Peer pressure and parenting styles as predictors of gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary school in Ijebu North Local Government Area, Ogun State

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the predictive influence of peer pressure and parenting styles on gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, involving 200 in-school adolescents randomly selected from four secondary schools located in Ijebu-Igbo, Oru, Awa-Ilaporu, and Ago-Iwoye. Data were collected using a structured instrument titled Peer Pressure and Parenting Styles as Predictors of Gambling Behaviour among Adolescents Questionnaire (PPSPGBQ). Content validity was established by experts in clinical psychology, while reliability analysis yielded Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.86, 0.93, and 0.94, indicating strong internal consistency. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were conducted to test the study hypotheses. Findings revealed that peer pressure significantly predicted gambling behaviour among adolescents, and that peer pressure and parenting styles jointly predicted gambling behaviour. Peer pressure emerged as the stronger predictor of gambling tendencies. The study underscores the need for targeted preventive strategies, including workshops, seminars, and school-based interventions, to mitigate the growing risk of gambling among adolescents.

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KEY WORDS:

Introduction

Despite their undeniable benefits, technological advancements, particularly smartphones, have introduced complex psychosocial challenges. Excessive smartphone use has been consistently associated with negative physical, social, and psychological outcomes, contributing to poor sleep quality, psychological distress, and loneliness (Alzhrani et al., 2023; Ge et al., 2025; Lee, 2022). Ironically, while smartphones were designed to facilitate communication, their overuse often results in emotional detachment and diminished interpersonal relationships, a paradox described as "digital loneliness" (Cho, 2020; Wacks & Weinstein, 2021). Similar to smartphone addiction, gambling represents another form of behavioural dependency that has gained increasing attention due to its psychological and social implications among adolescents.

Gambling can be understood as the act of placing bets on uncertain outcomes with the intent of gaining material rewards (Owuor et al., 2024). It encompasses risk, chance, and reward dynamics across various contexts such as lotteries, sports betting, and online gaming (Ferrari et al., 2022; Griffiths et al., 2019). Like other addictive behaviours, gambling stimulates reward mechanisms similar to substance addiction (Delfabbro et al., 2023; Potenza, 2018) and is shaped by cultural and social contexts (Reith, 2020; Russell et al., 2018).

Excessive gambling during adolescence has been associated with severe psychological and social consequences, including depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and financial distress. As a complex and multifaceted behaviour, adolescent gambling is shaped by both social and familial factors, particularly peer pressure and parenting styles (Parrado-González & Fernández-Calderón, 2023; Rizzo et al., 2023). Empirical evidence indicates that adolescents who interact frequently with gambling peers are more likely to engage in similar behaviours due to social reinforcement and conformity pressures (Basuki et al., 2023). Likewise, parental modelling plays a significant role, as adolescents whose parents gamble are more prone to develop similar addictive tendencies, reflecting intergenerational behavioural patterns (Owuor et al., 2024). These

findings emphasize that both social and familial influences shape adolescent gambling behaviour, reinforcing the importance of prevention programs that build healthy peer connections and active parental support

Peers are individuals of similar age, social standing, interests, backgrounds, and overall social situations. Laursen and Veenstra (2021) points out that while there are different stages in the development of the self, peers are an important source of information, critique, and support. Due to the nature of the development that occurs in this life stage, the presence of peers of the same age is important. Guo et al. (2023) explains that this is because adolescents are starting the transition from spending time with family to spending time with friends. Contrary to the attachment the adolescents have with their parents, there is a winding down and a transition from that to the finding and joining of their peers and groups. Yunia et al. (2019) explain that adolescents tend to spend more time with peers of the same age group due to shared experiences and developmental stages. In this age group there is a constructive assistance that peers provide. Laursen and Veenstra (2021) suggests that peers assist the adolescent in social norm rehearsal, competence, and provide support in identity and autonomy quest. On the other hand, there are negative attributes that peers provide. They explain that there is strong attachment and dependence that adolescents have on a peer group for pleasure. This attachment is unhealthy and it provides another negative characteristic on adolescent social clustering. Observing trends like hairstyles, music, and clothes also creates a positive feedback loop where the adolescent loses their individuality. Permata and Nasution (2022) explains that this social clustering leads to the adolescent conforming to the dominant social attitude of the group. Peer influence in gambling may attract adolescents to gambling (Basuki et al., 2023).

