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PEER INFLUENCE, SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND UNEMPLOYMENT AS PREDICTORS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN SPORT BETTING IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

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Abstract
The study examined peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment as predictors of youth engagement in sport betting in Ilorin Metropolis. The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 8 major betting centres in the area of study and simple random sampling technique was used to select 312 correspondents in the selected betting centres. A semi-structured questionnaire titled, "Peer Influence Socio-Economic Status Unemployment and Sport Betting Questionnaire (PISEFUSBQ)" was used for gathering data for the study. The data collected were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and Multiple Regression. Three hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significant. The findings revealed that there was positive significant relationship between peer influence and sport betting ($r = .640$, $P< .05$). Also there was positive significant relationship between socio-economic status and sport betting ($r =.682$ $P< .05$).Similarly, there was positive significant relationship between unemployment and sport betting ($r = .666$ $P< .05$). The joint contribution of Peer Influence, Socio-economic status and Unemployment as predictors of Youth's Engagement in Sport Betting was significant $F = 134.269$ $p<.05$; The relative contribution of unemployment ($\beta=0.353$, $t=7.029$, $p<.05$), socio-economic status ($\beta=0.299$, $t=4.704$, $p<.05$), and peer influence ($\beta=0.199$, $t=3.320$, $p>.05$) with unemployment being the most influential factor, followed by Socio-economic status and peer influence. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that efforts must be intensified by government and relevant stakeholders to provide employment opportunities to the youths in order to drive away the habit of sport betting. Youths should be enlightened and sensitised by parents, government and Non- governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the dangers associated with having bad peers as friends.

Keywords: *Peer Influence, Socio-economic status, Unemployment, Sport Betting*

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Introduction

Betting is a well-known activity among youth and they remain most vulnerable to the development of betting-related problems (Jacobs & Jacob, 2000). Bell and Boldero (2011) analysed on a world view level that 39% to 92% of young people have bet at least once in their lives. Moreover, as many as 52% of the youth bet once a week or more and 4% bet daily (Adebayo, 1998; Wood & Griffiths, 1998).The betting industry has established itself as a prominent social and economic force with significant impacts on job creation and revenue generation (Ligthelm, 2001). It follows that some young people have been reported to hold positive attitudes toward betting, such as entertainment, relaxation, masculinity, and financial benefits (Langa, 2010; Ahaibwe; Lakuma Katunze, & Mawejje 2016; Ligthelm 2001). Whether such rewards actually materialise remains questionable.

Betting has, however, been shown to have far-reaching negative implications at individual, family, community, and societal level; most of which remain insufficiently explored within the society. At the individual level, compulsive gambling problems affect a measurable proportion of young gamblers (Abdi, Ruiter, & Adal, 2015) and may manifest in both psychiatric disorder e.g., anxiety, depression, and sleep deprivation and long-term physical conditions e.g., cardiovascular disease, peptic ulcer disease, and hypertension (Fong & Ozorio, 2005; Langa, 2010).

Emerging youth involvement in sport betting trends in Nigeria has been traced to numerous factors which have made the concern of this study to focus on peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment as determinant factors. Numerous discourse and studies have been carried out on issues concerning sport betting among the youth of Nigeria and other societies or countries of the world, but little or no effort had been previously focused particularly on the peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment in determining youth engagement in sport betting in Ilorin Metropolis. Therefore, as a result of dearth of studies on the combination of the above variables in the area of study and other parts of Nigeria, there exists a gap which this study intends to fill. Hence, this study examines the influence of peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment as predictors of youth engagement in sport betting in Ilorin metropolis.

Youth, Betting and Unemployment: A Review of the Nexus

Youth is one of the stages in human development that is characterised by numerous social challenges that the society has had to grapple with. These include unemployment, substance abuse, negative peer influence, insecurity, corruption, poverty, poor standard of living, and poor state of education, amongst others. It is generally observed that peer group play an integral and sensitive role in influencing and shaping the risky activities of young people. Shead, Derevensky and Gupta (2010) posited that youth often begin gambling amongst friends before they start participating in regulated forms of gambling. Thus, having friends who bet makes betting less likely to be perceived as a high-risk activity. It was found in Gupta and Derevensky (1997) that 75% of the

research participants reported that they bet with their friends. This shows the intense and level of relationship between the peer relationship and potential betting behaviour.

