

# Review of: "Gambling Prevalence and Factors Associated with Gambling Participation among University Students in Uganda"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Title: Review of "Gambling Prevalence and Factors Associated with Gambling Participation among University Students in Uganda"

General Comments: The paper explores the prevalence of gambling among university students in Uganda and investigates the factors associated with their participation in gambling for financial gain. Overall, the study addresses an important and timely topic, considering the increasing popularity of gambling among youth in Uganda. The paper provides valuable insights into the factors influencing gambling behavior among university students and emphasizes the need for preventive and intervention strategies. However, there are several areas that could be improved to enhance the clarity and rigor of the study.

1. Abstract: The abstract provides a concise overview of the study. It effectively summarizes the purpose, methods, and key findings. However, it would be helpful to include specific details about the survey instruments used and the main predictors identified. Additionally, providing a brief mention of the limitations or implications of the findings would further enhance the abstract.
2. Introduction: The introduction provides a good background on the prevalence of gambling in Uganda and its negative consequences. It establishes the need for research focusing on university students, who have received relatively less attention in previous studies. However, the introduction lacks a clear research objective or hypothesis. It would be beneficial to explicitly state the research questions or hypotheses that the study aims to address.
3. Problem Statement: The problem statement effectively highlights the research gap regarding gambling among university students in Uganda. However, it would be useful to provide more context and rationale for the importance of understanding the factors associated with gambling behavior specifically among this population. Additionally, the references cited in this section could be expanded to include more recent and diverse sources.
4. Materials and Methods: The study design and participant recruitment procedures are adequately described. However, the section lacks information about the sampling technique employed and the criteria for participant inclusion/exclusion. Providing these details would enhance the transparency and replicability of the study. Additionally, it would be helpful to provide information on the reliability and validity of the survey instruments used, especially the USEPP scale.
5. Measures: The description of the measures used is informative. However, it would be beneficial to include the specific

items or domains assessed within each measure. This would enable readers to better understand the constructs being measured and evaluate the appropriateness of the instruments for the study. Additionally, reporting the Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the psychosocial functioning and antisocial behavior items indicates internal consistency, but it would be useful to provide more details about the psychometric properties of these measures.

6. Results: The results section is clear and provides a good overview of the findings. However, it would be helpful to present the response rates for each university to assess the representativeness of the sample. Additionally, including effect sizes or odds ratios for the significant predictors would further enhance the interpretation of the results.
7. Discussion: The discussion appropriately relates the findings to the existing literature and research questions. However, it could be strengthened by providing more in-depth interpretations of the results and discussing their implications in greater detail. Additionally, it would be valuable to acknowledge and discuss any limitations of the study, such as the potential for self-report biases or the generalizability of the findings beyond the sampled universities.
8. Conclusion: The conclusion provides a concise summary of the study's main findings and their implications. However, it would be beneficial to include suggestions for future research directions and practical recommendations for interventions or preventive strategies based on the findings.
9. Language and Formatting: The paper is generally well-written, but there are a few grammatical errors and awkward sentence constructions throughout. Proofreading the manuscript carefully would help improve its clarity and readability. Additionally, the manuscript could benefit from a more structured formatting, including subsections within the introduction, methods, and results sections, to enhance the organization and flow of the paper.

Overall, the paper contributes to our understanding of gambling behavior among university students in Uganda and identifies important factors associated with their participation in gambling for financial gain. By addressing the constructive comments and suggestions mentioned above, the clarity and rigor of the study can be further improved.