Parenting involves different activities to promote the continuance and development of the individual and the development of the individual as a whole. It is a dynamic process, and the outcome of the interaction is the survival of the child, the parent, or both. It includes the continuous adoption of certain behaviours, such as the warm and affectionate display of feelings towards the child. Also, the development of the child during childhood and adolescence, as well as the quality of the parent-child relationship, is built largely during the different stages and the development of the different parenting behaviours (Soňa, 2017). The different behaviours, attitudes, and parent-child interaction patterns are socialized in the child to form a unique constellation of parenting style (Crittenden et al., 2014). The development of emotional intelligence of the children is also greatly influenced by the parenting style (Olutope et al., 2019).

The behaviour of the parent towards the child is not the only thing that will determine the parenting style, the attitude of the parent in the discourse of the behaviour is also vital (Soňa, 2017).

Gambling behaviour among adolescents and young people (under 25 years) has received considerable research attention due to a high prevalence of gambling reported among these groups in recent years. A systematic review stated that 0.2 – 12.3% of youth fit the criteria for problem gambling (Calado et al., 2017) and that some researchers speculate that the problem gambling rate for adolescents may be similar to that of the adult population (Ha & Park, 2015). Though legislation has been put in place worldwide to limit gambling for adolescents and young adults, the advent of new technology like online gaming applications and websites that allow online gambling has greatly increased their exposure to problem gambling (Riley et al., 2021).

In the attempt to mitigate problem gambling in adolescents, adolescents with problematic gambling issues, in contrast to low-risk gambling adolescents, reported more often gambling for excitement, money, and for reasons related to escape, social interaction, and the problem. Given the excitement, monetary reward, and temptation to win and not lose, adolescents associate these with problem gambling (Dowling et al., 2017). Studies that concentrate on the adolescent population have also studied the negative consequences that excessive gambling has on adolescents physically and mentally, their social relationships, their academic performance, and their financial situation (Salonen et al., 2018).

Additionally, it seems that previous research primarily focuses on the harmful consequences of gambling behavior and overlooks the predictive factors. Therefore, addressing the predictive factors of gambling behavior is one of the most important research gaps to work on since it explains what drives teenagers to gambling, and it would aid in problem gambling behavior prevention efforts. This research focuses on peer pressure and parenting style, which is understandable since many studies have focused on gambling behavior and the factors peer pressure and parenting style contain (Aguocha et al., 2019; Kang et al., 2019; Sarti & Triventi, 2017; Sharma & Charulatha, 2024). However, these studies only examine legal gambling behavior in isolation, and the majority were systematic reviews conducted outside of Nigeria.

The primary objective of this study was to investigate the predictive influence of peer pressure and parenting styles on gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools within the Ijebu North Local

Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study aimed to (1) examine the extent to which peer pressure predicts gambling behaviour among adolescents, (2) determine the influence of parenting styles on adolescents' gambling behaviour, and (3) assess the joint predictive effects of peer pressure and parenting styles on gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools within the study area.

Method

This study employed a descriptive survey research design to examine the predictive influence of peer pressure and parenting styles on gambling behaviour among adolescents. This design was considered appropriate because it enables the collection of data from a naturally occurring population without manipulation of variables, allowing for the identification of relationships and predictive trends among the construct.

Population and Sample

The target population comprised in-school adolescents enrolled in secondary schools across four major towns within the Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria—namely Ijebu-Igbo, Oru, Awa-Ilaporu, and Ago-Iwoye. A total of 200 adolescents were selected using a multi-stage sampling technique. In the first stage, four secondary schools were selected through convenience sampling based on accessibility and administrative approval. In the second stage, simple random sampling was used to select 50 participants from each school to ensure representativeness across the study area. The sample included both male and female students aged 10–20 years.

Instrumentation

Data were collected using a structured instrument titled Peer Pressure and Parenting Styles as Predictors of Gambling Behaviour among Adolescents Questionnaire (PPPSBGAQ). The questionnaire comprised three adapted and standardized subscales: (1) Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI) measuring adolescents' engagement and risk levels in gambling behaviour. (2) Peer Pressure Scale Questionnaire–Revised (PPSQ–R) by Saini and Singh (2016) assessing the degree of susceptibility to peer influence.(3) Steinberg Parenting Styles Inventory measuring perceived parenting behaviours across authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive dimensions.

All items were measured on a Likert-type response format. Content validity was established through expert review by two clinical psychologists and one

psychometrician, who evaluated item clarity, relevance, and cultural appropriateness. Internal consistency reliability yielded Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.86 (PGSI), 0.93 (Peer Pressure), and 0.94 (Parenting Styles), indicating high reliability across subscales.