Boyer (2006) and Deans, Thomas, Daube, and Derevensky (2016) opined that youths at this period in life transition face variety of risk-taking behaviour such as risky sexual activities, delinquent behaviour, betting with friends, alcohol consumption and tobacco use. It is the period that is marked with decisions and choices that are usually influenced by peer group because they spend more time with friends and less time with parents. A lot of discourses have showed influence of peer on the betting bahaviour of the youth in the contemporary world. These include Purdie et al. (2011) which posited that among six in ten respondents (youth) who involved in betting indicated that they gambled with at least one other person, usually a friend. Similarly, Delfabbro and Thrubb (2003) noted that a friend who is frequent in betting can have a significant impact in initiating another friend to become a gambler or a bettor. Youths between the age brackets 18 to 24 are more frequent in participating in sport betting and other forms of gambling because of the effect of exposure to market in adolescence (Hare, 2015). Alfred (2015) found in his study that about 64 percent of the respondents find the relevance of sport betting from social group, 8 percent of them have learned it from family members and 10 percent of the research participants saw their friends filling betting ticket and 18 percent of the respondents saw it on sport news paper. The above study shows that the majority of the bettors (64%) were influenced to involve in betting by friends.

In the same vein, sport betting is influenced by socio-economic statuses. According to Ahaibwe, Lakuna, Katunze and Mawejje (2016) level of education is positively correlated to sport betting. They opined that respondents with post secondary school education have higher tendency to participate in betting than those with less education. Their study equally revealed that males are more inclined to gamble than women because women do not always go to betting centres and as such they do not trust people to engage in such a risky act in their absence. Scarcity of regular household income is another factor that influences some youths in engaging in sport betting. The fact that some parents find it extremely difficult to meet up with basic necessities of life turns some youths to sport betting to argument the essential facilities that could not be provided by their parents (Mwesigwa, 2018)

Eboh, and Babatunde (2015) and Olashore, Akanni, and Olashore, (2017) revealed that most gamblers come from the lowest socio-economic stratum of society. This implies that those from lowest socio-economic stratum of the society are more vulnerable to engage in gambling especially in developing countries because of high rate of poverty. Those who are not employed have higher propensity to involve in betting compare to those who are employed probably because those who are not employed always look for alternative means of survival (Ahaibwe, Lakuna, Katunze & Mawejje, 2016). Mwesigwa (2018) considered group interaction as a factor that necessitates youth engagement in sport betting. The participants pointed out that they

were introduced into sport betting by friends who happened to bet on regular basis and they encouraged them on most occasions to participate in such an act because of the monetary value attached to winning. Similarly, some youth found betting centres as an avenue to interact with colleagues but eventually those colleagues later lured them into betting activities.

Akinmulegun (2014) noted that unemployment is regarded as the root of poverty and other negative behaviuor in Nigeria and other parts of the world. He argues that the rising of unemployment in Nigeria predominantly among the graduates is worrisome in the recent decades, which is as a result of the sharp increase in the tertiary institutions turnouts. The youth unemployment in Nigeria is ignited with unfavourable and defective economic policies which also act as a deterrent to employment generation, high exchange rate, lack of self-reliant and creative graduate youths, affordable interest rate and cause lack of conducive and enabling environment that will attract foreign investors (Nwagwu, 2014). There is a dearth of studies on relationship between unemployment and sport betting. Therefore, some of the studies such as Akinmulegun (2014) and Rodgers, Hall, Blanchard, and Munroe (2001) showed negative relationship between unemployment, drug addict and gambling.

Akinlosoju, Imandojemu and Aina (2019) revealed that the majority of youth who engage in sport betting are unemployed. They pointed out high rate of youth unemployment as an indicator for youths engagement in sport betting and other types of betting. However, some youths see their participation in sport betting as an increase passion for sport. This implies that some youths engaged in sport betting because of their passion for the sport. Sport as part of recreational activities is essential to human health and the complexity, nature, purpose, and essence of sport varied over time and space across human societies. Sport include all forms of competitive physical activities or games which involved organise team or participants aimed to maintain or improve physical ability and skills while providing enjoyment and entertainment for interested spectators (Shipway, 2007). This shows that football has diverse objectives and it is multi-contextual in purposes and manifestations (Armstrong & Baron, 2004).

