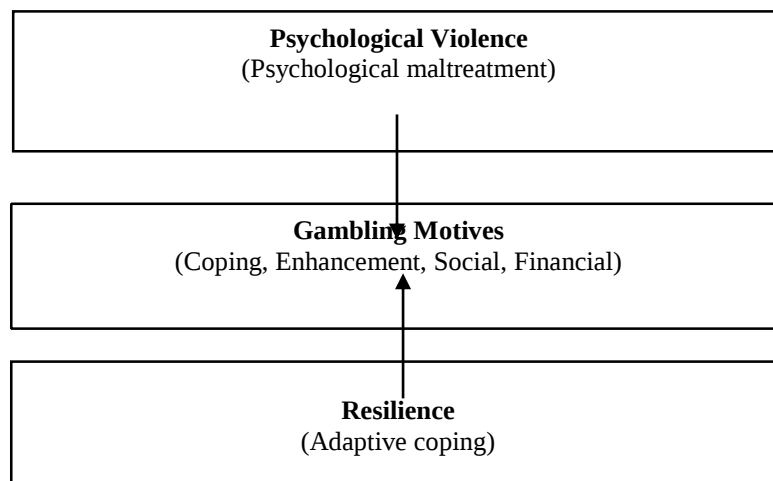


Figure 1. Conceptual framework illustrating psychological violence as a developmental risk factor and resilience as a protective factor influencing adolescent gambling motives.

METHOD

Research Design

The study employed a cross-sectional descriptive correlational design to examine the associations and predictive roles of psychological violence and resilience in relation to gambling motives. A school-based design was adopted because secondary schools in Nigeria provide a structured, institutionally regulated setting that facilitates ethical oversight, parental gatekeeping, and standardized data collection across adolescents from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Participants and Setting

Participants were 300 in-school adolescents recruited from public secondary schools in Ibadan metropolis, Oyo State, Nigeria. Ibadan is a large urban centre characterized by socioeconomic diversity and increasing exposure to commercial gambling activities. Demographic characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: *Demographic Characteristics of Participants (N = 300)*

Variable	Category	N	%
Gender	Male	127	42.3
	Female	172	57.3
	Missing	1	0.3
Age (years)	13–14	44	14.7
	15–17	217	72.3
	18 and above	48	16.0
	Missing	1	0.3
Living arrangement	Both parents	219	73.0
	Father only	6	2.0
	Mother only	41	13.7
	Grandparents	14	4.7
	Others	17	5.7
	Missing	3	1.0

Note. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Sampling Procedure

A multistage sampling procedure was employed. In Stage 1, three local government areas (LGAs)-Ido, Akinyele, and Ibadan North were randomly selected from the 11 LGAs in Ibadan. In Stage 2, two public secondary schools were randomly selected from each LGA, yielding six schools. In Stage 3, 50 students were randomly selected from each school using simple random sampling, producing a total sample of 300 participants. One participant had a missing value on the PMQ; hierarchical regression analyses were therefore conducted on $n = 299$ complete cases.

Post hoc power analysis using G*Power 3.1 (Faul et al., 2007) indicated that a sample of 299 provides greater than 99% power to detect a medium effect size ($f^2 = .15$) in a multiple regression with two predictors, at $\alpha = .05$, confirming adequate statistical power for the primary regression analysis.

Measures

Gambling Motives

Gambling motives were assessed using the Gambling Motives Questionnaire–Financial (GMQ-F; Dechant, 2014). The GMQ-F is a 16-item instrument covering four subscales: coping, enhancement, social, and financial motives. Participants rated how often they gambled for each reason on a 4-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (*almost never/never*) to 4 (*almost always/always*). Total scores were computed by summing all 16 items; higher scores indicate stronger motivational endorsement. The

GMQ-F demonstrated excellent internal consistency in the present sample (Cronbach's $\alpha = .92$), consistent with the reliability reported by Dechant (2014).

Psychological Violence

Psychological violence was measured using the Psychological Maltreatment Questionnaire (PMQ; Arslan, 2015), a 21-item instrument assessing adolescents' exposure to psychologically abusive parental behaviours including verbal degradation, emotional unresponsiveness, rejection, isolation, and corrupting conduct. Items were rated on a 4-point scale from 1 (never) to 4 (always). After reverse-scoring negatively worded items, all scores were summed; higher scores indicate greater exposure to psychological violence. The Psychological Maltreatment Questionnaire demonstrated acceptable internal consistency in the present sample (Cronbach's $\alpha = .73$), comparable to previous applications of the instrument among adolescents (Arslan, 2015).