Procedure and Ethical Considerations

Prior to data collection, ethical approval was obtained from the Departmental Research Ethics Committee of Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye. Additional permission to conduct the study was granted by the principals of the participating schools. Parental consent and student assent were secured in accordance with ethical standards for research involving minors. Questionnaires were administered directly during school hours with the assistance of trained research assistants. Participation was voluntary, and anonymity and confidentiality were strictly maintained

Data Analysis

Out of the 200 questionnaires distributed, all were duly completed and retrieved, representing a 100% response rate. The data were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS, Version 25). Descriptive statistics (frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations) were used to summarize demographic characteristics and main variables. Inferential statistics, specifically simple and multiple regression analyses, were conducted to test the study hypotheses and determine the predictive power of peer pressure and parenting styles on gambling behaviour among adolescents. Prior to analysis, assumptions of normality, linearity, and homoscedasticity were examined and met.

Result

This chapter focus on the presentation of data generated from field work and discussion of findings. Two hundred (200) questionnaires was administered, retrieved and subjected to statistical analysis.

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, including age, gender, religious affiliation, and class distribution. The majority (56.5%) fell within the 10–15 years age range, while 43.0% were aged 16–20 years. Only a small proportion (0.5%) were above 25 years. The mean coded age score was 1.44 (SD = 0.52), indicating that most participants were clustered within the younger age categories. Regarding gender, 39.5% of respondents were male, while 60.5% were female. Concerning religious affiliation, most respondents

identified as Christians (74.5%), followed by Muslims (25.0%), with 0.5% belonging to other religions. The mean coded value for religious affiliation was 1.26 (SD = 0.52), confirming Christianity as the predominant religion among participants. The class distribution shows that most respondents were in SSS 2 (39.5%), followed by SSS 3 (28.5%), SSS 1 (17.5%), and JSS 3 (14.5%).

Table 1

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (n=200)

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	10-15	113	56.5
	16-20	86	43.0
	Above 25	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Gender	Male	79	39.5
	Female	121	60.5
	Total	200	100.0
Religious Affiliation	Christianity	149	74.5
	Islam	50	25.0
	Others	1	.5
	Total	200	100.0
Class	JSS 3	29	14.5
	SSS 1	35	17.5
	SSS 2	79	39.5
	SSS 3	57	28.5
	Total	200	100.0

Note. N = 200 Source:

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2025.

The hypothesis tested was: Peer pressure will significantly predict gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area. The regression analysis shows an R value of .339, indicating a moderate positive correlation between peer pressure and gambling behaviour. The R^2 value is .115, suggesting that peer pressure accounts for 11.5% of the variance in gambling behaviour among the adolescents. Although this percentage is relatively modest, it is statistically meaningful. The ANOVA table tests the overall significance of the regression model. The model yielded an F-value of 25.598 with a significance level of .000 ($p < .001$). This result indicates that the regression model is statistically significant, and peer pressure significantly predicts gambling behaviour among the adolescents.

Table 2

Regression Analysis Summary for Peer Pressure Predicting Gambling Behaviour

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.339a	.115	.111	4.26625

a. Predictors: (Constant), Peer Pressure

ANOVAa					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	465.903	1	465.903	25.598	.000b
Residual	3585.574	197	18.201		
Total	4051.477	198			

a. Dependent Variable: Gambling Behaviour
b. Predictors: (Constant), Peer Pressure

Coefficientsa		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-2.399	1.138		-2.108	.036
	Peer Pressure	.112	.022	.339	5.059	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Gambling Behaviour

The constant (intercept) is -2.399, with a p-value of .036. This implies that when peer pressure is at zero, the gambling behaviour score would be approximately -2.399, though practically, gambling behaviour cannot be negative; this is just the model's intercept in linear terms. The unstandardized coefficient (B) for peer pressure is .112, with a p-value of .000. This means that for every one-unit increase in peer pressure, gambling behaviour increases by .112 units, holding all other factors constant. The Beta coefficient (standardized coefficient) is .339, confirming that peer pressure has a positive and significant impact on gambling behaviour.

Since the p-value (.000) is less than the 0.05 significance threshold, the

alternative hypothesis (Peer pressure will significantly predict gambling behaviour) is accepted. This indicates that peer pressure is a significant predictor of gambling behaviour among adolescents in the study area.