Sport betting has created a number of opportunities for the youth especially young graduates in Nigeria because of unfavourable economic atmosphere and lack of employment opportunities which resulted from high saturation of labour market. However, despite these opportunities, betting-related harms have emerged in public health and nationwide concomitantly (Salonen, Alho, & Castren, 2017). Although, sport is a widely known recreational activity in many societies across the globe (Suissas, 2008), sport betting is a global phenomenon in which the number of bettors vary from one country to another. In Australia, Delfabbro and Thrump, (2003) report that 47% of youths have engaged in betting before the age of 12 and more than average (over 60%) of those aged between 15 and 17 years' bet annually.

Derevensky, Sklar, Gupta, and Messerlian (2010) found that in about 1,417 Canadian Secondary schools; 75 % of youths had bet for money before reaching adolescence and only 23% reported has never engaged in betting. In relation to other nations of the world, prevalence rate of betting has been evident in Sub Saharan African (Ssewanyana & Bitawire, 2018). A recent survey in Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania reveals that about 3,879 youth aged between 17 and 35 (54%) of youths in these countries have engaged in some forms of betting activities (Ssewanyana & Bitawire, 2018). Their studies reveal that Kenya had 76% of youth who had previously participated in betting, Uganda 57%, Ghana 42% and Nigeria 77%. This report shows about 9.5% increase in betting rate among youths in Nigeria when compared with Eboh and Babatunde (2015) who reported 67.5% betting rate among university students in Nigeria. However, Griffiths, Wardle, Orford, Sproston, and Erens (2009) and Eboh and Babatunde (2015) have attributed this increase in betting behaviour among youths to the high rate of unemployment, low socio-economic status of the bettors and free access to betting centres. Therefore, based on the above premise, this study focuses on peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment as predictors of youth engagement in sport betting in Ilorin Metropolis**.**

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted Theory of Planned Behaviour of Betting (TPBB). Flack and Morris (2017) are leading exponents of this theory. They believed that individuals always have intention to involve in particular behaviour like betting at a specific time and space. This theory is developed to modify the influence of betting behaviour. This includes the expected emotion that triggers someone to involve in betting and its financial outcomes. According to Flack & Morris (2017) TPBB is based on four major assumptions. These include behavioural intention, attitude toward behaviour, subjective norm, and perceived behavioural control.

Behavioural intention represents an individual's inner consciousness to perform certain behaviour according to his desire because of the benefits attached to it. Basically, the stronger the intention, the more likely the act will be performed.

Attitude toward behaviour implies the degree to which a person (bettor) has a positive or negative feeling to carry out the desired behaviour. This implies that if the person has a favourable attitude towards the act (betting), he will perform it and vice versa. Therefore, betting behaviour is largely determined by the bettor's attitude.

Subjective norm refers to the belief by the bettors about whether a significant number of people perceive the act (betting) as appropriate or inappropriate. This has to do with perception of people in social environment where the act is taking place. If the people in that environment see no harm in it (betting), there is high tendency for continuity and patronage of such behaviour (betting). The subjective norm can be a determinant factor influencing the youth's engagement in sport betting through the opinions, preferences and perspectives of other individuals' in their environment. For

instance, an individual may not see the reason to engage in sport betting because the majority of people in the environment where he lives detest betting while some individuals may embrace it all in the name of the high rate of acceptability of it in their environment. Hence, environment influences the decision making process of individuals (bettors).

Perceived behavioural control focuses on the ability of the individual to conceive if the behaviour is easy or difficulty to control. Wu and Tang (2012) posited that ability of the bettor to control betting behaviour is predicted by problems inherent in it. The lower the problem, the easier the ability to control it and vice versa.

From the foregoing, attitude of people towards betting is largely determined by how bettors perceive it and circumstances that surround its patronage such as peer influence, social environment, unemployment, socio-economic status amongst others.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significant in the study:

H_o 1: There is no relationship between peer influence and youth engagement in sport betting.

