

TITLE: THE CONSEQUENCES OF GAMBLING ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF CASINO PLAYERS IN NAIROBI COUNTY

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Many studies have been conducted and found out that gambling as a habit often come riding on with other behavioral disorders, a situation that creates strong economical disorders pertaining to an individual pushing him to bankruptcy or worse still to a life of crime. They though argue that there is no conclusive research that has proved any correlation between gambling and bankruptcy. In the eyes of the society, gamblers are seen taking to gambling as a way to run away from their problems, stress, anger and loneliness. They often exhibit mood swings and a strangely secretive behaviour, they run behind gambling without the thought that gambling is actually inviting more problems in their life. Their unquenchable thirst of profits, makes them continue wanting more. They start borrowing money and taking secret loans to bet money. In spite of the losses they face, they continue betting. The general objective of the study was to establish the consequences of gambling on the socio-economic status of casino players in Nairobi County, Kenya. whereas the specific objectives was to investigate how money spent on gambling, to determine the correlation between length of time gambling in Kenya were affecting the socio-economic status of the players and also to establish other factors affecting casino gamblers in Nairobi. The study adopted a causal effect design with the target population being gamblers in Nairobi, Kenya from who were randomly picked from 10 casinos in different regions using stratified random sampling method. Data was collected using questionnaires and was analyzed using descriptive analysis. At the end of the study, the consequences of gambling in Nairobi County was ascertained and recommendations made on the same. The study found that gamblers feel depressed down or irritable. Gamblers lose interest in usual activities, their sleep has changed (for example they has problems falling asleep or staying asleep, or they sleep too much) and their investment pattern has been greatly affected as they divert assets to gambling. The study established that gamblers have borrowed money to gamble and have not paid it back. The study established that gamblers have borrowed money to gamble and have not paid it back. The study found that gamblers have lost time from work or other commitments due to time spent on gambling and they spend 8-12 hours in a day gambling. The study concludes that the main negative effects of gambling is problem gambling. The skill of a gambler lies in performing the calculation between the three parameters and making a decision about what amount should be put on stake and how much to expect in return. The study concludes that prevalence amongst men is two to three times higher than amongst women. The study concludes that problem gamblers report higher than average incidences of job loss and those who remain in work report lost productivity through lateness, non-attendance and preoccupation with gambling. The study recommends the government to educate the public of signs of gambling. Those who are already in gambling need to be taught and warned not to compromise the wellbeing of their family. The study recommends that consumer protection, community/consumer awareness, education and treatment to be included within the frame of reference of ‘responsible gambling’. Governments should provide the regulatory oversight over gambling operations. The study recommends that players should stay with their families instead of gambling