

SPORTS BETTING AMONG UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Sports Betting Among Unemployed Youths" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Sociology, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined sports betting among unemployed youths, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of sports; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with sports and betting. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 384 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 361 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.12). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.461$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.42, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.32$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on sports.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	7
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	10
1.8 Definition of Terms	12
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Conceptual Review	14
2.1.1 Concept of Sports	14
2.1.2 Concept of Betting	15
2.1.3 Concept of Unemployed	17
2.2 Theoretical Framework	19
2.2.1 Structural Functionalist Theory	19
2.2.2 Social Learning Theory	20
2.2.3 Strain Theory	21
2.2.4 Symbolic Interactionism	22
2.3 Empirical Review	23
2.3.1 Early Studies on sports	23
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on sports	25
2.3.3 Sports and betting	27
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	29
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	30
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	32
3.1 Research Design	32
3.2 Population of the Study	32
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	33
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	34
3.5 Research Instrument	35
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	36
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	37
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	38

3.8 Ethical Considerations	39
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	41
4.1 Data Presentation	41
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	41
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	42
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	43
4.5 Discussion of Findings	44
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	49
5.1 Summary	49
5.2 Conclusion	50
5.3 Recommendations	50
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	51
REFERENCES	53
APPENDIX	55

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	31
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	31
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	39
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	40
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	47
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	47
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	47
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	48
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	48
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	48
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	48
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	48

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	13
Figure 3.1: Sociology Research Context	40
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	47
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	47

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of sports betting among unemployed youths is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The phenomenon of sports, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of sports varies considerably from one region to another. Research by Ogbeide and Adigun (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting sports and betting. Such findings reinforce the argument that sports deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Evidence assembled by Eze and Alade (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to sports. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

The salience of sports in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of sports varies considerably from one region to another. Longitudinal research by Aderemi and Salami (2016) revealed that sustained attention to sports yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the argument that sports deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Findings reported by Obiora and Salami (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to sports recorded markedly different results. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The relationship between sports and betting has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how sports is experienced across communities. Field evidence gathered by Obiora and Salami (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of sports. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding betting. Comparative work by Okonkwo and Osinachi (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking sports with betting. Such findings reinforce the argument that sports deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised sports as a critical determinant of outcomes in sociology. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of sports and betting. Longitudinal research by Nwosu and Adeniyi (2016) revealed that sustained attention to sports yields appreciable dividends over time. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Studies by Okonkwo and Bamgbose (2019) largely support the view