H_o 2: There is no relationship between socio-economic factors and youth engagement in sport betting.

H_o 3: There is no relationship between unemployment and youth engagement in sport betting.

Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design method in order to survey the opinions, preferences and perceptions of the research participants. Thus, the approach was chosen as an appropriate method to survey the opinions and preferences of the research participants in a one contact survey. The population for the study consists of all youths that are involved in sport betting at various betting centres in Ilorin Metropolis. Purposive sampling technique was used to select eight major betting centres in Ilorin metropolis which include Tanke, Taiwo, Saboline, Gaa-Akanbi, Maraba, Agbo-Oba, Post Office, and Baboko. In the same vein, simple random sampling technique was adopted to select three hundred twenty (320) research participants. Forty research participants were randomly selected to ensure equal representation of each selected betting centre.

The research instrument was semi- structured titled "Peer Influence Socio-economic status Unemployment and Sport Betting Questionnaire (PISESUSBQ)". It was divided into five sections (A, B, C, D and E). Section A contains questions related to socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. Section B contains questions on peer influence on sport betting. Section C Section contains questions on the impact of socio-economic status on sport betting. Section D contains questions related to the influence of unemployment on sport betting. Section E was structured with questions

related to sport betting. The researchers used a direct delivery method to administer the questionnaire to the research participants with the aid of two research assistants, and also retrieve the questionnaire immediately upon completion.

The researcher was also available to explain to the research participants what is not clear to them about the questionnaire. At the end of the administration of the questionnaire at various betting centres that were selected for this study, 312 questionnaire were successfully completed and retrieved without errors. The data collected were analysed using Pearson's Product Moment Correlations (PPMC) and Multiple Regression statistical methods. PPMC was used to establish the degree of relationship among the variables under investigation, while Multiple Regression analysis was adopted to find the joint and relative contributions of the independent variables on the dependent variable.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

S/No	Variable	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Gender	Male	279	89'4
		Female	33	10'6
		Total	312	100.0
S/No	**Variable**	**Categories**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
2	Age	20-29	264	84.6
		19 and below	30	9.6
		30 and above	15	4.8
		40 and above	3	1.0
		Total	312	100.0
S/No	**Variable**	**Categories**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
3	Religion	Islam	168	53.8
		Christianity	141	45.2
		Others	3	1.0
		Total	312	100.0
S/No	**Variable**	**Categories**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
4	Education	B.Sc./ HND	198	63.5
		WAEC and equivalent	60	19.2
		OND /NCE	42	13.5
		No formal education	12	3.8
		Total	312	100.0
S/No	**Variable**	**Categories**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
5	Family Type	Extended	219	70.2
		Nuclear	72	23.1
		Single parent	21	6.7
		Total	312	100.0
S/No	**Variable**	**Categories**	**Frequency**	**Percentage (%)**
6	Family Socio-Economic Status	Lower	176	56.4
		Middle	103	33.0
		Higher	33	10.6
		Total	312	100.0

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork (2019)

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic distribution of the respondents. Distribution of the respondents by gender indicates that 279 (89.4 %) of the respondents were males while 33 (10.6 %) of the respondents were females. It can be deduced from this result that the majority of the youths who engaged in football betting in the study areas were males. Distribution of the respondents by age shows that respondents between age bracket 20-29 years were 264 (84.6%), followed by 30 (9.6 %) of the respondents who were between age range of 19 years and below, while 15 (4.8%) of the respondents were between the ages of 30 and above and 3 (1.0 %) of the respondents were of ages between 40 years and above. This implies that youth between ages 20 and 29 years were the major patronage of the football betting in the study area. Distribution of the respondents by religion indicates that 166 (53.8 %) of the respondents were Muslims while 141 (45.2%) of the respondents were Christians and 3 (1.0 %) of respondents were followers of other religions.