Resilience

Resilience was assessed using the Connor–Davidson Resilience Scale, 10-item version (CD-RISC-10; Campbell-Sills & Stein, 2007). Participants rated each item on a 5-point scale from 0 (*not true at all*) to 4 (*true nearly all the time*). Total scores range from 0 to 40; higher scores reflect greater resilience. The CD-RISC-10 demonstrated good internal consistency in the present sample (Cronbach's $\alpha = .78$), consistent with the psychometric properties reported by Campbell-Sills and Stein (2007).

Procedure

Data collection was conducted during regular school hours with institutional authorization from school authorities. Trained research assistants administered the questionnaires in classroom settings. Participants were briefed on the study purpose and assured of confidentiality and anonymity. Questionnaires were completed individually and collected immediately upon completion.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval was obtained from the University of Ibadan Social Sciences and Humanities Research Ethics Committee (UI/SSHREC/2025/095) and the Oyo State Ministry of Education. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to data collection. Participation was voluntary, and students were informed of their right to withdraw without penalty. No identifying information was collected.

Data Analysis

Data were analysed using SPSS Version 25. Descriptive statistics summarized the distribution of each variable. An independent samples *t* test examined gender differences in gambling motives. Pearson product–moment correlations assessed bivariate associations. Hierarchical multiple regression examined the incremental and joint prediction of gambling motives: Model 1 entered psychological violence as the sole predictor to establish its baseline contribution; Model 2 added resilience to test its incremental predictive value above and beyond psychological violence. Statistical significance was evaluated at $\alpha = .05$.

RESULTS

Preliminary Analyses

Table 2 presents descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations. Gambling motives scores indicated moderate endorsement ($M = 26.23$, $SD = 10.49$). Psychological violence scores reflected elevated exposure within the sample ($M = 39.62$, $SD = 8.17$, $n = 299$). Resilience scores indicated moderate adaptive capacity ($M = 26.48$, $SD = 7.45$). Preliminary diagnostic analyses indicated that assumptions of normality, homoscedasticity, independence of residuals, and multicollinearity were adequately satisfied. Variance inflation factors ($VIF = 1.01$ for both predictors) confirmed the absence of multicollinearity.

Table 2: *Descriptive Statistics and Bivariate Correlations Among Study Variables*

Variable	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	1	2	3
1. Gambling motives	300	26.23	10.49	—		
2. Psychological violence	299	39.62	8.17	.38**	—	
3. Resilience	300	26.48	7.45	-.10	.08	—

Note. $n = 299$ for psychological violence due to one missing value; $n = 300$ for other variables. Correlations computed on complete cases. ** $p < .01$ (two-tailed).

Gender Differences in Gambling Motives (H1)

An independent samples t test examined H1. As shown in Table 3, male ($M = 26.83$, $SD = 10.48$) and female adolescents ($M = 25.66$, $SD = 10.40$) did not differ significantly in gambling motives, $t(297) = 0.95$, $p = .341$, Cohen's $d = .11$. H1 was supported.

Table 3: *Independent Samples t Test: Gambling Motives by Gender*

Group	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>P</i>	Cohen's <i>d</i>
Male	127	26.83	10.48	0.95	297	.341	.11
Female	172	25.66	10.40				

Note. Two-tailed test. Cohen's $d = .11$ indicates a negligible effect size.

Bivariate Associations Among Study Variables (H2 and H3)

Pearson correlations (Table 2) tested H2 and H3. Psychological violence was positively and significantly correlated with gambling motives ($r = .38$, $p < .001$), supporting H2. Resilience showed a weak negative, non-significant correlation with gambling motives ($r = -.10$, $p = .072$). H3 received limited support because the association was in the expected direction but did not reach statistical significance. The implications of this pattern are clarified by the hierarchical regression results.

Hierarchical Regression Analysis (H4)

Table 4 presents the hierarchical regression predicting gambling motives.

Model 1: Psychological Violence

Model 1 entered psychological violence as the sole predictor. The model was statistically significant, $F(1, 297) = 49.30, p < .001, R^2 = .142$, adjusted $R^2 = .140$. Psychological violence was a significant positive predictor ($\beta = .38, B = 0.48, SE = 0.07, p < .001$), accounting for 14.2% of variance in gambling motives.

Model 2: Psychological Violence + Resilience

Model 2 added resilience. Adding resilience produced a statistically significant increment in explained variance ($\Delta R^2 = .018, \Delta F(1, 296) = 6.24, p = .013$), raising total explained variance to 16.0% ($R^2 = .160$, adjusted $R^2 = .154$). The overall model was significant, $F(2, 296) = 28.20, p < .001$.