Table 3

Regression Analysis Summary for Parenting Styles Predicting Gambling Behaviour

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.049 a	.002	-.003	4.52360

a. Predictors: (Constant), Parenting Styles

ANOVA[a]					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	9.693	1	9.693	.474	.492 b
Residual	4051.662	198	20.463		
Total	4061.355	199			

a. Dependent Variable: Gambling Behaviour
b. Predictors: (Constant), Parenting Styles

Coefficients[a]						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5.096	2.867		1.777	.077
	Parenting Styles	-.027	.040	-.049	-.688	.492

a. Dependent Variable: Gambling Behaviour

The hypothesis tested was: Parenting styles will significantly predict gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area. The regression analysis reveals an R value of .049, indicating a very weak correlation between parenting styles and gambling behaviour. The R^2 value is .002, meaning that parenting styles explain only 0.2% of the variance in gambling behaviour. This is an extremely low contribution,

indicating that parenting styles are not strong predictors of gambling behaviour among the adolescents in this study. The ANOVA table evaluates the overall fit of the model. The F-value is 0.474 with a significance level of .492 (p > .05). This indicates that the regression model is not statistically significant, suggesting that parenting styles do not significantly predict gambling behaviour in the study population.

The coefficients analysis revealed that the constant (intercept) is 5.096 with a p-value of .077, which is not statistically significant at the 0.05 level. The unstandardized coefficient (B) for parenting styles is -0.027 with a p-value of .492. This implies that for every one-unit increase in parenting styles, there is a decrease of 0.027 units in gambling behaviour, though this effect is not statistically significant. The Beta coefficient (standardized coefficient) is -.049, reinforcing that the relationship is both weak and negative, but also insignificant.

Since the p-value for parenting styles (.492) is greater than the significance threshold of 0.05, we fail to accept the alternative hypothesis. This means that parenting styles do not significantly predict gambling behaviour among adolescents in the selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area.

The hypothesis tested was: Peer pressure and parenting styles will jointly significantly predict gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area. The regression analysis shows a combined correlation coefficient (R) of .342, indicating a moderate positive relationship between the combination of peer pressure, parenting styles, and gambling behaviour. The coefficient of determination (R2) is .117, meaning that 11.7% of the variance in gambling behaviour is explained by peer pressure and parenting styles collectively. This is a noticeable contribution to the model, primarily driven by peer pressure, as seen from the individual coefficients. The ANOVA table assesses the overall significance of the model. The F-value is 12.960 with a p-value of .000 (p < .001), indicating that the combined model is statistically significant. This implies that peer pressure and parenting styles, when considered together, significantly predict gambling behaviour among adolescents.

Table 4

Regression Analysis Summary for Peer Pressure and Parenting Styles Predicting Gambling Behaviour

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.342[a]	.117	.108	4.27276

a. Predictors: (Constant), Peer Pressure, Parenting Styles

ANOVA[a]						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	473.212	2	236.606	12.960	.000[b]
	Residual	3578.266	196	18.256		
	Total	4051.477	198			

a. Dependent Variable: Gambling Behaviour

b. Predictors: (Constant), Peer Pressure, Parenting Styles

Coefficients[a]						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.675	2.952		-.229	.819
	Parenting Styles	-.024	.037	-.042	-.633	.528
	Peer Pressure	.111	.022	.338	5.034	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Gambling Behaviour

The coefficients analysis showed that the constant (intercept) is -.675, with a p-value of .819, which is not statistically significant. For parenting styles, the unstandardized coefficient (B) is -0.024 with a p-value of .528. This suggests that parenting styles contribute negatively to gambling behaviour, but the effect is not statistically significant. Its Beta coefficient is -.042, indicating a weak and non-significant influence. For peer pressure, the unstandardized coefficient (B) is 0.111 with a p-value of .000. This is highly significant, showing that peer pressure alone strongly predicts gambling behaviour. The Beta coefficient is .338,

reflecting a substantial impact on gambling tendencies.

Since the overall model is statistically significant (p < .001), the alternative hypothesis (Peer pressure and parenting styles will jointly significantly predict gambling behaviour) is accepted. This indicates that peer pressure and parenting styles combined significantly predict gambling behaviour among adolescents. However, the influence is largely driven by peer pressure, as parenting styles did not individually contribute significantly.

Discussion

This study examined the influence of peer pressure and parenting styles on gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area, Ogun State. The findings of the study are discussed in line with the research hypotheses and relevant literature; it also reveals significant insights into how these variables interact and influence each other among in-adolescents.