Distributions of the respondents by education shows that 198 (63.5 %) of the respondents possess B.Sc. / HND qualifications, followed by 60 (19.2 %) of the respondents who hold WAEC and equivalent, followed by 42 (13.5%) of the respondents who have OND/NCE while 12 (3.8 %) of the respondents have no formal education. Distribution of respondents by family type indicates that 219 (70.2 %) of the respondents were from extended family type, followed by 72 (23.1 %) of the respondents who were from nuclear family type while 21 (6.7 %) of the respondents were from single parent family type. Distribution of respondents by family socio-economic status shows that more than average 176 (56.4 %) of the respondents who came from lower socio-economic strata of the society, followed by 103 (33.0 %) of the respondents were from middle socio-economic background while 33 (13.0 %) of the respondents were from higher socio-economic background of society of the study area.

Result and Discussion of Findings

The results obtained in the analysis of data collected from research participants are presented below:

Analysis of hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between peer influence and sport betting.

Table 2: Showing Pearson Product Moment Correlation between peer influence and sport betting

Variables	Mean	SD	N	R	P-Value
Peer Influence	17.8846	4.59688	312	0.640	0.000
Sport Betting	18.6442	4.89291			

Results in table 2 show the relationship between peer influence and sport betting. The table shows the significant positive relationship between peer influence and sport betting ($r = 0.64 < 0.05$).Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between peer influence and sport betting is rejected.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between socioeconomic status and sport betting

Table 3: Pearson's Product Moment Correlations between socio-economic status and sport betting.

Variables	Mean	SD	N	R	P-Value
Socio-economic status	18.6538	4.95567	312	0.682	0.000
Sport Betting	18.6442	4.90872			

Results in table 3 indicate the relationship between socio-economic status and sport betting. The table shows the significant positive relationship between socio-economic status and sport betting (0.682< 0.05). Therefore, it can be deduced that the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and sport betting is rejected.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and sport betting

Table 4: Pearson's Product Moment Correlations between unemployment and sport betting.

Variables	Mean	SD	N	R	P-Value
Unemployment	18.0000	4.64010	312	0.666	0.000
Sport Betting	18.6442	4.89219			

Results in table 4 indicate the relationship between unemployment and sport betting. The table shows the significant positive relationship between unemployment and sport betting (0.666 < 0.05). Therefore, it can be inferred that the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant relationship between unemployment and sport betting is rejected.

Table 5: Multiple Regression showing Peer Influence, Socio-economic factors and Unemployment as predictors for Youth's Engagement in Sport Betting.

Variables	R	R^2	Adjusted R	F	Sig.	Beta	T	Sig.
Peer Influence						0.199	3.320	0.001
Socioeconomic Status	0.753[a]	0.567	0.562	134.269	0.000[b]	0.299	4.704	0.000
Unemployment						0.353	7.029	0.000

Dependent variable: sport betting

Results in table 5 show that, peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment predicted 56.7% significant independent and joint influence on sport betting ($R=0.753$, $R^2=0.567$, Adjusted $R=0.562$, $F(134.269)$, $p<.05$). The result further predicted that, Unemployment ($\beta=0.353$, $t=7.029$, $p<.05$) will have the highest significant independent influence on sport betting. Also, Socio-economic status ($\beta=0.299$, $t=4.704$, $p<.05$) shows significant independent influence on sport betting. However, Peer Influence ($\beta=0.199$, $t=3.320$, $p>.05$) shows no significant independent influence on sport betting.

Discussion of Findings

The results in Table 2 show that there was significant relationship between peer influence and sport betting. This study corroborates the studies of Derevensky and Gupta (2004) and Murugi (2012): Their findings show that gamblers are usually introduced to gambling by peers or friends. They keep on playing and involving in different forms of betting based on their friends' influence and motivation to win. In relation to their studies, peer influence was considered to be of greater influence on youths' engagement in sport betting and other forms of betting. It is also in line with Coles (1995) who explained that the youths particularly males develop attitudes towards gambling/betting from friends, family and other significant people in lives.

Betting is viewed as normative activity when it becomes a regular activity among friends (Gupta &Derevensky, 1997). The study is in line with Bandura and Walters (1977)'s view which posited that most of the behaviour exhibited by people especially young ones are learned. This learning could be through parents, significant others and peers. They noted that such behaviour could be learned deliberately or inadvertently through parental or peers influence. This indicates that bettors are initiated into betting through imitation of their friends.