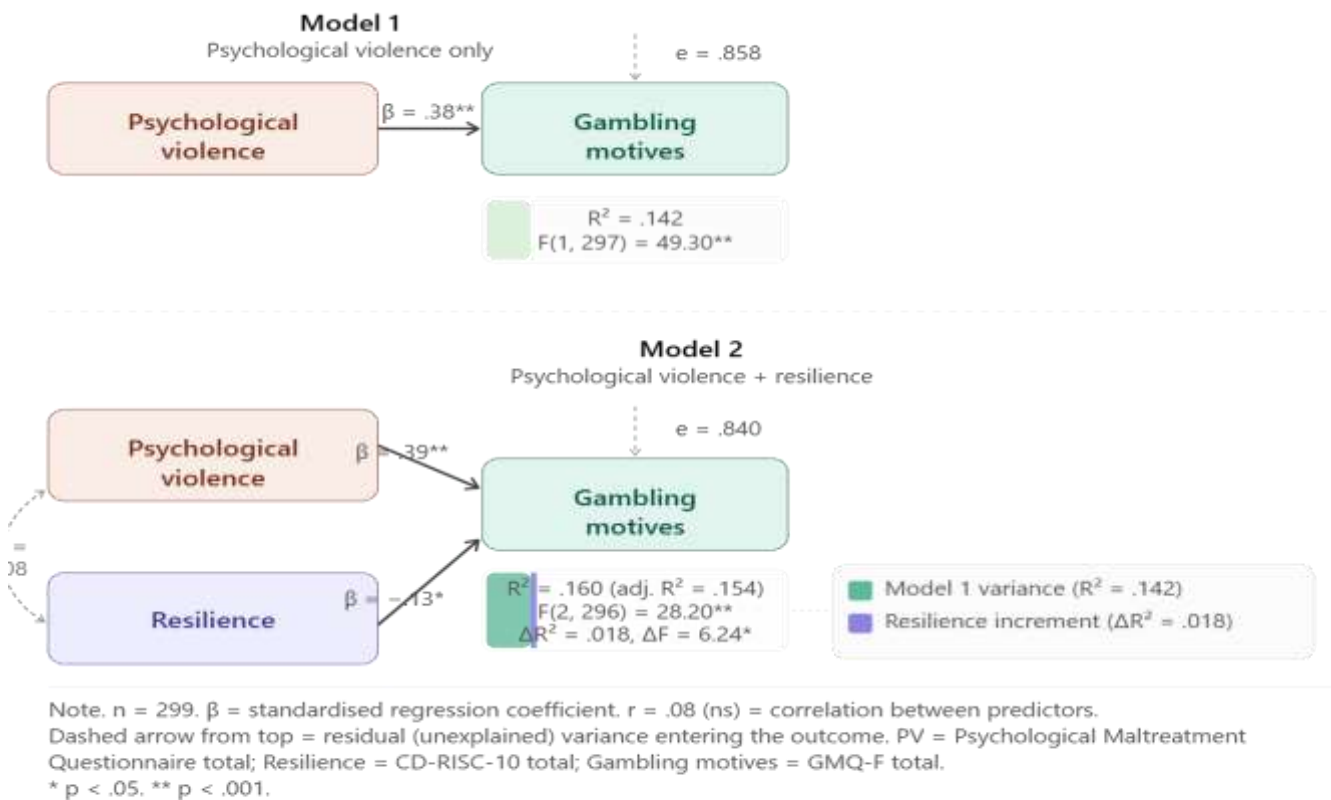
In the final model, psychological violence remained a significant positive predictor ($\beta = .39, B = 0.50, SE = 0.07, p < .001, VIF = 1.01$). Resilience, which was non-significant at the bivariate level ($r = -.10, p = .072$), emerged as a significant negative predictor in the multivariate model ($\beta = -.13, B = -0.19, SE = 0.08, p = .013, VIF = 1.01$). This pattern is consistent with a suppression effect: the weak and non-significant bivariate correlation between resilience and psychological violence ($r = .08$) meant that, at the bivariate level, shared variance between the two predictors partly masked resilience's relationship with gambling motives. Controlling for psychological violence removed this masking, allowing resilience's protective signal to emerge. H4 was fully supported.