The first hypothesis tested and revealed that peer pressure significantly predicts gambling behaviour among adolescents, accounting for 11.5% of the variance in gambling behaviour. This finding aligns with previous research by Rizzo et al. (2023), which found that adolescents are particularly susceptible to peer influences when engaging in risk-related activities, including gambling. These findings reveal that gambling avoidance programs require mentorship that emphasizes the social groups adolescents belong to. In his 2019 work, Steinberg and Monahan elaborated on how group members reinforce and control behaviours of peers to maintain, social approbation and acceptance, highlighting the importance of social groups and relationships. Prevention strategies aimed at gambling avoidance need to focus on boosting adolescents self-image and esteem to empower them with self-control and independent decision making that counters gambling in demanding social situations. In his 2021 work, Hodgins, Williams and Craig explained that the control and regulation of social behaviours through peer relationships and interactions is dominant in adolescence. This implies that strategies aimed at avoiding gambling should embrace the social context of gambling and peer gambling behaviours. One can also explain the dominant effect of peer relationships on gambling through Bandura's social learning theory, which argues that individuals learn behaviours through the observation and imitation of individuals and peers who are significant in their social context and environments.

This means that trying to prevent gambling should focus on changing the

peer group to include positive role models and healthy friendships. Lastly, Herring et al. (2020) stated that gambling-activity peers influence adolescents to also gamble, either through direct prompts or by social influence. Hence, gambling-activity peers should be included on the positive and responsible anti-gambling behavioural models that will be emphasized in school and community activities. The findings also support the findings of Dussault and Sussman (2019) that adolescents are more likely to engage in gambling activities when they see their peers doing it. This means that there should be public awareness and intervention activities aimed to correct adolescents' ver misconceptions about gambling within their peers to relieve the social pressure to engage. The findings also support Kuss and Griffiths (2017) that peer pressure was likely one of the reasons adolescents used gambling to cope with their feelings. This means that prevention and counselling programs for adolescents need to focus on the emotional and psychological aspects to offer healthy alternatives to deal with feelings of stress, anxiety, and social isolation. Patton, Smith, and Marshall (2016) also noted that peer pressure was highly influential in groups where gambling was accepted as a social activity. Thus, prevention efforts need to focus on the social environments of gambling. Specifically, they need to work on reducing the acceptance of gambling in peer groups and substituting it with safer group activities that promote social interaction and bonding.

As the study shows, parenting styles significantly predicting adolescents gambling behaviours was found to not be true. This contradicts the findings of were gambling risk behaviours were linked to the authoritative and neglectful parenting styles (Barnes et al., 2017). This contradiction suggests that the parenting influence context is possible. This suggests that cultural parenting norms, involvement, and communication may influence the parenting and gambling relationship. While regression analysis statistically was weak and insignificant when it came to gambling tendencies, it shows that parenting style likely is not the only strong influence to the behaviours gambling in the population sampled. Given the results of if the parents of the study were involved in the day-to-day of the children and maintained communication. Gupta and Derevensky (2016) argued that gambling risk behaviours were linked to strong parental involvement as well as communication. This suggests that gambling risk behaviours likely parenting style. This suggests that gambling risk behaviour could be prevented by parenting communication.

Adolescents whose parents allowed them more freedom with less control from parents were more likely to engage in gambling compared to those whose parents were more authoritative. Taking this into consideration, parent

education programmes in the community would do well to teach parents the authoritative approach of "warm monitoring" to mitigate the amount of risky behaviours children are likely to engage in. Unlike the proposed theories, Serna et al. (2023) focused on the impact of specific parenting styles and parental risk behaviours within the gambling continuum on the tendency to gamble in children and adolescents. They showed that parents who engage in gambling and risk behaviours, children are likely to imitate those behaviours. They stressed that both the level of gambling risk behaviours in parents and the style of parenting significantly determine gambling behaviour in adolescents, with authoritative parenting style exerting the most control on the tendency to gamble. This contradiction may point to the fact that most parental modelling has a more dominant impact than the style of parenting. This may mean that a parent's attitude and behaviours around gambling may likely determine if the child engages in gambling more than the parent's control systems.

