

## ABSTRACT

The discovery of gambling specifically sports betting networks in Kenya has become a concern. Gambling can be described as betting money or property on the outcome of a game or event that is purely based on chance. Betting has become a way of life in Kenya with a lucky few winning millions of the money and millions losing to gambling and they bear the pain of gambling. Due to increased freedom and frequent access to internet and gambling machines in Nyamira South, many students have been consciously or otherwise caught in this web leading to poor academic performance, missing classes and high student dropout. This study explored the relationship between personality type, gender and gambling tendencies among secondary school students in Nyamira South Sub County, Kenya. Objectives were: to determine the association between extraversion and gambling tendencies, to investigate the association between neuroticism and gambling tendencies, to investigate the association between introversion and gambling tendencies and to establish the association between gender and gambling tendencies among secondary school students in Nyamira South Sub-County. The study adopted mixed method research approach where concurrent triangulation design was used. The units of analysis were 50 secondary schools. The target populations were: 12,667 students from form one to four, 50 Guidance and Counselling teachers, 52 Deputy Principals and 50 parents. The sample size was 370 students, 15 Guidance and Counselling teachers, 15 Deputy Principals and 15 parents. The schools were arranged into homogeneous groups and then picked through stratified random sampling while the students were selected through simple random sampling. Data was collected through use of questionnaires and interview schedule. To ensure validity of instruments, the instruments were developed under close guidance of supervisors. To test for reliability, test-retest technique was applied and a correlation coefficient of 0.797 was obtained. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages and mean, inferential statistics, Chi Square and hypothesis testing and by thematic analysis. The study findings were: there was statistically significant association between extroversion and gambling ( $p = <0.05, \chi^2_0 = 12.558 > \chi^2_{\alpha} = 3.84$ ), there was statistically significant association between introversion and gambling ( $p = <0.05, \chi^2_0 = 23.354 > \chi^2_{\alpha} = 3.84$ ), there was statistically significant association between gender and gambling ( $p = <0.05, \chi^2_0 = 39.555 > \chi^2_{\alpha} = 3.84$ ), and there was no statistically significant association between neuroticism and gambling ( $p = 0.054, \chi^2_0 = 3.706 < \chi^2_{\alpha} = 3.84$ ). The study concluded that students who scored high on extroversion were more likely to gamble and get addicted than other personality subtype traits and boys gamble almost twice more than girls. The study recommended that Guidance and Counselling teachers should categorize and profile students into their dominant personality sub-types and gender as one way that can be used to identify and offer strategic counseling as they handle them. In addition, the government should employ qualified Guidance and Counseling experts and create rehabilitation centers to offer assistance to pathological gamblers. A study on effects of gambling in teaching and learning in secondary schools in Kenya would expound the present study.