Table 4: **Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Gambling Motives (n = 299)**

Predictor	B	SE	β	t	p	VIF	R^2	ΔR^2
Model 1							.142**	.142**
Constant	7.00	2.79	—	2.51	.013	—		
Psychological violence	0.48	0.07	.38**	7.02	< .001	1.00		
Model 2							.160**	.018*
Constant	11.47	3.29	—	3.48	< .001	—		
Psychological violence	0.50	0.07	.39**	7.25	< .001	1.01		
Resilience	-0.19	0.08	-.13*	-2.50	.013	1.01		

Note. n = 299 (one case excluded due to missing PMQ value). B = unstandardized regression coefficient; SE = standard error; β = standardized regression coefficient; VIF = variance inflation factor. Model 1: $F(1, 297) = 49.30, p < .001$. Model 2: $F(2, 296) = 28.20, p < .001$. ΔR^2 = increment in R^2 when block is added.

* p < .05. ** p < .001.



DISCUSSION

This study examined the predictive roles of psychological violence and resilience in shaping gambling motives among adolescents in Ibadan, Nigeria, using a hierarchical regression design that allowed the incremental contribution of each predictor to be assessed. The findings largely support the proposed developmental model. Although resilience demonstrated its protective effect only after adjustment for psychological violence, the results advance the empirical literature on adolescent gambling in sub-Saharan Africa in several important respects.

Gender Differences in Gambling Motives

The absence of a significant gender difference in gambling motives (Cohen's $d = .11$) suggests that male and female adolescents in this urban Nigerian context are similarly motivated to gamble. This aligns with evidence showing that gender differences in gambling tend to manifest more clearly in frequency of participation or game type preference than in the underlying motivational structure (Gülşen et al., 2023; Lee et al., 2014). The growing accessibility of online betting platforms and the social normalization of gambling among Nigerian youth may be eroding historically gendered patterns of gambling motivation, particularly during adolescence when peer norms exert substantial influence on behaviour (Derevensky & Gilbeau, 2019; Nowak, 2017).

Psychological Violence and Gambling Motives

Psychological violence was the strongest predictor of gambling motives in both models (Model 1: $\beta = .38$; Model 2: $\beta = .39$), alone accounting for 14.2% of variance. This is consistent with developmental psychopathology accounts of how chronic exposure to emotionally invalidating environments disrupts adolescents' regulatory capacities (Cicchetti & Toth, 2005; Kim-Cohen & Turkewitz, 2012). Adolescents in such environments accumulate unresolved emotional distress and eroded self-efficacy, increasing reliance on external mood-management strategies. Gambling may therefore function as an immediately accessible means of mood regulation and reward seeking within the increasingly commercialized gambling environment experienced by many Nigerian adolescents (Rogier & Velotti, 2019; Stewart & Zack, 2008).

This finding is consistent with evidence linking emotional maltreatment to externalizing behaviours and behavioural addictions more broadly (Anda et al., 2006; Kaehler & Frewen, 2020; Kim et al., 2022). Importantly, the association with gambling motives rather than behaviour itself suggests the risk process may be identifiable before habitual gambling takes hold, a point with direct implications for early intervention design.

Resilience: Suppression and Incremental Contribution

The most theoretically interesting finding concerns the pattern of results for resilience. At the bivariate level, resilience showed a weak, non-significant negative correlation with gambling motives ($r = -.10$, $p = .072$). However, its addition in Model 2 produced a statistically significant increment in explained variance ($\Delta R^2 = .018$, $\Delta F = 6.24$, $p = .013$), and resilience emerged as a significant negative predictor in the final model ($\beta = -.13$, $p = .013$). This is a pattern consistent with statistical suppression.

The mechanism is as follows: psychological violence and resilience share minimal variance ($r = .08$). At the bivariate level, this small overlap still introduces enough confounding variance to attenuate the detectable relationship between resilience and gambling motives. When psychological violence is controlled in the regression model, this confounding is removed, and resilience's protective signal becomes statistically apparent. This pattern is consistent with a developmental risk-protection framework (Fergus & Zimmerman, 2005; Luthar et al., 2000): the protective value of resilience is not contingent on the absence of adversity but operates alongside it, becoming more distinguishable when the risk environment is statistically held constant.

Although the incremental variance explained by resilience was modest ($\Delta R^2 = .018$), it nevertheless indicates that resilience contributes unique explanatory information beyond psychological violence. Resilience-focused intervention is relatively low-cost and scalable in school settings; even a small protective effect at the motivational level, if replicated longitudinally, translates into reduced vulnerability for a large number of adolescents. This finding builds on evidence from Nigerian adolescent samples that resilience-building can reduce maladaptive stress responses (Oyekola et al., 2020).