A recent study by Kaushik and Sundaresan (2024), although not describing the type of behaviour, also does not contradict the findings of this study since they argue that the different types of parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) do not have any statistically significant relationship with adolescent behaviour. This suggests that factors other than parenting styles, like peer influence, emotional regulation, gambling cue exposure, or other psychosocial variables, could be predominant risk factors for adolescent gambling. When parenting styles and peer pressure were examined together, the model still only accounted for 11.7% of the variance in gambling behaviour prediction. Most of this was explained by peer pressure, while parenting styles had little effect. This corresponds with findings from Bankole, (2019), which described how direct parental control is frequently supplanted by peer influence in adolescents' social gambling decisions, suggesting an emphasis on peer-oriented preventive strategies like peer mentoring and social norm campaigns with supportive parental involvement. This corresponds with findings by Rizzo et al. (2023) which state that even with parental control, the immediate peer group remains focal in adolescents' involvement in gambling behaviour. This suggests that successfully preventing adolescents from gambling should involve family, school, and community cooperation while especially targeting peer group norms and positive youth social networks.

Overall, these findings highlight the limitations of parenting as a singular strategy for mitigating gambling risks among adolescents, emphasizing instead the need for multifaceted interventions that address peer dynamics, social influences, and family communication simultaneously.

Conclusion

This study examined the role of peer pressure and parenting styles in predicting gambling behaviour among adolescents in selected secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government Area, Ogun State. The results provide important insights into the multiple factors that shape adolescents' engagement in gambling activities and contribute to understanding the socio-psychological context of adolescent behaviour in Nigeria.

The analysis revealed that peer pressure significantly predicted gambling behaviour, indicating that adolescents are strongly influenced by their peers during this developmental stage. Adolescents are more likely to conform to the behaviours and norms of their peer groups, especially in social situations where gambling is perceived as acceptable or rewarding.

Conversely, parenting styles did not significantly predict gambling behaviour, suggesting that parental control may be weaker than peer influence in this population. This finding may reflect limited parental involvement or indifference toward adolescents' social lives compared to the stronger influence exerted by peers. The combined analysis of both variables further confirmed that peer pressure exerts a more substantial effect on gambling behaviour than parenting styles. Overall, these results underscore the need to focus preventive efforts on peer-related interventions while maintaining supportive parental involvement.

Implications

This study highlights that the influence of peers on children's gambling behaviour is stronger than the influence of parents and parenting styles. The study contextualizes the influence of peers as the dominant factor within the socio-cultural context on the gambling behaviour of adolescents within this context. The study pushes back on the idea of parental control by demonstrating the limited predictive value of parenting styles and also the social responsiveness/volitional autonomy of adolescents alongside parenting styles. Furthermore, the study contributes to the social context on adolescent gambling that focuses on the determinants in Nigeria, filling in the gap in the literature on the subject. The findings translate to the potential of gambling behaviour interventions that focus on adolescents' peers directly, for example, through peer mentorship, education, and training on gambling resistance skills as alternatives to control measures parents impose.

Recommendations

This study's findings noted the value of implementing focused intervention initiatives aimed at restraining the impact of negative peer pressure. Thereafter, it will be helpful to develop workshops and support groups which will foster resilience to negative peer pressure to schools and community organizations. These should promote positive peer relations and guide adolescents to appreciate their individuality, and offer healthier alternatives to activities such as gambling. Integration of gambling awareness in the school curriculum will be useful. This should center on educating adolescents on gambling, the related risks and consequences, peer pressure and responsibility, and the decision-making process. This will arm adolescents with the right information that will help them avoid gambling.

Gambling peer pressure intervention will be effective if positive peer group dynamics are put in place. Community organizations and schools should help adolescents design peer groups that support positive behavior and social interaction to promote positive gambling changes. Participation in extracurricular activities, team sports, and volunteering are both constructive ways to keep adolescents busy and opportunities to mitigate the impact of 'at-risk' peers who might engage in gambling.

In short, it should be clear that the findings of the study reinforce the need for active participation of parents in school activities, the need for planned intervention initiatives meant to alleviate unhealthy peer pressure, the promotion of constructive activities that can replace gambling, community mobilization and joint efforts to curb gambling, and, on the part of the policymakers and the State, the tightening of measures that limit advertising and access to gambling services that are aimed at adolescents.

Limitations of the Study

Despite the study offers significant insights, it also has limitations. First, only adolescent self-reports, which are arguably the least reliable and most biased (for example, due to social desirability or faulty recall), were used. Second, there are also limitations with the study design. For example, the cross-sectional design precludes any causal interpretations of peer pressure, parenting styles, and gambling behavior. Finally, the quantitative method used in this research study fails to address the adolescents' deeper experiential realities and perspectives on gambling. There are significant gaps in this study, which justifies for research on gambling behavior in adolescents. There is a clear need for

longitudinal, mixed-methods research on gambling behavior in this age group to develop a better understanding and targeted interventions.

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