The result in Table 3 reveals that there was significant relationship between socio-economic status and sport betting. This finding corroborates the findings of Kombo and Tromp (2006) which found that close to 45 percent of the youths in Kenya involved in gambling especially the short message services (SMS) that are basics of both lotteries and promotions. The rationale behind their involvement in betting was their poor socio-economic status and they found it to be a reasonable and dependable source of income without any risk. This is also in support of Olashore, Akanni, and Olashore (2017) and Eboh, and Babatunde (2015) who revealed that most gamblers come from the lowest socio-economic stratum of society. The result is also in tandem with Ngale (2009) who revealed the relationship between socio-economic status and betting behaviour. The result points out that most bettors come from the lowest socio-economic background of society. He further emphasised that about seventy five percent of the bettors come from household where seven persons and above reside under the same roof.

The result in Table 4 indicates that there was significant relationship between unemployment and sport betting. This result is in line with Murugi (2012) who argued that youths' unemployment greatly influences their involvement in gambling. This finding is also in tandem with Valentine (2008) who averted that youth employment leads to reduction in betting or gambling since they have gotten a reasonable source of income and when they lack employment opportunities they resort to other activities like sport betting. The finding is also consistent with Arge and Kristansson (2015) who maintained that the majority of people who engage in gambling are negatively affected by unemployment than those who are employed or in school.

Implications of the findings

Findings from the study have numerous useful implications. Firstly, the findings will help the community members to be aware of the dangers posed by the youths engagement in sport betting. The dangers include increase in crime rate. Besides, bettors are also susceptible to depression; anxiety; compulsive and addictive betting, suicidal thought, negative peers influence amongst others which needed concerted efforts of all and sundry in the community to find lasting solutions to in order to save future of our teeming youths in the community since both Islamic and Christian scriptures are also against the act. Findings from the study will help our youths to have an in-depth knowledge of the importance of abstinence and discontinuing from sport betting despite that it has being a potent sources of income for unemployed youths. Thus, they should look inward for legitimate sources of income and livelihood in order to become good ambassadors of their community.

Findings from the study will also help government make policies and sensitisation campaigns and programmes that will awake the youth to the dangers inherent in betting. It is possible for government to adopt this measure to discourage bettors because similar campaigns have been adopted to discourage smokers regardless of huge amount of taxes government realizes from the betting companies. Findings from the study will help the parents to be aware that youths who lack parental guide, supervision and basic necessities of life will find alternative means of survival like sport betting. Findings from the study will help social workers and counselors to promote and ensure rehabilitation of bettors addicts in order to lead a meaningful and purposive life. There is also a need for social workers to embark on aggressive public orientation and sensitisation to encourage youths to desist from all forms of betting/gambling.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that peer influence, socio-economic status and unemployment have significant relationship on youths engagement in sport betting in Ilorin metropolis. Therefore, parents need to be up and doing in their responsibilities and strive to know the type of friend their wards associate with and try as much as possible to be their good role models. In addition, all necessary mechanisms should be put in place by various stake holders to discourage the youth from seeing the betting as a means of survival because of its inherent risk and outcome.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Effort must be intensified by government and relevant stakeholders to provide employment opportunities to the youth in order to drive away the habit of sport betting. Government should look inward on how youths can be engaged in meaningful employment that can provide them sustainable income in order to discourage them from betting as a means of livelihood.
2. Youth should be enlightened and sensitised by parents, government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the danger associated with having bad peers as friends. Workshop should be organised in various constituencies of the state by government and Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) on the need for the youth to know the importance of having good and responsible friends and the likely negative consequences that is associated with having bad peers as friends.
3. Philanthropists within the country should endeavour to support and empower youths from lower class stratum of the society to improve their pathetic living standard. Highly spirited philanthropists can equally compliment government efforts to empower youth from lowest socio-economic background of the society since government cannot afford to cater for the need of every citizen in the society.
4. Stipends should be provided to the unemployed youths to meet their daily ends in order to avoid involvement in sport betting. Government can also give soft loan with low interest rate to the interested youths to start their own small scale businesses.
5. Youth should be taught vocational studies in school to avoid over reliance on white collar job. The skills acquisition course(s) should be included in all tertiary institutions curriculum and it should be made compulsory for graduation so that students can attach more value to it.

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