Joint Model and Unexplained Variance

The final model accounted for 16.0% of variance in gambling motives ($R^2 = .160$). Effect sizes of this magnitude are common in multivariate studies of psychosocial predictors of adolescent risk behaviours (Canale et al., 2019; Molinaro et al., 2021). Importantly, the findings also demonstrate that relatively

modest psychological effects may nevertheless have considerable public health significance when applied to large adolescent populations exposed to widespread gambling opportunities. The substantial residual variance (84%) points to the multi-determined nature of gambling motivation. Individual-level factors such as impulsivity, sensation seeking, and peer gambling norms, as well as structural variables such as socioeconomic stress and gambling advertising exposure, are likely contributors not captured by the present model (Blaszczynski & Nower, 2002; Canale et al., 2015; Molinaro et al., 2021).

Theoretical and Practical Implications

The findings extend motivational models of gambling by demonstrating that psychological violence functions as a significant antecedent of gambling motivation in an understudied African context, and by clarifying the conditions under which resilience's protective influence becomes statistically detectable. The hierarchical design is particularly informative here: it shows not only that both factors matter, but that their contributions are distinct, psychological violence accounts for a larger unique share of variance, while resilience's increment, though modest, is reliable.

Practically, the results support addressing gambling risk at the level of motivation rather than behaviour alone. Trauma-informed school-based programmes that reduce exposure to psychological violence and strengthen emotional regulation may weaken maladaptive gambling motives before they consolidate into habitual patterns. Resilience-building initiatives, through mentorship, peer support networks, and social-emotional learning, may simultaneously reduce adolescents' reliance on gambling as a coping or enhancement strategy. Both approaches align with international guidance on adolescent gambling prevention (Derevensky & Gilbeau, 2019) and with Nigerian educational policy priorities.

Limitations

Several limitations qualify the present findings. First, the cross-sectional design precludes causal inference. The directionality of observed associations, particularly the relationship between psychological violence and gambling motives, cannot be established from these data, and longitudinal designs are needed to test the developmental pathways implied by the conceptual framework.

Second, all three constructs were assessed via self-report within a single administration, introducing common method variance as a potential confound. Shared method bias may have inflated the correlation between psychological violence and gambling motives in particular. Future studies should consider multi-informant designs or behavioural gambling assessments to reduce this risk.

Third, the GMQ-F was administered to all 300 participants regardless of established gambling participation. The instrument was designed for individuals who gamble, and responses from non-gamblers may introduce construct-irrelevant variance in gambling motives scores. Incorporating a screening item to identify active gamblers would sharpen the construct validity of future studies and permit direct comparison between gamblers and non-gamblers.

Fourth, the school-based sampling procedure limits generalizability to out-of-school adolescents, who may face higher exposure to gambling and fewer institutional protective resources. Fifth, neither the PMQ nor the CD-RISC-10 has been formally standardized for Nigerian adolescent populations. Cross-

cultural construct equivalence cannot be assumed. Formal validation studies with Nigerian samples are warranted.

Finally, the model did not include established individual-level predictors of gambling motivation such as impulsivity, sensation seeking, or peer gambling norms. The 84% of unexplained variance in gambling motives underscores the need for more comprehensive models in future work.

CONCLUSION

This study advances understanding of adolescent gambling by demonstrating that psychological violence and resilience represent important developmental risk and protective factors associated with gambling motives among adolescents. Psychological violence increased adolescents' susceptibility to maladaptive gambling motives, whereas resilience exerted a protective influence by reducing reliance on these motivational pathways.

Collectively, these findings reinforce the importance of conceptualizing adolescent gambling within a developmental framework that integrates adverse relational experiences with adaptive psychological resources. Such a perspective shifts attention from gambling behaviour alone to the psychosocial processes that shape adolescents' vulnerability to gambling engagement and highlights gambling motives as important targets for early prevention and intervention.

From a practice perspective, the findings support the development of trauma-informed and resilience-oriented prevention programmes within schools and communities. Interventions that reduce exposure to psychological violence while strengthening adolescents' emotional regulation, adaptive coping, and supportive relationships may reduce the emergence of maladaptive gambling motives before gambling behaviour becomes established.

In conclusion, the study extends the literature on adolescent gambling by demonstrating the value of integrating developmental risk and protective factors in explaining gambling motivation within a Nigerian context. These findings provide a foundation for future longitudinal and culturally grounded research examining the developmental pathways that contribute to adolescent gambling across diverse settings.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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